




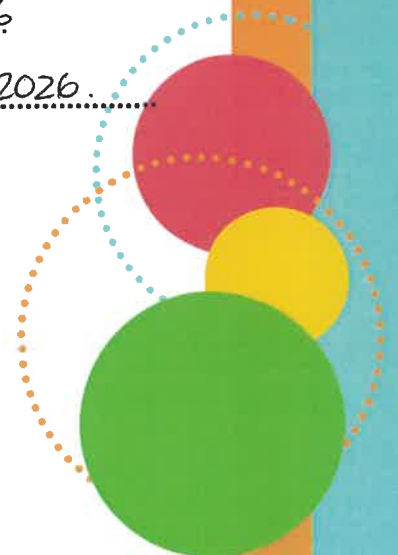
# MINUTES

## Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting

Held Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
Shire of Brookton Council Chamber  
14 White Street, Brookton

These minutes were confirmed by Local Emergency Management  
Committee as a true and correct record of proceedings by the Local  
Emergency Management Committee Meeting held on 16 / 6 / 26

Presiding Member:  Date: 16 June 2026



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## 1.03.26 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ATTENDANCE

Rod Wallis, Shire President, opened the meeting at 5.35pm and welcomed Councillors, Committee Members, and Staff.

### Committee Members (Voting)

Rod Wallis	Shire President
Ben Davies	AO West - Department of Fire & Emergency Services
Stacey Sinclair	District Officer Emergency Management Department of Fire & Emergency Services
Jenny Menasse	WA Country Health Service
Kristie Nottle	WA Country Health Service
Travis Eva	CBFCO
Lorraine Redhead	Baptistcare – Kalkarni via teams
Joanne Spadaccini	Acting Regional Coordinator
Kris Dewson-Hall	Brookton District High School

### Staff (Non-Voting)

Gary Sherry	Chief Executive Officer
Sandie Spencer	Local Recovery Coordinator/Executive Governance Officer

### Apologies received

Lachlan McCabe	Councillor
Phillip Crute	Brookton - St Johns Ambulance
Anna Erickson	DPIRD
Rodney Thornton	RoadWise (WALGA)
Roger Northey	Acting Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM)
Michael Phillips	Department of Communities
Viv Gardiner	DFES District Emergency Management Advisor
Ian Dawson	St Johns Ambulance
Andrew Spencer	Brookton Police

## 2.03.26 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

### 2.03.26.01 LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 9 DECEMBER 2025

#### **LEMC 03.26-01**

#### **LEMC RESOLUTION**

**MOVED K Dewson-Hall SECONDED T Eva**

***That the Minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee meeting held in the Shire of Brookton Council Chambers, on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.***

**CARRIED**

**3.03.26 PRESENTATIONS**

Nil.

**4.03.26 STANDING ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED AT EACH MEETING****4.03.26.01 UPDATE OF CONTACTS AND RESOURCES REGISTER**

Member agencies are required to review the document and provide details of required updates before next meeting.

- Any changes required for the current contacts and resources register?

**4.03.26.02 CHANGE OF POSITION/LEAVE AND ACTING ARRANGEMENTS – NOTIFICATION**

Updates in **RED**.

**1. Delegates & Proxy's:**

Organisation	Delegate	Proxy
Baptistcare	Lorraine Redhead	Nil
WAPOL	Acting Sgt. Andrew Spencer Patrick Olofsson	
Dept. Communities	Michael Phillips	Joanne Spadaccini Mark Schorer
Brookton Bushfire Brigades	Travis Eva CBFCO	DCBFCO Tim Evans Brad Bassett
BDHS	Kris Dewson-Hall	
St Johns	Ian Dawson	
St Johns - Brookton	Phillip Crute	
DFES	Ben Davies Viv Gardiner – Acting (Charlotte Powis – District Emergency Management Advisor)	
DPIRD	Anna Erickson	
RoadWise	Rodney Thornton	Nil
WACHS	Jenny Menasse Kristie Nottle	
Brookton VFRS	Scott Atkins	William Wilkinson
Shire of Brookton	Rod Wallis – Shire President Cr McCabe	Cr Crouch

**4.03.26.03 INCIDENT SUPPORT GROUP ACTIVATIONS**

Nil.

**4.03.26.04 RISK PROFILE CHANGE**

Nil.

