



**LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**14 MARCH 2023**

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 13/6/23

Presiding Member:  Date: 13 June 2023

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### 1.03.23 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ATTENDANCE

Katrina Crute, Shire President, opened the meeting at 5.30pm and welcomed Committee Members, and Staff.

#### Committee Members (Voting)

Katrina Crute	Shire President (Chair)
June Harwood	Baptistcare – Kalkarni
David Johnstone	Brookton Police
Merilyn Marchesi	Brookton CWA
Anna Erickson	DPIRD
Murray Hall	Chief Bushfire Control Officer (entered meeting at 5:43pm)
Rodney Thornton	RoadWise (WALGA)
Adam Whitford	Department of Fire and Emergency Services

#### Staff (Non-Voting)

Gary Sherry	Chief Executive Officer
Sandie Spencer	Local Recovery Coordinator/Executive Governance Officer
Jason Carrall	Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM)

#### Apologies received

Phillip Crute	Brookton - St Johns Ambulance
Michele Duxbury	Department of Communities
Bronwyn Herne	St Johns Ambulance
Jo-Ann De Marchi	SilverChain
Karen Tabner	Brookton District High School
William Wilkinson	Brookton Volunteer Fire & Rescue

### 2.03.23 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

#### **LEMC 3.23-01**

#### **COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED Mr Thornton      SECONDED Mrs Marchesi**

*That the minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee meeting held in the Shire of Brookton Council Chambers, on 6 September 2022, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.*

**CARRIED**

### 3.03.23 PRESENTATIONS

### 4.03.23 STANDING ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED AT EACH MEETING

#### **4.03.23.01 UPDATE OF CONTACTS AND RESOURCES REGISTER**

Please forward updated contact information.

**4.03.23.02 CHANGE OF POSITION/LEAVE AND ACTING ARRANGEMENTS – NOTIFICATION****1. Delegates & Proxy's:**

Organisation	Delegate	Proxy
Baptistcare	June Harwood	Nil
WAPOL	David Johnstone	Brad Fredericks
Dept. Communities	Michele Duxbury	Joanne Spadaccini
Brookton Bushfire Brigade	CBFCO - Murray Hall	D/CBFCO - Travis Eva
BDHS	Karen Tabner	Kris Dewson-Hall
St Johns	Bronwyn Herne	
St Johns - Brookton	Phillip Crute	Cliff Fishlock
DFES	Adam Whitford	Simon Vogel
DPIRD	Anna Erickson	
RoadWise	Rodney Thornton	Nil
SilverChain	Jo-Ann De Marchi	
Brookton VFRS	Scott Atkins	William Wilkinson
Shire of Brookton	SP - Katrina Crute	
Brookton CWA	Merilyn Marchesi	Jacky Allington

**4.03.23.03 INCIDENT SUPPORT GROUP ACTIVATIONS**

Nil.

**4.03.23.04 RISK PROFILE CHANGE****4.03.23.05 LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

Nil.

**4.03.23.06 LOCAL RECOVERY PLAN****4.03.23.07 REPORT AND/OR DEBRIEF ON ANY LEMC EXERCISE(S)**

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

- CESM to develop plan.
- CESM – joint exercise Pingelly, Corrigin & Brookton approximately August.
  - Brookton as central – Aldersyde as alternative location.

**5.03.23 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES****5.03.23.01 LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS - CORRESPONDENCE**

