



LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

REVISED AGENDA

08 MARCH 2022

Attendance via instantaneous communications
(ZOOM)

5.30	pm	COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING
6.30	pm	CLOSURE OF MEETING



NOTICE OF MEETING

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

08 MARCH 2022

**Attendance via instantaneous communications
(ZOOM)**

Dear Councillor, Resident or Ratepayer,

Notice is hereby given that the Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting of the Brookton Shire Council will be held on Tuesday 8th March 2022 in the Council Chambers at the Shire Administration Centre commencing at 5.30pm.

The business to be transacted is shown in the Agenda.

Gary Sherry
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
03/03/2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.03.22	DECLARATION OF OPENING / ATTENDANCE	4
2.03.22	CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES.....	4
3.03.22	PRESENTATIONS	4
4.03.22	STANDING ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED AT EACH MEETING.....	4
4.03.22.01	UPDATE OF CONTACTS AND RESOURCES REGISTER.....	4
4.03.22.02	CHANGE OF POSITIONS/LEAVE, AND ACTING ARRANGEMENTS - NOTIFICATION.....	4
4.03.22.03	INCIDENT SUPPORT GROUP ACTIVATIONS	5
4.03.22.04	RISK PROFILE CHANGE	7
4.03.22.05	LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS	7
4.03.22.06	LOCAL RECOVERY PLAN	7
4.03.22.07	REPORT AND/OR DEBRIEF ON ANY LEMC EXERCISE(S)	7
5.03.22	BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES.....	7
5.03.22.01	LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS - CORRESPONDENCE	7
	Attachment 5.03.22.01A.....	9
	Attachment 5.03.22.01B.....	10
6.03.22	GENERAL BUSINESS.....	11
6.03.22.01	DFES – DISCUSSION POINTS FOR LEMCs GIVING CONSIDERATION TO COVID-19 PREPARATIONS	11
	Attachment provided from Email.	12
6.03.22.02	SEMC CONSULTATION REQUEST – TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT DURING EMERGENCIES - GUIDELINES.....	14
7.03.22	ATTENDEE REPORTS AROUND THE ROOM.....	17
8.03.22	CORRESPONDENCE	17
9.03.22	FOR INFORMATION.....	17
9.03.22.01	RESULTS OF WALGA’S 2021 LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SURVEY.....	17
	Attachment 9.03.22.01A.....	18
	Attachment 9.03.22.01B.....	19
10.03.22	NEXT MEETING AND CLOSURE	21

1.03.22 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ATTENDANCE

Apologies received

- Kylie Nottle – SilverChain

2.03.22 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

That the minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee meeting held in the Shire of Brookton Council Chambers, on 7th December 2021, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

3.03.22 PRESENTATIONS

- Overview of requirements for Local Recovery presented by Sandie Spencer, rescheduled from December 2021's meeting.

Given that this meeting will be held by video conference, this presentation will occur at a future in-person meeting.

4.03.22 STANDING ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED AT EACH MEETING

4.03.22.01 UPDATE OF CONTACTS AND RESOURCES REGISTER

4.03.22.02 CHANGE OF POSITIONS/LEAVE, AND ACTING ARRANGEMENTS - NOTIFICATION

1. Leaving positions:

- Cherie Delmage – Shire of Brookton – Acting Manager Corporate & Community (End March 2022)
- Alison Lacey – DPIRD – has left, no replacement has been identified yet.

2. New positions:

- Deanne Sweeney – Shire of Brookton – Manager Corporate & Community (28 March 2022)
- Paul Blechynden – DFES – Returned as Area Officer (AO) for Narrogin

3. Leave:

- Drew Richardson – St Johns Ambulance – Community Paramedic – Central Wheatbelt – on extended leave.

4. Delegates & Proxy's:

Organisation	Delegate	Proxy	CONFIRMATION REQUIRED
Baptistcare			June Harwood
WAPOL	David Johnstone	Eddy Duffy	
Dept. Communities	Joanne Spadaccini		Neville Blackburn
Brookton Bushfire	CBFCO - Murray Hall	D/CBFCO - Travis Eva	
BDHS	Darren Simpson		

St Johns	Drew Richardson	TBA	
St Johns - Brookton	Phillip Crute		
DFES	Paul Blechynden		
DPIRD			
RoadWise	Rodney Thornton		Rodney Thornton
SilverChain			Kylie Nottle
Brookton VFRS			William Wilkinson
Shire of Brookton	SP - Katrina Crute	Cr Gail Macnab	

4.03.22.03 INCIDENT SUPPORT GROUP ACTIVATIONS

The below is provided for information only, and whilst the Shire acknowledges that this was not an activation of the Incident Support Group, still thought it worthwhile to share with the Brookton Local Emergency Management Committee. This information was current as of Monday 14th February 2022. Other attendees may also have information, or experiences, to share.