**4.03.26.05 LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

Updates will occur as discussed.

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

Nil.

**5.03.26 GENERAL BUSINESS****5.03.26.01 MEETING DATES AND TIMES**

Currently, meetings of the Shire of Brookton Local Emergency Management Committee are held at 5:30pm. It is proposed that the Committee consider whether meetings would be better scheduled during normal business hours, noting that members typically attend in their professional capacities.

Daytime meetings may better support attendance by aligning with standard working arrangements and enabling more timely follow-up on actions arising from discussions, as well as providing the opportunity and time to undertake desktop exercises. Holding meetings within business hours may also improve member engagement and allow operational matters to be progressed within the same working day.

General preference to hold Teams meeting during office hours. The Shire of Brookton will coordinate a suitable time with members nearer to the date of the June Meeting.

**Local Emergency Management Committee**  
**Department of Fire and Emergency Services**  
*Area Officer Narrogin West*

### Season Update

- **In the Upper Great Southern region this season;**
  - Newmont Goldmine Fire (Inc 765644) 14 Dec 2025 – 07 JAN 2026  
4150Ha, activating Evac Centre (Narrogin and Williams) and engaging the Level 3 Preformed State Team, this incident has two deployments from South Australia and put the townsite of Boddington into Emergency Warning on Christmas day
  - Dunn Rock Bushfire (Inc 769192) 17 Jan 2026 – 28 Jan 2026  
32537Ha in the Shire of Lake Grace near Lake King townsite. Was eventually run as South Coast Complex along with Fitzgerald National Park by the State Level 3 Team and then DBCA before being handed back to Local Government
  - Boddington Complex (Inc 769835) 22 Jan 2026 – 02 Feb 2026  
6200Ha, 4 separate fires, 125kms of edge, 54 impacted properties including sheds etc, across 3 local governments and DBCA tenure, run as a Level 2 Complex Incident across 3 divisions. Narrogin evacuation centre used.

Some **key learnings** from these incidents anecdotally that came through debriefs to date were;

- The importance of On-call / Duty numbers
- Holiday food and fuel arrangements locally.
- Back up power, water and comms are essential.
- Having a plan and activating it early for agencies and providers.
- Engagement with ISG key for success and information flow.
- All these significant fires were started by lightning events and were long duration and medium to high complexity.
- Further to these significant Bushfire Events the Volunteer Fire and Rescue Brigades in the region have also been very busy with many **Road Crash Rescues, HAZMAT's** and other incidents with sadly *multiple fatalities* recorded within our region. Debriefs are help with brigades and the DFES Wellness branch engaged but we appreciate the collaborative efforts of everyone but especially SJA and WAPOL.
- Deployments: Crews have been deployed to Victoria and the NW for cyclone events. These long duration events combined with local events such as Callan Way in Narrogin mean our crews are have been operational for a large part of the season and we are not yet done.
- **Grain Harvest Water Bombers** – Water Bomber teams are positioned in Narrogin, Esperance and Geraldton to support the Grain Harvest Strategy. Approximately 50 people were trained across the region in the Ground Controller in just this season alone. From this Grain Harvest Taskforce which has concluded their were 152 activations with 997hrs of flight time.



<https://mybushfireplan.wa.gov.au/>



### Emergency Management Information

- **The State Hazard Plan – Fire** has been updated and it provides an overview of arrangements for the management of all fires in Western Australia (WA) and contains information on fire prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. The State Hazard Plan has now been reviewed, updated and republished (21<sup>st</sup> August 2025).
- State Hazard Plan - Fire can be found here: [https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2025-08/shp\\_fire\\_v3.00.pdf](https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2025-08/shp_fire_v3.00.pdf)
- A Comprehensive Review Summary can be found here: <https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2025-08/shp-fire-review-amendments-summary.pdf>