## 6.03.23 GENERAL BUSINESS

## 7.03.23 ATTENDEE REPORTS AROUND THE ROOM

- **Adam Whitford – DFES**
  - Good season – aircraft strategically placed throughout the region, which assisted with rapid response.
  - Constraints with Fire Behaviour Index (FBI) – ratings creating issues with ability to begin restricted burning period.
  - High fire Danger Rating is changing parameters for burning during in Restricted burning period, and impacting on farming practices.
  - FBI Rating System is a useful tool for implementing Harvest Bans.
- **Jason Carrall - CESM**
  - Earthworks have started at the West Brookton Bush Fire Shed site.
- **Merrilyn Marchesi – CWA**
  - Nil
- **Rodney Thornton – RoadWise**
  - WA – Road Stats – crash map
  - Pingelly driver reviver is now open, in the front of the Town Hall.
  - Great Southern Road Safety Conference – Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023.
  - CEO - Blackspot Funding – done through road audits. Shire crews responding to crash sites, which are not recognised/reported on to the site.
  - Road Safety Commission – Released 2022 Road Statistics WA  
<https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/road-safety-commission/road-statistics-western-australia>
- **June Harwood – Baptistcare**
  - Changes with Aged Care Act – reporting incidents to WAPOL.
  - New fire panel installed this week.
  - Bushfire Management Plan.
- **Murray Hall - CBFCO**
  - Quiet fire season. CBH fire
    - Richard Williams – roof water
  - Church Fire – investigation
  - Off permit burning
  - Extended Restricted Period. Permits required as of 15 March 2023.
  - ROAC – Thursday week.
  - Thank you and relief to having aircraft on standby.
- **David Johnston – WAPOL**
  - Crime down 40% (burglaries)
  - Fire at Aldersyde – waiting on DNA results.
  - Church Fire – suspect arrested at scene.
  - Traffic up 40% - highway patrols (RBT).

- Road traffic accidents increased.
- Eddy Duffy is leaving Brookton.
- **Anna Erickson - DPIRD**
  - Attached report.
  - European Wasps have been spotted. Please report.
- **Department of Communities - District Emergency Services Officer – Wheatbelt Update: February 2023**  
**In the event of an emergency please call the All Hazards - State On-Call Coordinator on 0418 943 853, this number is manned 24/7.**  
[emergencyservices@communities.wa.gov.au](mailto:emergencyservices@communities.wa.gov.au). (Not for public distribution)  
 Meetings, exercise details or information request can be emailed to [joanne.spadaccini@communities.wa.gov.au](mailto:joanne.spadaccini@communities.wa.gov.au)

### **Name Change**

Our Directorate has been changed from the Emergency Services Unit to Emergency Relief and Support. Our responsibilities and contact details remain the same.

### **Changes to LG and community contacts in the Local Emergency Welfare Plan**

A copy of your relevant district LEWP was sent out over the past few months requesting that you verify the LGA's contact details, the details of your evacuation centres and any other contact information in the shire. Any changes received have been amended in the current Local Emergency Welfare Plan which can be tabled at the next meeting.

On going, if there are any changes to the contact numbers or details from those listed on the LEWP, could you please advise any changes to [joanne.spadaccini@communitites.wa.gov.au](mailto:joanne.spadaccini@communitites.wa.gov.au)

### **LG Activation Tubs**

Communities will be following up with each LG, to ensure everyone has their activation / good to go tubs ready in the event of an activation as confirming numbers of current LG staff who have completed Evacuation Centre training.

### **Training**

Please advise if you would like training conducted for local government staff, this can be an introduction to opening an evacuation centre, to cover the first couple of hours as Communities staff are on route. Happy to work with Shires to ensure little impacts to normal operations. Please e-mail [joanne.spadaccini@communities.wa.gov.au](mailto:joanne.spadaccini@communities.wa.gov.au) to request training. Happy to discuss at any time.

### **Emergency Relief and Support – All Hazards Update**

- **Kimberley Floods** - The Department of Communities (Communities) is providing emergency welfare services to residents impacted by the Kimberley floods. As of 1 February 2023:
- Communities is operating three Flood Help Centres (Broome, Fitzroy Crossing and Derby).
- 136 people are in Communities' supported emergency accommodation in Broome and Derby.
- Since opening the Disaster Relief Hotline on the 11 January 2023 until COB

1 February 2023, Communities has responded to a total of 773 calls.

- 189 people have been repatriated.
- 288 people have been assisted to relocate to alternative safe locations.
- 750 properties spanning 17 remote communities and the Fitzroy Crossing town have had electrical safety assessments completed (or currently underway).
- Communities is providing rent relief to public housing tenants in Fitzroy Crossing and tenants in impacted remote Aboriginal communities following the floods.
- Communities is planning medium to long term accommodation options for people whose homes are uninhabitable due to the floods.
  