Corrigin/Bruce Rock Fire Response

On Sunday 6th February 2022 the Shire of Brookton's CBFCO assembled the Shire's Incident Management Team (IMT) at the Shire Office in response to the hot, windy weather conditions and the power outage that left a very large area without power. At about this time the Shire of Corrigin reported the fire.

In response to the fire:

- a) The generator was set up at the Shire Office.
- b) The IMT despatched all available fire units and the CESM to Corrigin.
- c) The IMT followed the progress of the fire from the office using the satellite technology and mobile phone communications where possible
- d) The Shire's CBFCO and relief crews travelled to Corrigin at about 8pm to operate a night shift. The Shire's Deputy CBFCO received a hand over prior and remained in the Shire of Brookton overnight.
- e) The Shire of Brookton continued to provide relief fire crews through to Wednesday.
- f) On Sunday the Brookton East fire truck had mechanical failure of the pump engine. The pump will be taken from the truck and sent to Perth to be rebuilt. The cost of the repair has not been finalised but will be approved by DFES as over expenditure.

At about 3.30pm, with a second fire threatening Corrigin, people evacuated from Corrigin started to arrive at roadhouses in Brookton. After being alerted Shire staff opened the Brookton Rec Centre at 4pm as an evacuation centre.

- This site was chosen because of the generator located onsite. The Centre had also been open early in the day due to the hot weather in a power outage.
- The Shire of Brookton had no official notice of the evacuee's arrival. A community member knocked on the office door and told us people were in the Stumpy's car park.
- About 40 people registered at the Centre.
- Access to fuel was a particular issue. Some people would have moved on but didn't have access to sufficient fuel.
- Some evacuees had caravans and were willing to set up in the Caravan Park for the night. It is expected they purchased fuel the next morning and moved on.
- The Shire provided cold water and hot drinks to people attending.
- At about 6pm advice was received of an official evacuation centre opening at the PRACC in Pingelly at 8pm.
- At 6pm sandwiches were obtained to tide people over before receiving a meal at Pingelly.
- Volunteers and private donors provided fuel for people to travel.

- All people were out of the Rec Centre by 8.30pm.
- The Shire of Brookton incurred all the wages costs of three staff and some minor operation costs in opening an evacuation centre.

Shire of Brookton ongoing assistance

- The CESM is still working solely in Corrigin and will be until at least 18th February 2022.
- The Governance Officer, who is the Shire of Brookton's Local Recovery Coordinator has been working in the Shire of Corrigin since Tuesday morning. It is currently uncertain how long she will continue.
- The Shire loader was floated to Corrigin on Monday afternoon. Shire staff have been in Corrigin from Tuesday. It is uncertain how long this will continue.
- The Shire of Brookton will incur the cost of all staff wages and travel costs. The Shire of Corrigin is meeting ongoing expenditure, including fuel, repairs and any meals and accommodation.
- The expenses of the CESM are shared between the Shires of Brookton, Pingelly, and Corrigin.

While most things worked very well, the following issues were identified by me. A further debrief will be held shortly.

- While the IMT operated successfully in the Council Meeting Room, consideration should be given to setting up an incident management centre that could have
 - An IMT meeting space and separate space for operations teams to work
 - Access to bushfire radio network
 - Larger or addition television screens;
- The power outage stranded motorists in Brookton unable to access fuel. While diesel was readily sourced, supply of petrol was more problematic. The Liberty roadhouse has indicated they will review having their gas line taken off the generator connection, so it would be possible to offer unleaded and diesel fuels from one pump using an existing 9kVa generator in the event of a power outage.
- While the Shire of Brookton was relatively "prepared", consideration should be given to further training/professional development for those with roles in the IMT. This incident of this scale doesn't happen regularly, and continued training/development is required to ensure levels of preparation.
- Only a few Shire staff can set up/turn on generators. Additional staff will be trained. A written procedure could also assist.
- The issue of dogs and animals needs to be considered at an evacuation centre. Several people had pets which required people to be very separated.
- For use as an evacuation centre, the following should be considered either at the Rec Centre or in the evacuation equipment box:
 - a kettle for smaller events/Jug to fill the large urn
 - A mounted television for entertainment and information
 - Some type of PA system for announcements. This event didn't require it, but if the 40 was 140 it would have.
 - Tea towels for clean-up

Written by the Chief Executive Officer of the Shire of Brookton– Gary Sherry.

