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**SHIRE OF WEST ARTHUR**

MINUTES of the Local Emergency Management Committee held on Tuesday 15 October 2019 commencing at 5:45 pm.

**1. Declaration of Opening**

Chairperson declared the meeting open at 5.45pm.

**2. Record of Attendance and Apologies**

Attendance

Ray Harrington	President, Shire of West Arthur
Nicole Wasmann	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of West Arthur
Ashleigh Putland	Customer Service Officer, Shire of West Arthur
Bill Owen	Works Manager, Shire of West Arthur
Eloisa Goss	Principal, Darkan Primary School
Duncan South	Chief Fire Control Officer, Shire of West Arthur
Chris Cochrane	Deputy Chief Fire Control Officer, Shire
Simon Vogel	District Officer, DFES
Adam Smith	District Emergency Management Advisor, DFES
Jessica Newman	Fire Operations Officer, DBCA
Stephen Stingemore	Officer in Charge, Williams Police
Arthur Putland	Volunteer, St John Ambulance
Adrian South	Volunteer, St John Ambulance

Apologies

Kohdy Flynn	Ranger, Collie Shire
Trevor Palframan	Captain, Williams VFRS
Tristan Gulvin	CESM, Collie Shire
Cathy Morey	Main Roads, Narrogin
Roma Butcher	Department of Communities
Hayden Johnstone	St John Ambulance, Community Paramedic
Rodney Thornton	Roadwise, Road Safety Advisor
Donna Morgan	Bushfire Risk Management Officer

**3. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Minutes**

Moved: Arthur Putland

Second: Chris Cochrane

*That the minutes of the Shire of West Arthur LEMC Meeting held on 9 April 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record.*

**4. Reports**

**4.1 Darkan Primary school**

Nil.

**4.2 DFES – District Emergency Management**

Adam Smith reported on current relevant issues from District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC) and State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC). The DEMC last met on 21 September where phone communications were once again raised. The SEMC has established a sub committee to investigate communications.

The DEMC hold three meetings and one exercise each year which includes a post exercise report. Risk reports have been reviewed, including West Arthur's.

A number of changes to state policy are currently being reviewed and further information will be provided at the next meeting.

The DEMC 2029 report is a ten-year strategic outlook for the Great Southern region. It is a holistic look at where the region is going to be in ten years and what the district needs to plan for and how we are going to position ourselves for these changes. It will be circulated to local governments to be forwarded on to LEMC members.

There is some investigation into the collective publishing of harvest and vehicle movement bans which will assist contractors and agencies working across multiple local governments.

The Natural Disaster Resilience Program will have \$1.34m of funding to address matters identified from our risks. In the past capital works have not been funded.

The Central Country Zone of WALGA has agreed to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between member local governments to provide support for major incidents.

An emergency management update is to be held in Narrogin on 21 November 2019. This will be primarily targeted at local governments.

#### **4.3 St John Ambulance Darkan**

Arthur Putland advised that training had been completed for the year and that additional community members are nominating as volunteers. There has been a name change for positions, levels 2 and 1 are being renamed Emergency Medical Technician and Emergency Medical Assistant in line with internationally recognised qualifications.

Events of more than 500 people are to be advised to St Johns for a register of significant local events.

The slow communication response from St Johns for the support of the welfare and wellbeing of volunteers was highlighted following a recent tragic incident. The peer support and community paramedic support was available and provided.

On behalf of the Darkan Sub Branch of St Johns, Arthur thanked Ray for his role as chair of LEMC and Shire President and wished him well in whatever he chooses to do after local government.

#### **4.4 Bush Fire Brigades**

Duncan explained that local fire control officers have raised concern regarding an incident on Albany Highway and the management of traffic. Volunteers were concerned about the limited traffic control provided by Police.

Communication at incidents involving multiple agencies was discussed. Simon Vogel advised that a two page flyer was being prepared from the Regional Officers Advisory Committee meeting for circulation to FCOs on this topic.

#### **4.5 Department of Biodiversity, Conservation, and Attractions – Fire Operations**

Jessica reported on recent staff changes at the district office and advised that she would be acting in the current role for the remainder of this season.

Ten bushfires have already been reported for the season. Prescribed burns are currently in progress, with three scheduled in West Arthur that will most likely occur in autumn next year if conditions are suitable.

Water bomber reloader training will take place in Darkan on 3 November. There have been some changes to planes and it is a good opportunity to check the system is working.