- **Bushfires** – At the same time Communities have responded to a number of bushfires requiring Evacuation Centres including:
  - Cervantes (Nambung)
  - Armadale
  - Henderson
  - Albany – Bakers Junction
  - Thomson Brook
  - Donnybrook Complex
  - Donnybrook (Glenn Mervyn)
  - Toodyay
  
- **Strategic Opportunities**
- Medium to Long term Accommodation – The SEMC has asked Communities to lead a cross-agency working group to prepare an issues paper about Government responsibilities for medium and long-term accommodation following an emergency.
- State Support Plan – Emergency Relief and Support (formerly Emergency Welfare) – Communities has reviewed the State Support Plan and the State Emergency Management Committee Policy Branch has released it for consultation:  
<https://dfes.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/statesupportplanemergencyreliefandsupport/emergencyreliefandsupport/>
- Community Sector Capability – working with community support organisations to enhance the delivery and coordination of welfare services
- Disaster Information Support Coordination Centre (DISCC) Guidelines – being reviewed at request of WA Police
- People at Risk – developing a framework to promote a shared approach to preparedness, response and recovery for people at risk in emergencies
- Emergency Financial Assistance – review of the State Emergency Financial Assistance initiatives.

If you would like any further information, please call my mobile 0429 102 614 or email [joanne.spadaccini@communities.wa.gov.au](mailto:joanne.spadaccini@communities.wa.gov.au).

Jo Spadaccini - District Emergency Services Officer - Wheatbelt  
Department of Communities - Emergency Services Unit

➤ **Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development**



Department of  
Primary Industries and  
Regional Development

## Incident and Emergency Management

<b>Agency Name:</b>	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development		<b>Date:</b> 20 February 2023
<b>Report prepared by:</b>	Helen Kent	<b>Position:</b>	Emergency Preparedness Coordinator – Incident & Emergency Management Branch
<b>LEMC and DEMC report – February 2023</b>			
<p><b>1. Declared incidents</b> – DPIRD is managing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Six (6) plant pest/disease level 1 and 2 Incidents.</li> <li>• Nil animal pest/disease incidents</li> </ul> <p><b>Polyphagous shot-hole borer</b></p> <p>Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB) <i>Euwallacea fornicatus</i> is a beetle native to Southeast Asia. The beetle attacks a wide range of plants by tunnelling into trunks, stems and branches.</p> <p>The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development has been responding to the confirmed detections of an exotic beetle Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer in the Perth metropolitan area. Response activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducting surveillance to determine the distribution of PSHB</li> <li>• Containing the pest to prevent further spread to non-infested regions within Western Australia</li> <li>• Providing advice and information to residents, industry and other stakeholders</li> <li>• Ensuring that all response activities are conducted safely, consistently and efficiently</li> </ul> <p>Link to information about <a href="#">Polyphagous shot-hole borer   Agriculture and Food</a></p> <p><b>2. State alerts and investigations</b></p> <p>DPIRD is investigating one (1) pest or disease.</p>			



### 3. National alerts & investigations

DPIRD and other state jurisdictions continue to monitor reported outbreaks of:

- **African Swine Fever** – FAO situation update in Asia and Pacific dated 2 February 2023 advised ASF reported countries since August 2018: China, Mongolia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, The Philippines, Republic of Korea, Timor-Leste, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, India, Malaysia, Bhutan, Thailand, Nepal.

Link to information about African Swine Fever: <https://www.fao.org/animal-health/situation-updates/asf-in-asia-pacific/en>

- **Lumpy Skin Disease** – Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand and Malaysia
- **Foot and Mouth Disease** – Indonesia

Information regarding Foot and Mouth Disease prevention is available on the WA government website:

[Foot-and-mouth disease advice for Western Australians \(www.wa.gov.au\)](http://www.wa.gov.au)

Information is also available on the DPIRD website:

[Foot-and-mouth disease: prevention and preparedness | Agriculture and Food](#)

**NB: There are, currently, no known incidences of these diseases in Australia.**

### 4. Ex TC Ellie (Kimberley Flood) – January 2023

DPIRD is providing support in the response to, and recovery from, the January flooding in the west Kimberley.