4.03.22.04 RISK PROFILE CHANGE

Nil.

4.03.22.05 LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Attached for review.

Identified amendments required

- Part 2 – Planning (LEMC Administration)
 - o 2.1 LEMC Membership
 - To be updated to include Baptistcare, SilverChain, RoadWise, DFES, Department Communities, DPIRD.

4.03.22.06 LOCAL RECOVERY PLAN

Updates are provided in blue under each item.

- Outcomes/Actions for Shire of Brookton Local Recovery Plan
 - o Present Draft Local Recovery Plan at next LEMC meeting in 2022
 - Still not completed – work in progress
 - o Engage with DoC in 2022 – to engage with LEMC and community for a scenario at WB Eva Pavilion
 - With recent events, this has not yet been organised.
 - o Identify working group and subcommittees
 - Due to lack of attendance at LEMC Meetings, this has been difficult to arrange. Correspondence was sent out to committee members regarding this issue.

4.03.22.07 REPORT AND/OR DEBRIEF ON ANY LEMC EXERCISE(S)

Nil.

Development and Approval of next financial year LEMC exercise scheduled (to be forwarded to relevant DEMC)

5.03.22 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.03.22.01 LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS - CORRESPONDENCE

1. At the December 2021 LEMC meeting, a motion was passed for the LEMC committee to write to all LEMC members:

LEMC 12.21-02

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MOTION

MOVED Cr. Crute SECONDED M. Hall

That the Local Emergency Management Committee:

1. ***Write to all Local Emergency Management Committee members (or their delegates), explaining what LEMC is, and the importance of this committee, and to request attendance of a representative at all future meetings.***

- 2. Write to Baptistcare and request an updated version of their Emergency Management policies and procedures.**

CARRIED

To date – correspondence has not been received from Baptistcare, WAPOL, Dept. Communities, Brookton CBFCO, BDHS, DPIRD, RoadWise, Brookton VFRS.

Attachments

Attachment 5.03.22.01A – Copy of Correspondence sent to all LEMC Committee Members

Attachment 5.03.22.01B – Copy of Correspondence sent to Baptistcare Kalkarni



OUR REF: EME015
YOUR REF:
ENQUIRIES/CONTACT SANDIE SPENCER – GOVERNANCE OFFICER

To All members of the Shire of Brookton Local Emergency Management Committee Members

I am writing to you, as the representative for the Shire of Brookton Local Emergency Management Committee.

Local governments are key players in the State's emergency management arrangements and provide expert knowledge about their communities and environments. It is their role to ensure that local emergency management arrangements are prepared and maintained, as well as to manage recovery after an emergency.

Under section 38 of the *Emergency Management Act 2005*, a local government is required to establish one or more Local Emergency Management Committees (LEMCs) for the local government's district.

The Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) meets quarterly throughout the year. Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMAs) are developed to provide a community focused, coordinated approach to the management of all potential emergencies within a local government area. It is vitally important that we are working together to meet our obligations, but more important preparing ourselves and our community.

Over the past twelve months there has been a significant decline in attendance at these meetings, this has resulted in poor the performance and preparation of our LEMC. We are unable to ensure our LEMA is a well developed and usable document, and we have not been able to hold a purposeful desktop exercise due to the lack of attendance, putting the LEMC at significant risk of not being able to adequately perform its function in the event of an emergency.

We acknowledge that from time to time, people cannot attend a scheduled meeting, in these instances we encourage you to send along a proxy member. It is important that people in LEMC member agencies understand the purpose and function of LEMC.

We are now requesting formal notification of your LEMC representative and a proxy (if possible) by 11th February.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday 8th March 2022 at 5:30pm. Thank you for your understanding.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Sheedy".

Paul Sheedy
Acting Chief Executive Officer
27 January 2022

PO Box 42, 14 White Street, Brookton WA 6306
 9642 1106
 mail@brookton.wa.gov.au
 www.brookton.wa.gov.au





OUR REF: EME015
YOUR REF:
ENQUIRIES/CONTACT SANDIE SPENCER – GOVERNANCE OFFICER

Mrs J Harwood
Baptistcare Kalkarni
27 Whittington Street
BROOKTON WA 6306

Dear June

At the last meeting of the Shire of Brookton Local Emergency Management Committee on 7th December 2021, discussion was held regarding the emergency management plan for the Kalkarni Residency.