### PUBLIC INFORMATION

- **Emergency WA** – Use Emergency WA as your source of Truth for Incident Information. Stay up to date with [Emergency WA](#), with the New Emergency WA App now available on IOS and Android devices. Allowing you to stay up to date with real-life live data and updates. Able to set watch zones and receive updates if an incident occurs nearby
- The Emergency WA app has recorded 363,000 downloads and more than 12,400 emergency plans completed since the tool was launched in November 2025. In December alone, more than 13 million push notifications were issued through the app keeping the community informed during a busy start to the High Threat Period.
- In 2025, the Emergency WA website received more than 53 million views, with users spending an average of 3.5 minutes per visit. In comparison, app users spent an average of 38 minutes on the app over the year.
- Public information has been liaising with Future Capability and the Principal Scientific Officer on the creation of Australian Warning System templates for radiation escape from a nuclear powered warship warnings. This work will also see the alignment of Hazmat warnings to the AWS.
- Since the start of the cyclone season DFES has issued public information warnings for the Indian Ocean Territories on Emergency WA. Specialist templates are being developed to continue these warnings.
- Work continues to onboard WA Police, the Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure (DTMI) and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) to issue warnings for their hazards through Emergency WA.

### RAC Rescue

- A communications and promotions plan to celebrate 10 years of the Bunbury base has been rolled out. This included newspaper advertising in the region as well as the RAC Rescue experience being available for the community on Friday 20 and Saturday 21 February at the Bunbury Forum and Dolphin Discovery Centre.



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**Local Emergency Management Committee**  
**Department of Fire and Emergency Services**  
*Area Officer Narrogin West*

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## Local Considerations

### WAFES Awards

Regions are encouraged to promote the awards and nominate volunteers and staff who have made an outstanding contribution over the last 12 months. - <https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/awards-and-events/wafes-awards>

### Local Government Emergency Management Knowledge Hub (EM Hub)

The EM Hub provides an overview of the roles and responsibilities of local governments as outlined in the *Emergency Management Act 2005 (EM Act)* and the State Emergency Management (EM) Framework. It consolidates and summarises key information into a single, accessible resource and provides direct links to key documents for further reading and reference. It has been designed to assist local governments develop and maintain their local emergency management arrangements so they are better prepared for emergencies. <https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/local-government/em-knowledge-hub>

**Training Calendar** – The Upper Great Southern DFES Brigade Training Calander for 2026 has been released and available on eAcademy. As per the regional plan we have a strong focus on incident management and developing new trainers.



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Fire & Emergency Services**



## 6.03.26.02 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES – EMERGENCY RELIEF & SUPPORT

- Regional Officer Jo Spadaccini conducted an audit of the Brookton Country Club as the secondary evacuation centre.
- Single phone number contact for Local Governments and divert to mobile number.

### Region specific update

Ongoing recovery efforts with the Shire of Wandering and Boddington as a result of the two recent bushfires in December 2025 and January 2026.

### Emergency Relief and Support update

#### State Recovery Changes

- The Department of Communities has new roles and responsibilities under the State Emergency Management Arrangements for Recovery, following the changes endorsed by SEMC on 4 December 2025.
- To support implementation of these new roles, Communities is actively working with local governments, the Community Services Sector and relevant government agencies to understand the new State Recovery roles and responsibilities to support the delivery of local led recovery programs.
- **Volunteering**  
Where requested, the Department of Communities will support local governments in establishing effective arrangements to coordinate Volunteers through sector partners.
- This service will be supported through Collaboration with local government to identify community needs and priorities.

- **Spontaneous volunteers**

- On the 4 December 2025, the SEMC endorsed the changes to the recovery sections of the State Emergency Management Policy, Plan and Procedure.
- The changes include increased responsibilities for Local Governments and the Department of Communities in relation to the coordination of recovery volunteers and donations.
- If support for volunteer and donations coordination is required this 2025/26 High Threat Season, Communities will work with the impacted local government to make appropriate arrangements.
- In the meantime, Communities will be working with Local Governments to consider how to best support the sector across these new responsibilities.
- Communities will participate in Local Government recovery planning and activities to ensure services are tailored to the needs and strengths of the community.
- Communities can provide support through a range of activities under the State Support Plan, either directly or in collaboration with State and Local partners, to deliver practical assistance, wellbeing services, and social supports.
- Communities ERS approach to recovery support considers the psychosocial impacts, complexity, and context of any hazard, ensuring assistance is tailored accordingly along with information and referral services to connect impacted individuals with appropriate assistance and resources.