Spotter planes have commenced. Towers will start towards the end of November.

#### **4.6 Police**

Sergeant Stephen Stingemore advised that an emergency management exercise had recently been held in Williams.

Williams police have information and procedures that they can put in place for civil protests.

Road works have recommenced in Williams at the bridges.

Stephen thanked Ray for his support and contributions during his term as Shire President.

#### **4.7 Department of Communities**

Report Tabled.

1. City of Busselton and Shire of Augusta Margaret River – Blackwood Complex Bushfires on Thursday 6th June. This event comprised 3 bushfires near the Jarrahwood townsite; Vasse Plantation (near Treeton/Jindong) and east of Cowaramup; and Baudin Plantation and Sues Bridge near Mowen Road, between Sues Road and Jalbarragup Road. Each of these fires were escapes from pine harvest debris and the first two reached Emergency Warning levels. Residents from the town of Jarrahwood and those near the Vasse Plantation were advised to leave and an evacuation centre was opened at the Geographe Leisure Centre, Busselton. Two residents registered with us and another family of 8 called at the centre prior to us arriving. All evacuees went to family and friends in Busselton.

During the day another fire, cause accidental, escalated in the western part of Forrest Grove, approximately 14kms south of Margaret River. In expectation of worsening conditions, it was decided the MR Independent School would be evacuated to the MR Recreation Centre. The Shire opened the facility as a staging place for the children to be safe until collected by parents/guardians.

Note:

From the 5th June there was a DFES Severe Weather warning issued for South West and Lower South West, together with a Total Fire Ban for Geographe, Lower West Coastal and Lower West Inland weather districts for Thursday 6th June. Rain started to impact the area from about 1pm on Wednesday 6th June which assisted firefighters at the various locations.

2. I have been liaising with the Shire of West Arthur and Team Leaders from our Bunbury and Collie offices and have identified Thursday 24th October as a potential date for an emergency welfare exercise. Invitations have been sent out to neighbouring LG's and our partnering agencies and I'm looking for final numbers by Thursday 17th October for catering and planning.

## **5. General Business**

### **5.1 Update/Review Contact Details**

Updates to be reported to Ashleigh at the Shire. Adam Smith will provide a contact for Health.

### **5.2 Post Incident Reports**

Nothing further other than what was discussed in reports.

### **5.3 School Bushfire Plan**

Eloisa tabled the report and advised that in April next year a burn will take place with volunteers. Some plants have been removed from close to buildings.

### **5.4 Welfare Exercise (Thursday 24 October 2019)**

Department of Communities are coordinating the annual welfare field exercise

The aim of the exercise is –

To refresh and practice the capability and capacity of inter-agency preparedness with the Shire of West Arthur to set up and operate a welfare evacuation centre for a significant local emergency.

### **5.5 Events**

Lake Speed Boats (Oct 2019)

Darkan Sheepfest (Feb 2020)

Astrotourism Launch (28 Feb 2020)

### **5.6 AWARE Project**

The AWARE project has been signed off and the State Risk Project team has approved our local level risk assessment and risk register. Some State Emergency funding may become available to address mitigating the risks identified.

### **5.7 Defibrillator**

The Darkan P&C has purchased (with Lotterywest funding assistance) a community first responder defibrillator. This is located at the Darkan Swimming Pool carpark and accessible 24/7 with code access to the cabinet provided by St Johns when 000 is called. The defib is located in line of site of one of the pool security cameras. Defib training is included in the swimming pool key assessment process.

It was discussed that Darkan St John Sub Branch provide replacement pads and batteries for the common brand defibrillators in the Shire. The defib at the Darkan Sports Complex is a different brand.

**5.8 DFES at Risk Communities Project**

We had registered for the DFES At Risk Communities Program - Free Information Sessions for Local Government – community members and service providers, however cancelled and we will look into doing this early next year. Perhaps with some feedback following the exercise being run by Roma from Dept Communities on 24 Oct.

**5.9 Mobile Communications**

The phone tower approved for Darkan under the recent Black Spot announcement was discussed. The Shire has been advised that Mt Fisher is being reviewed as a potential location.

Lack of adequate phone reception for emergency services across the Shire was discussed.

**6. Next Meeting**

Tuesday 7 April 2020 (Tuesday prior to school holidays and Easter).

**7. Closure**

Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 6.35pm.