The Committee members raised concerns as to how the Ambulance and the Fire service would respond to an evacuation in the event of an emergency at the Kalkarni facility, particularly now COVID 19 is becoming more evident with Western Australia and the vaccination requirements when entering an aged care facility.

The Committee also felt that an emergency evacuation drill should be undertaken involving Kalkarni management and Ambulance and Fire Services personnel.

It would be appreciated if a copy of emergency management plan, policy and procedures of Kalkarni could be presented at the next Local Emergency Management Committee meeting to be held on the 8th March 2022.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Sheedy".

Paul Sheedy
Acting Chief Executive Officer
27 January 2022

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6.03.22 GENERAL BUSINESS

6.03.22.01 DFES – DISCUSSION POINTS FOR LEMCs GIVING CONSIDERATION TO COVID-19 PREPARATIONS

From: SMITH Adam ,adam.smith@dfes.wa.gov.au.
Sent: Friday, 28 January 2022 11:23am
Subject: LEMC Discussions and COVID19
Attachments: Discussion Points for LEMCs giving consideration to COVID 19 preparations.docx

Hello all,

Please find attached some information and discussion points from WA Country Health Services to assist you in your COVID 19 preparations and LEMC discussions.

Other items that have been raised for consideration at recent exercises and workshops that you may also find useful to consider include:

- Understanding that as the Hazard Management Agency, Health are in charge however may need the support of all LEMC members should a major outbreak occur. Calling an ISG or special COVID 19 meeting when an outbreak occurs will assist provide clear messaging to all organisations. Ensure your meetings have appropriate membership, i.e. they may include key services including your local grocery store and/or pharmacy etc.
- Welfare needs
 - Accommodation while quarantining
 - Delivery of groceries and medications etc.
- Preparedness and business continuity planning. A basic plan if you and/or your staff have to quarantine or are ill. Particularly for those delivering key services.
- Communications: timely and accurate. Health will provide all communications around the health side of the pandemic, however there may be many other community issues that need sharing, i.e. where to source assistance, opening and closing of facilities etc. If possible, provide feedback loops so people can ask questions and clarify issues.
- Lastly there is a need for calm and to lessen any fear and panic that may be in your communities. While the Omicron variant is much more infectious it is less severe than other variants.

A representative from WA Country Health Service will endeavour to attend your LEMCs, however with the large number occurring over the next few weeks this may not always be possible.

Please consider making tele/video conference facilities available.

For those local governments in the Wheatbelt WA Country Health Region, the same information applies.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

Adam Smith

**District Emergency Management Advisor
Great Southern Region | Operations**

Department of Fire and Emergency Services | 5 Hercules Crescent, Albany WA 6330

P: 08 9845 5007 | **M:** 0429 104 007 | **F:** 08 9841 6719 | **E:** adam.smith@dfes.wa.gov.au

Shire of Brookton, Local Emergency Management Committee Agenda 08 March 2022



Attachment provided from Email.

Discussion Points for LEMCs giving consideration to COVID 19 preparations

Great Southern Regional Emergency Operations Centre - WA Country Health Service

The WA Country Health Service (WACHS) has been preparing for community cases in the regions. Omicron is within WA despite the border opening being delayed and numbers will continue to grow. We will also see community transmission in regional locations.

Please get tested if you have any symptoms or have been to an [exposure site](#) and encourage your family and friends to do the same. Controlling infection spread is dependent upon early case identification. Continue to check the list of potential [exposure sites](#) and follow the relevant health advice - given the increasing number of COVID cases, everyone needs to be vigilant.

If you have cold or flu like symptoms (e.g.: sore throat, cough, headache, temp above 37.5), **get tested, isolate and do not attend work or the shops or other community events until you've got a negative test result.** If you test positive, advice about how to manage COVID-19 [is available on HealthyWA](#).

Omicron is much more infectious than other previous variants but scientific evidence is increasing worldwide that **having a booster vaccine dose (3rd dose) is more effective at managing symptoms** as builds up the antibodies again. It also means if you catch it you'll be less infectious as have lower 'viral load' than someone who's not vaccinated. You're also much less likely to need hospital care but may feel unwell for a few days managed with Panadol and fluids – just like a bad cold or flu. You will be infectious though hence why it is important to stay at home.