#### **Evacuation Centres**

- The SEMC has the WA Community Evacuation in Emergencies Guideline open for Feedback until 20 February 2026. You can submit your comments through <https://engagewaem.com.au/evacuation-guideline>
- The review of community evacuation guidelines has highlighted the need for greater clarity on how evacuation centres are identified, activated, and managed.
- Communities responsibility is to maintain a register of endorsed community facilities and ensure they are ready to be activated. In collaboration with local government, Communities reviews facilities regularly and manages service delivery within the centre once activated.
- During an emergency event, the Hazard Management Agency engages with Local Government and Communities to assess the risks of and activate an evacuation centre.
- As a suggestion for the LEMC, Communities and the Local Government can review and confirm the register of endorsed communities facilities before the onset of each high threat season, to ensure they meet the needs of all Hazard Management Agencies.

#### **High threat Season**

- ERS is actively supporting communities during this high-threat season by assisting with evacuation centres, providing immediate accommodation, and coordinating early recovery planning in alignment with Local Government.
- ERS has commenced supporting community evacuations with the new Go Bags, with positive feedback received to date, noting the hygiene packs are popular to support people to freshen up, and the air bed, pillow and sleeping bag has been a welcome take home pack.

**⚠️ Reminder to all Hazard Management Agencies / Controlling Agencies**

- To activate the State Support Plan - Emergency Relief and Support and the Communities team - please call 0418 943 835. All ISG, IMT and other meeting invites can be sent to [emergencyservices@communities.wa.gov.au](mailto:emergencyservices@communities.wa.gov.au) email box.

### Response October to January

#### Activations

ERS were activated for and responded to twenty six (26) incidents as below:

- Four (4) Single House Fire
- Fourteen (14) Bushfires
- Five (5) Complex Bushfires
- Three (3) Cyclones

#### October 2025 - One (1) Incident

- 16/10/2025 AP East Pilbara Complex Fire

#### November 2025 - Two (2) Incidents

- 4/11/2025 Tammin Bushfire Cunderdin - Nov 25
- 30/11/2025 Green St House Fire

#### December 2025 - Eleven (11) Incidents

- 01/12/2025 Single House Fire
- 10/12/2025 Single House Fire
- 11/12/2025 Kenwick Bushfire
- 11/12/2025 Upper Swan Bushfire
- 15/12/2025 Eneabba Complex Fire
- 15/12/2025 Gingin Complex Fire
- 15/12/2025 Nambeelup Bushfire
- 16/12/2025 Mindarabin Bushfire
- 25/12/2025 Boddington Bushfire
- 30/12/2025 Wellesley Bushfire
- 29/12/2025 Tropical Cyclone Hayley

January 2026 – Eight (8) Incidents

- 01/01/2026 Kalamunda Bushfire
- 02/01/2026 Boya Bushfire
- 02/01/2026 Yanget House Fire
- 07/01/2026 High Wycombe Bushfire
- 19/01/2026 South Coast (Lake King Newdegate) Complex Fires
- 21/01/2026 Collie Bushfire
- 22/01/2026 Boddington complex Fires
- 23/01/2026 Tropical Cyclone Luana

February 2026 – Four (4) Incidents

- 06/02/2026 Tropical Cyclone Mitchell
- 06/02/2026 Darlington Bushfire
- 08/02/2026 Cardiff and Mcalinden Bushfire
- 09/02/2026 Mundijong Bushfire

**Other updates**

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LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISOR REPORT  
January to March 2026

STATE NEWS

The last meeting of the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) was held 4<sup>th</sup> December 2025. The next meeting is the 12 March 2026. SEMC Communiqués can be found [here](#).

**Local Emergency Management Arrangements Improvement Project**

The new templates for the LEMA Improvement Project are going to the next SEMC Meeting for approval. Watch this space!

**2026-2029 Comprehensive Framework Review**

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) has initiated a comprehensive review of the State Emergency Management Policy, Plan, Procedure and Glossary (EM Framework) to ensure that it remains effective, adaptable, and fit-for-purpose in addressing current and emerging risks.

In December 2025, SEMC adopted five principles and identified four focus areas for the review designed to guide review scope and decisions, as well as ensure the review remains responsive to sector needs while targeting systemic gaps and opportunities for improvement.