Response:

As at the date of this report:

- The State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies remains formally activated (link to State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies [State Support Plan Animal Welfare in Emergencies | Western Australian Government \(www.wa.gov.au\)](http://www.wa.gov.au))
- DPIRD has liaison officers on the Kimberley Incident Support Group (ISG) and the Operational Area Support Group (OASG)

Recovery:

- Wheatbelt Development Commission Chief Executive Officer, Rob Cossart, has been appointed as the State Recovery Coordinator

- DPIRD has established an internal recovery planning group to facilitate effective across-agency participation, and to assist in capturing and resolving emerging across-pillar impacts i.e. impacts for which the various pillars within DPIRD have responsibilities such as those relating to regional development, primary industries, biosecurity, horticulture, soil and grants.
- Departmental representation on the State Recovery Coordination Group (SRCG)
- A departmental officer/s will sit on the Local Recovery Coordination Group (LRCG) and relevant subcommittees, as required.
- DPIRD will facilitate available grants to primary producers in accordance with the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements WA (DRFAWA).

#### DRFAWA:

Assistance measures for primary producers include reimbursement grants for Category B:

- Professional advice
- Freight subsidy
- Fencing (for livestock producers only)
- Expression of Interest for interest subsidy on a new loan to recover

Link to further information regarding available funding and relevant conditions: <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/emergency-response/disaster-recovery-funding-arrangements>

#### **5. Severe Tropical Cyclone Seroja (Recovery)**

DPIRD, through its Rural Business Development Unit, is managing Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements WA assistance to primary producers impacted by TC Seroja.

DRFAWA Category B and C assistance:

To 31 December 2022, the Department has approved:

- 25 applications for Category B assistance totalling: \$ 366,907.46
- 108 applications for Category C assistance totalling: \$2,183,306.10

#### **6. Southwest Land Division Fires:**

DPIRD District Recovery Coordinator, Rob Cossart, continues to work with the Corrigin and Narrogin local governments and communities recovering from the bushfires which occurred in early February 2022.

On 13 October 2022, DPIRD Executive Director Biosecurity, Dr Mia Carbon, presented at Recovery Meetings in Corrigin and Wickiepin about the department's role in emergency management, including its role in coordinating animal welfare in emergencies under the State Support Plan.

#### **7. Staff emergency management training:**

DPIRD has a comprehensive ongoing schedule to deliver face to face emergency management training in both metropolitan and regional areas.

The non-accredited training focusses on both the Department's Hazard Management Agency responsibilities in relation to animal and plant biosecurity and its support role to other HMAs in relation to animal welfare during emergencies.

#### **DPIRD's role in emergency management**

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development plays an important role in emergency management in Western Australia.

- Hazard Management Agency (HMA) for animal and plant biosecurity with responsibilities across prevention/mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. Link to State Hazard Plan – Animal and Plant Biosecurity: [State Hazard Plan Animal and Plant Biosecurity \(www.wa.gov.au\)](http://www.wa.gov.au)
- Provision of support to other HMAs by:
  - coordinating animal welfare for other hazard emergencies including bushfires, cyclones and floods;
  - contributing to the Controlling Agency's impact statement in relation to impacts to primary industries (where an impact statement is required)
  - managing eligible assistance for primary producers under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements WA and providing advice to primary producers in relation to this funding.

#### **Animal Welfare in Emergencies**

Local governments are encouraged to develop a plan for animal welfare in emergencies (PAWE) which forms part of the local emergency management arrangements (LEMA).

For tools and resources to assist local governments to develop a local PAWE [click here](#) and for assistance in completing the PAWE template, speak to your LEMC or DEMC representative/s.

**Aim**

To raise the awareness of Shire staff, elected Council members and the LEMC members regarding pre-established protocols and structures that exist within agencies and the local government to allow local level responders to undertake effective initial actions

**Capabilities**

The focus of this exercise is to explore the capability of;

- **“Emergency Response: Command Control and coordination.**

During exercise discussion the capability of **Governance: EM Plans** will also be addressed.

**Exercise Objectives**

1. To raise awareness of roles and responsibilities, existing procedures and protocols that exist to assist initial actions.
2. To raise awareness regarding the importance of agency preparedness and coordination in the early stages of response, particularly if the controlling agency will not be available for some time due to travel or difficult access.
3. To discuss existing processes and plans and identify any improvements that could be actioned to improve the emergency management arrangements within the Shire.