Get together your own and your family's COVID preparedness pack. Masks, Panadol, thermometer, 2 weeks of your usual prescription medication and other non-prescription meds/vitamins etc on hand, tissues. Work out who will be support your support person and ring you and get you food and drinks.

Stepping up the WA Health and Great Southern health system response

The increasing number of COVID cases has led to changes for our hospitals and services.

1. **Masks** are now a mandatory requirement for [staff and visitors](#) to all WA Health hospitals, health services, aged care facilities and other workplaces.
2. WACHS teams, including emergency departments, are finalising plans to start using routine **rapid antigen tests (RATs)**. Additional infrastructure will be needed in some places to manage this. We have currently no definitive advice on when or how RATs will be available to the general community or how they will be used in health services but we know 40million have been ordered by the WA government and 1.5million are currently in WA.
3. **Proof of vaccination requirements** in the community are being [expanded statewide](#) on January 31. This includes visitors to hospitals and aged care facilities.

4. **A Home Monitoring Service** has been procured by WA Health to monitor and support people with COVID at home if they wish (it is an Opt In service). They will contact the person every day and give people at home a small machine called a pulse oximeter which is put the finger to measure blood oxygen levels and pulse rates. If it dips below a certain level the patient will be advised to go to hospital.
5. **COVID telehealth readiness.** WACHS outpatient and community services will be via telehealth (videoconferencing) including into the home where possible, from 31 January 2022. This isn't always possible as some patients need to be seen face to face, but where possible Telehealth is being ramped up like in early 2020.
6. Great Southern has plans in place to **surge up staffing to ensure the essential health services** (EDs, inpatient care, aged care and mental health and public health) continue even if other services and programs are temporarily reduced. We will only enact these plans if many staff get sick or have to stay at home as contacts of positive cases.
7. **Sites across the Great Southern can test people for COVID.** People with symptoms can be tested at the Pioneer Respiratory Clinic or via their GP. Clinipath and Western Diagnostic can test both symptomatic and asymptomatic patients. If the testing demand increases beyond what the hospital or health centre can do we have plans for surge testing locations at Katanning, Ravensthorpe, Denmark and Albany. We need more people trained to be COVID swabbers and support admin processes such as taking people's details and printing of labels for COVID swab specimen tubes or traffic management. Anyone can train to be a swabber.
8. **Our sites can care for people with COVID** and we will transfer people as clinically appropriate to Albany or Perth. There is no ICU only a HDU in the Great Southern so if people need critical ICU care they will have to be transferred to Perth. There is a special COVID ambulance in the Great Southern (stripped out for easier cleaning) but if that's not available a normal ambulance can be used.
9. **If there's a local COVID outbreak in your area the LEMC would be stood up** as the local Incident Support Group (ISG). Health would be the lead agency led by the local health service manager supported by their Operations Manager, the REOC and the Operational Area Support Group (DEMC) members. Health will be calling on local LEMC/ISG members to help practically if needed including if surge testing is needed locally and we need help with equipment, traffic controllers and providing meals/water.

6.03.22.02 SEMC CONSULTATION REQUEST – TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT DURING EMERGENCIES - GUIDELINES

From: SMITH Adam ,adam.smith@dfes.wa.gov.au.
Sent: Friday, 22 February 2022 12:12pm
Subject: SEMC Consultation Request – Traffic Management During Emergencies Guidelines.

Good Afternoon

Please see below from SEMC Policy.

Adam Smith

**District Emergency Management Advisor
Great Southern Region | Operations**

Department of Fire and Emergency Services | 5 Hercules Crescent, Albany WA 6330
P: 08 9845 5007 | **M:** 0429 104 007 | **F:** 08 9841 6719 | **E:** adam.smith@dfes.wa.gov.au



Government of Western Australia
Department of Fire & Emergency Services



Good morning colleagues,

A sector led working group has completed a review of the 'Traffic Management During Emergencies Guidelines' including the supporting State EM Policy section 5.8 'Traffic Management' and State EM Plan section 5.3.3 'Traffic Management During Emergencies'.

The DFES State EM Policy Branch is now seeking your feedback on the proposed amended policy, plan and guidelines to help us identify and address any concerns prior to requesting endorsement and approval from the SEMC Response and Capability subcommittee and SEMC.

Please refer to the **Consultation Information** below for information about the consultation process as well as instructions on how to submit feedback. We also ask that you forward this email and consultation request to members of your Subcommittees, Reference Groups, DEMC, LEMC, or your agency's stakeholders.