**Review Principles:**

- make the framework simplified and functional
- clarify roles and responsibilities
- be outcomes-focused
- integrate preparedness and assurance
- remain agile and forward-looking

**Review Focus Areas:**

- Incorporation of systemic risk and resilience in framework
- Integrated preparedness and assurance framework
- Local capacity and community resilience
- EM roles and responsibilities review

Four sector-wide workshops with emergency management agencies have been completed to refine the problem statement, outcomes, and scope for each focus area and to shape next steps for project planning. The workshop outcomes will inform a high-level project plan, which will outline focus area scopes, the overall program approach, and resourcing requirements, and will be submitted to SEMC in March 2026 for endorsement.

**Comprehensive Review Schedule of State EM Documents**

The following State EM documents and projects are currently accepting feedback:

- Local Government EM Knowledge Hub – closes 27 March 2026.
- WA Community Evacuation in Emergencies Guideline – initial consultation closes 20 February 2026.

The following State EM document consultation period has closed and is currently pending endorsement from SEMC subcommittees before progressing to SEMC for approval:

- SHP - HAZMAT (Annex B - SPRED)

The following State EM documents are due to commence comprehensive review in 2026 for a 2027 SEMC approval.

- Green highlights – comprehensive review likely to commence in the second half of 2026, meaning broad consultation will likely not commence until early 2027.
- SHP – Cyber Security and Hostile Act are due for broad consultation before June 2026.
- Remaining plans will likely commence broad consultation sometime in 2026.

WA Community Evacuation in Emergencies Arrangements – initial feedback open until 20 Feb 2026	SHP – Collapse
SHP – Nuclear Powered Warship (NPW)	SHP – Maritime Environmental Emergencies (MEE)
SHP – Cyber Security	SHP – Tsunami
SHP – Hostile Act	SSP – Freight and Resupply
SHP – Animal and Plant Biosecurity	SSP – Emergency Public Information
SHP – Earthquake	WA Managing Exercises Guidelines (due likely to be pushed back to 2027)
Impact Statement Guide	Local Recovery Guidelines
Communicating in Recovery Guideline (will form part of SSP – Emergency Public Information review)	SHP – Heatwave
SHP – Terrorist Act	Traffic Management in Emergencies Guideline
District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC) Handbook	Comprehensive review of the State EM Framework (State EM Policy, Plan, Procedure and Glossary)

Updated plans can be found on the SEMC website, along with a summary of amendments.

## DISTRICT NEWS

The last Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee meeting was held on the 22nd October 2025 the next meeting will be held on the 18 March 2026.

### Training Opportunities

#### **WALGA Local Recovery Coordinator Training - Nyabing, Shire of Kent**

Face-to-face training at [The Nyabing Community Hub](#), 18 Richmond St, Nyabing WA 6341:

Recovery Coordinators Course in Local Government – Day 1  
Monday, 23 March 2026 | 9:00am–4:30pm

Recovery Coordinators Course in Local Government – Day 2  
Tuesday, 24 March 2026 | 9:00am–4:30pm

If any local governments/organisation wishes to send additional attendees, please contact me directly at 0436 668 242 or via [ryan.sutherland@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:ryan.sutherland@dfes.wa.gov.au) to ensure availability.

**NOTE: under the revised Recovery Framework Local Governments must ensure the preparation and maintenance of LEMA includes the identification and training of a Local Recovery Coordinator(s). More than one LRC can be identified.**

For further information about this course: [WALGA Recovery Coordinators course](#)



### Summer Safety – Fire, Heat and Community Care

This February, we're focusing on Summer Safety – Fire, Heat and Community Care. February can be the hottest month of the year, and with prolonged heat comes fatigue, complacency, and an increased risk of fast-moving bushfires.

By staying vigilant and supporting one another, we can help protect families, neighbours, and communities.

#### Heatwave

For more information about preparing for and managing in extreme heat, visit [HealthyWA](#) and you can also find many fact sheets here [Extreme heat and heatwave resources for the community](#)

### Know the signs of heat-related illness and act fast



#### Dehydration

Feeling thirsty, a dry mouth, and darker urine.



#### Treatment

Rest in a cool area, remove excess clothing and drink water.



#### Heat stress

Pale skin, excess sweating or no sweating, and dark urine.



#### Treatment

Lie in cool area and remove excess clothing. Apply wet cloths, cold water or wrapped icepacks to the skin (armpits and groin) and drink water. Call triple zero (000) if symptoms do not improve in 30 minutes.



#### Heat stroke

Confusion, incoherent speech, abnormal walking, seizures or coma.



Heat stroke is a life-threatening medical emergency. Immediately call triple zero (000).

#### TeleRedi

West Australians are also urged to register for TeleRedi – a free welfare check service delivered by the Department of Health in partnership with the [Australian Red Cross \(external site\)](#).

Registered participants who may be at higher risk during officially declared heatwaves receive regular check-in calls from trained Australian Red Cross volunteers. If a call goes unanswered or a person appears unwell or distressed, an escalation process is activated to support their safety and wellbeing.

TeleRedi is important for:

- people living alone
- older people
- people living with disability or managing chronic health conditions

- people recovering from illness or injury
- individuals experiencing mental health challenges.

Carers of vulnerable people are also encouraged to register for the service. Registration is simple, via [Microsoft Forms \(external site\)](#) or by phone – 1800 188 071. For more information about TeleRedi, visit the [Australian Red Cross website \(external site\)](#).

## GRANT PROGRAM UPDATES

### AWARE

The annual AWARE competitive grant program aims to enhance West Australia’s emergency management arrangements by investing in capacity building and preparedness activities at a local level. Only Western Australian local governments are eligible to apply for AWARE grants. Local governments are encouraged to collaborate and submit joint applications. To be eligible, activities must address at least one or more of the following four criteria:

- further the emergency risk management process
- facilitate capability-based exercises
- assist in reviewing Local Emergency Management Arrangements
- deliver emergency management training, events or forums

The opening dates for this year’s round are yet to be finalised and will be published on our website once confirmed. In the meantime, local governments are encouraged to review the AWARE Guidelines and associated program documentation to familiarise themselves with the application requirements.

### DRF ROUND FOUR

The Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) is the Australian Government’s flagship disaster resilience and risk reduction initiative, which will deliver up to \$200 million of Commonwealth funding annually from 1 July 2023 to establish a comprehensive set of disaster resilience and mitigation projects across Australia, in partnership with Australian state, territory and local governments. The intended outcome of the program is communities that are better informed, more resilient, and less exposed to future natural disaster risks and impacts in the long term, across the built, social, natural and economic domains.

The Fourth round of DRF is expected to open in late March 2026, with information and associated documentation to be published on the Disaster Ready Fund section of our website once available. To be eligible for DRF, the primary focus of the proposed project must be on how it will increase the understanding of natural disaster impacts, build resilience to future natural disasters, and/or reduce natural disaster risk, in line with the DRF objectives.

The Commonwealth has provided overarching feedback on Round Three applications. This information is available here: <https://publications.dfes.wa.gov.au/publications/drf-round-three-feedback-and-opportunities-for-improvement-from-nema>.

To be considered for funding, project proposals must satisfy the grant amount, project duration, and co-contribution requirements, meet the eligibility criteria, address all the assessment criteria, and provide the required evidence as set out in the respective round Guidelines.

## LOCAL NEWS

Optus Emergency Response Information – in an emergency if Optus services are impacted call the following numbers:

0434 679 690 and 0448 114 039 - Primary & Backup. Also on a satellite service 0410795298 if terrestrial networks are inoperative.



## Emergency Waste Management Plan Template

WALGA has been working with DFES and Local Government, to develop a Template Emergency Waste Management Plan.

There have been a range of situations in Western Australia where recovery efforts have been hampered by challenges associated with emergency waste management. Ineffective emergency waste management has the potential to significantly delay recovery efforts, present a considerable risk to human health and the environment and increase the costs of recovery.

The Plan provides a way for Local Governments to explore, at a high level, the likely types of waste that could be generated from an event and consequent considerations and management options.

- [Emergency Waste Management Plan Template - Editable Word Doc](#)
- [Emergency Waste Management Plan Template - with example \(PDF\)](#)
- [Waste Calculator](#)

For more information and case studies visit:

<https://walga.asn.au/policy-and-advocacy/our-policy-areas/waste/programs/better-practice/emergency-management>

## Responding to a potential outbreak of high pathogenic H5 avian influenza

DPIRD is leading the WA cross-agency Biosecurity Special Officers Group (BSOG) developing a joint approach on. In 2024, BSOG developed [FAQs for H5 avian influenza](#) that set out carcass disposal responsibilities as follows:

*Who is responsible for the disposal of dead wild birds during an outbreak?*

*During an outbreak, where dead wild birds do not pose a risk to human health, they may be left where they are to minimise the potential risk of spreading the disease further. The relevant landowners or government authority will manage safe disposal of dead birds on public land where they are considered to present a risk. On private properties, subject to council local laws, owners will be able to dispose of dead birds by placing them in plastic bags in their red bin. Care should be taken to wear disposable gloves and to wash hands thoroughly after handling the dead bird.*

It is up to each individual LGA to decide on how they would dispose of dead birds / wildlife as per their local situation. Homeowners within the LGA will need guidance on where to dispose of dead birds if the LGA does not approve of disposal of bagged birds in the red bin.