Note: This consultation request has been sent to Executive Officers of SEMC Subcommittees/Reference Groups, District Emergency Management Advisors, members of the traffic management working group and nominated contacts for agencies with emergency management roles and responsibilities.

Consultation Information
Traffic Management During Emergencies Guidelines

The DFES State EM Policy Branch is conducting consultation via Social Pinpoint.

On the [State Emergency Management Policy Branch Consultation Homepage](https://dfes.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/review-of-the-traffic-management-during-emergencies-guidelines) you can view all current consultations, including the Traffic Management During Emergencies Guidelines <https://dfes.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/review-of-the-traffic-management-during-emergencies-guidelines>.

On this page you will be able to:

- View information about the consultation process.

- Download and view the proposed amendments to the policy, plan and guidelines.
- Submit your feedback.
- Join the discussion or post a question.

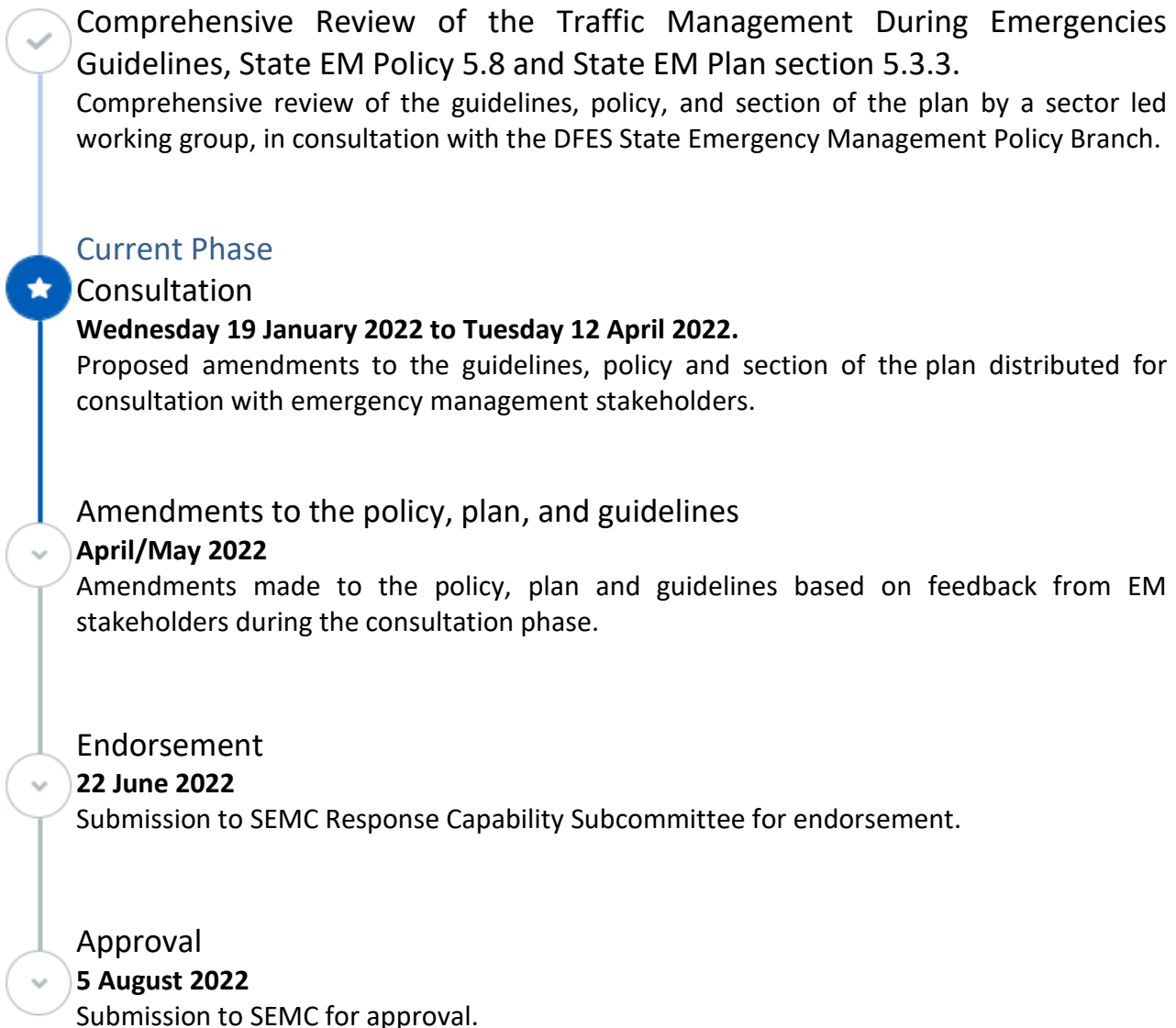
Please submit your feedback by COB Tuesday 12 April 2022.