In the circumstance where commercial poultry are affected, DPIRD will regulate the property and provide instructions on disposal at the time of the incident.

Your WALGA representative on the BSOG committee is Rebecca Brown ([rbrown@walga.asn.au](mailto:rbrown@walga.asn.au)) if you would like further guidance on how other LGAs in WA are preparing for wild bird disposal should an outbreak occur.

WALGA is hosting an H5 Bird Flu update webinar for local government on Wednesday, 18 March from 10:00-11:00am – see details below. [click here to register](#).



#### 6.03.26.04 WACHS

- **Local Events:** It is important that when a local event is planned, we receive a copy of the Event Management Plan from the Event Organiser as this is usually submitted to the Shire prior to the event. WACHS then completes an Incident Event Plan for those events considered high risk and have the potential to impact the local health service.

Shire of Brookton to advise WACH of the OTMS event plan.

#### **Incident Event Plan: High Risk**

**Purpose:** This plan aims to support awareness, coordination, and an effective response during high-risk events, ensuring that WA Country Health Service (WACHS) is prepared, where possible, to manage incidents arising from increased activity or attendance. It also supports the continuity of healthcare services for the local community throughout the event period.

- **Extreme Heat:** Western Australians vulnerable to extreme heat can register for TeleRedi, a free welfare check service funded by the State Government and delivered by the Australian Red Cross. [TeleRedi | Australian Red Cross](#)
- **Bushfire:** Following a bushfire event in the Wheatbelt a comprehensive inter agency debrief takes place to discuss the incident and take away any lessons learned and how we can improve our response in the future.
- **LEMC :** WACHS is committed to having representation on the LEMC so please continue to advise us of the meetings and invite us to any emergency exercises you may be undertaking.

#### 6.03.26.05 KALKARNI – LORRAINE REDHEAD

- Shelter in place in event of an emergency.
- DFES to provide information to Baptistcare.

#### 6.03.26.06 ST JOHN BROOKTON

- Request Saddleback to inform community of hours of operation. Callout for patient as Medical Centre was not open.
- Sandie to contact Saddleback to find out information.

#### 6.03.26.07 BROOKTON DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

- Evacuation drill 25<sup>th</sup> March. CESM to assist.

#### 6.03.26.08 CHIEF BUSHFIRE CONTROL OFFICER – TRAVIS EVA

- It's been a busy season. Assisted Wandering and Boddington fires.
- Younger volunteers more accepting of training requirements.
- Extended Prohibited 14<sup>th</sup> March 2026.
- Ongoing issue at the North and South Brookton hay processing plants operated by Balco Australia, where hay offal and fines are being dumped in paddock areas, creating a risk of spontaneous combustion. Currently assisting the operator in identifying and implementing an appropriate management solution.  
Rod Wallis has met with CEO of Balco who advised that Balco plan to have hay offal and fines collected and transported off site for use in mulch.

Stacey suggested raising this issue at ROAC. It is likely to be a regional or even state issue faced by others.

#### **6.03.26.09 SHIRE OF BROOKTON**

- Current fuel shortage situation – The Shire of Brookton is holding 2,000ltrs for emergency vehicles.

#### **7.03.26 EXERCISE**

Desktop Exercise – Incident Support Group

- Aim – to increase the understanding of multi-agency coordination arrangements include the roles, responsibilities and expectations on agencies/groups.
- Emergency Response: Command Control and coordination.

#### **8.03.26 FOR INFORMATION**

Nil.

#### **9.03.26 NEXT MEETING & CLOSURE**

- Meeting dates for 2026:
  - 9<sup>th</sup> June 2026
  - 8<sup>th</sup> September 2026
  - 8<sup>th</sup> December 2026

Meeting closed at 7pm.