As we continue to trial Social Pinpoint, we would also appreciate your feedback on this platform. You can share your thoughts and experiences in the 'Feedback on the use of Social Pinpoint' at the bottom of the page.

If you experience any difficulties with accessing Social Pinpoint or have any other questions, please contact us on SEMC.policylegislation@dfes.wa.gov.au. Thank you for your assistance.

Traffic Management during Emergencies Guidelines

Consultation and Approval Process



Summary of Amendments

1. Review of Traffic Management During Emergencies Guidelines

Traffic Management During Emergencies Guidelines has been reviewed and converted into arrangements that are contemporary and suitable in readability and accessibility. The terminology has been updated, and the guidelines reflect current practice and is user friendly.

Significant amendments include:

- Revision of the glossary
- Vehicle Control Point information reflects current practice including definitions
- Full and Partial Road Closure definitions provided
- Contemporary information about Reopening Roads updated
- The guidelines Annexures have been removed and new or amended versions replaced reflecting current traffic management practices

2. Review of State EM Policy 5.8 – Traffic Management

State EM Policy 5.8 - Traffic Management has been reviewed and reflects the new contemporary arrangements in the Traffic Management During Emergencies Guidelines.

Significant amendments include:

- The use of HMA and Controlling Agency
- Recognition of government and private organisations as road asset owners
- Confirmation that the HMA/Controlling Agency is responsible for traffic management until the road is returned to the asset owner

3. Review of State EM Plan section 5.3.3 – Traffic Management During Emergencies

State EM Plan section 5.3.3 - Traffic Management During Emergencies has been reviewed and reflects the new contemporary arrangements in the Traffic Management During Emergencies Guidelines.

Significant amendments include:

- The use of HMA and Controlling Agency
- Recognition of government and private organisations as road asset owners
- Confirmation that the HMA/Controlling Agency is responsible for traffic management until the road is returned to the asset owner

4. Statement of fact amendments

Where applicable, statement of fact amendments have been made to ensure the guidelines, policy and plans are factually accurate.

Statement of fact amendments include:

- Formatting of the guidelines to meet the West Australian Government's web accessibility requirements
- Headings updated
- Updates to agency names
- Updates to legislation, regulation, State EM documents and other document references
- Simplification of language to improve readability.

7.03.22 ATTENDEE REPORTS AROUND THE ROOM**8.03.22 CORRESPONDENCE****Correspondence IN**

Date	Correspondence FROM	Subject
14Dec21	Adam Smith – DFES	Local EM Forum Summary –December 2021
28Jan22	Adam Smith – DFES	LEMC Discussions and COVID-19
22Feb22	Adam Smith – DFES	SEMC CONSULTATION REQUEST -Traffic Management During Emergencies Guidelines
25Feb22	Adam Smith – DFES	09 March 2022 Local Emergency Management Forum – DELAYED (due to high number of LGs involved in recovery)

Correspondence OUT

Date	Correspondence TO	Subject
27Jan22	LEMC Committee – ATTENDANCE	Attendance at LEMC Committee (nominate delegate and proxy)
27Jan22	Baptistcare – Kalkarni	Request for emergency management plans for Kalkarni Residency Facility.

9.03.22 FOR INFORMATION**9.03.22.01 RESULTS OF WALGA'S 2021 LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SURVEY**

I am pleased to share with you the results of WALGA's 2021 Local Government Emergency Management Survey. You may recall back in October 2021 that the EM survey was circulated to all Local Governments. We received responses from 104 Local Governments, 75% of the sector, which provided us with a valuable set of data.

The documents attached to this email set out the key findings from the survey for you as a Summary, Infographic and Overview of Survey Data, as well as providing some information about how WALGA will use this data going forward.

Thanks very much to you all for your efforts in responding to this survey. I assure you that WALGA takes every opportunity to use the data that we gather from this survey and others like it to advocate for changes to legislation and policy to support Local Governments, as well as to deliver activities that support and build capacity in the sector.



2021 Local Government Emergency Management Survey Results

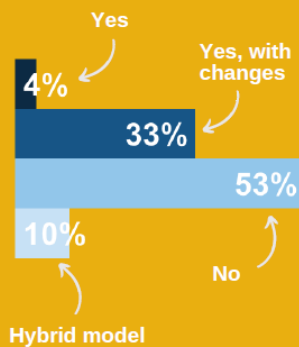
WALGA's 2021 Local Government Emergency Management Survey demonstrates the breadth of Local Governments' emergency management activities and the positive relationships between the Sector and other emergency management stakeholders. It also highlights the need for additional resources and funding to enable Local Governments to more effectively discharge their emergency management responsibilities and the Sector's desire for change in the management arrangements for volunteer bush fire brigades.

Q. Do you think it is appropriate for Local Governments to manage Bushfire Brigades?*

*of respondents with Bushfire Brigades

104 of 139
Local Governments responded

69 with Bushfire Brigades
46 with Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM)



Four out of five have a well functioning Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC)

73%
CEO and Executive relationships enable resource sharing in an emergency

Require grant funding for:

- Staff and training
- Community Resilience
- Mitigation
- Exercising

Strengths include:

- LEMAs
- Standing up Welfare Centres
- Recovery Planning

Half of the respondents have 0.8 FTE or less emergency management staff

- Simplification
- Flexibility
- State responsibility
- Increased funding

of the Emergency Management Framework

90%
agreed that the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements WA process is complex

92%
have a positive working relationship with DFES

Respondents are seeking an expansion of the CESM program



Respondents rely on DFES regional offices and CESMs to train Bushfire Brigades

For more information, please contact WALGA's Resilient Communities team via em@walga.asn.au or 9213 2000.

2021 Local Government Emergency Management Survey



Results Overview for Local Governments

Background

In late 2021, WALGA undertook a survey of Local Governments to ascertain the sentiment of the sector towards their emergency management roles and responsibilities generally, and in relation to managing volunteer Bushfire Brigades in particular.

The 2021 survey aims to build on the feedback received in WALGA's 2019 Emergency Management Survey and will help inform WALGA's policy and advocacy on current and emerging Emergency Management issues.

Key findings

- In total, responses were collected from 104 Local Governments, representing 74.8 per cent of all Local Governments in WA.
- The Survey responses indicate strong support for:
 - the expansion of the Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) Program;
 - increased resourcing and funding for the Sector, particular for training and staffing, community resilience and mitigation activities, and exercising Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMAs);
 - changes to the current arrangements for Local Governments managing Bushfire Brigades, including that Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) take on management of Bushfire Brigades; and
 - expansion and simplification of the Local Government Grant Scheme, with greater Local Government control over expenditure.
- Local Governments identify their main strengths as LEMAs, standing up welfare centres and recovery planning.
- 51 per cent of respondent Local Governments have 0.8 FTE or less staff in emergency management and there are significant concerns regarding staff training levels for emergency management responsibilities.
- 70 per cent of respondent Local Governments consider that CEO and executive team relationships provide the best method to facilitate resource sharing between Local Governments during emergencies.



- More than 50 respondent Local Governments have resource sharing Memorandums of Understanding in place with other Local Governments.
- Local Governments are seeking greater flexibility and clarity of Local Government roles and responsibilities embedded in the State Emergency Management Framework.
- The majority of respondent Local Governments report having positive working relationships with key emergency management stakeholders, including DFES.

How will the results be used?

The results from the 2021 Survey will inform:

- WALGA's ongoing emergency management advocacy on behalf of the Sector, including the need for increased resourcing and funding, an expanded CESM program, improved regional telecommunications, volunteer training and responsibility for management of bush fire brigades.
- WALGA's advocacy on the development of the *Consolidated Emergency Services Act* (expected in mid-late 2022) and the implementation of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020*;
- The LEMA review being undertaken by WALGA and the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) Business Unit in 2022;
- The development of an Emergency Management Discussion Paper to guide consultation with the sector on updated and contemporary policy positions for WALGA State Council; and
- WALGA's planning of sector support and capacity building activities including webinars, training and other resources.

Further information

For more information or to request a presentation of the 2021 Survey results or data tailored for your Local Government, please contact WALGA's Resilient Communities Policy Manager, Susie Moir smoir@walga.asn.au or 9213 2058.

Attachments

2021 Local Government Emergency Management Survey Infographic
2021 Local Government Emergency Management

3 March 2022

10.03.22 NEXT MEETING AND CLOSURE

Proposed meeting dates for 2022:

- Tuesday 7th June 2022 – 5.30pm
- Tuesday 6th September 2022 – 5.30pm
- Tuesday 6th December 2022 – 5.30pm

There being no further business, the Shire President declared the meeting closed at x.xrpm.