**Special Idea 1 – Preemptive actions ... (Immediately prior to impact)**

Severe Weather Warnings have been issued by the Bureau of Meteorology, advising of adverse weather conditions within our Shire. This information has been passed along to respective stakeholders as a matter of urgency from DFES’s regional duty coordinator.

The warnings are for severe thunderstorms with lightning, hail, significant rainfall and damaging winds.

**Questions**

(Discussion with the group as a whole)

1. Weather warnings have been issued indicating that there was the potential for severe weather with embedded thunderstorms. What will your organisation do with this information?
  - RDC – issued with weather warnings.
  - CESM – send to SES.
  - Shire – works staff available. Circulate weather warnings (social media).
  - Specific region warnings – shared with internal resources.
  - Community preparation.
2. This scenario involves storm, and flood-related damage. Who is the Hazard Management Agency (HMA)?
  - DFES

3. From your organisation's perspective, what is your key role at this point?
  - Shire – community awareness, roads closures.
  - DPIRD – contact Northam Office.

### **Special Idea 2 – Initial actions ... (Immediately after impact)**

A severe thunderstorm has impacted a large area of the Shire and isolated falls of up to 300 mm within a few hours have been received. Large hail has caused significant damage and there has been windspeeds recorded in the storm cells of over 90 km/hr.

Extent of the damage is currently unknown; however, it is clear there are many homes and sheds de roofed, glass panels, car windows and solar systems hail damaged. Large trees are down and have pulled power poles down with them. Flood waters are racing through the creek and storm drains in town, threatening those homes on the lower side. The power is out.

Several people appear to be trapped in their homes and need assistance. A car has been swept off the road at the town creek. Access is very difficult with debris blocking roadways.

2 000 calls have been received, one for someone trapped under a falling ceiling, and one concerned about an aged relative with chest pains.

1. What will your agency's first actions be?
  - Activate Incident Management Group.
  - DFES – Rapid Assessment Teams. Access issues.
  - Local Brigades activated.
2. Whose responsibility is it to contact the HMA? Who will they contact and when?
  - Emergency 000
  - Storm damage
3. How will work to clear debris and check on those impacted be coordinated?
  - Main roads
  - Coordinate
4. Who will be responsible? Who is in charge?
  - Shire, DFES
5. Where will this response operate from? Does this location have back up power? Are locals aware of where to go?
  - Country Club, Pavilion
6. How will you communicate with your community in these very early stages?
  - SMS – early communication.
7. Are all of these initial actions; (processes, protocols and identification of coordination centres and methodology for communication (particularly when the power is out) captured in your organisations arrangements, plans, procedures??
  - Yes

## Summary and outcomes

State – activate DPIRD.

Hot Debrief.

What key outcomes stood out to you today? Consider the dot points below;

- Were there any new effective ideas or strategies discussed that you think could be actioned?
- Were any significant gaps identified that you think should be actioned or noted for the future?
- Did this exercise reinforce any existing procedures or strategies that you feel could be highlighted and given greater priority?

*\*\* Don't forget to include any COVID 19 specific issues.*

A brief report of outcomes to be tabled at your next LEMC meeting. Any queries or further suggestions please don't hesitate to contact me on the contact details as below.

<b>9.03.23</b>	<b>FOR INFORMATION</b>
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<b>9.03.23.01</b>	<b>RECORD FUNDING AWARDED TO WA DISASTER REDUCTION PROJECTS – MEDIA STATEMENT – 22 NOVEMBER 2022</b>
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More than \$3 million has been awarded to a range of initiatives that will help Western Australian communities reduce the risk and impact of natural hazards.

Fourteen projects have been approved through the National Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) Grant Program, which is jointly funded under a National Partnership Agreement between the Commonwealth and Western Australian governments.

A range of not-for-profit organisations, community groups, local governments and State Government agencies – stretching from the Kimberley to the Great Southern regions – will benefit from the latest round of funding.

Federal Minister for Emergency Management, Senator the Hon Murray Watt, said the NDRR Grant Program was helping communities and regions to actively reduce disaster risk in order to minimise the loss and suffering caused by severe weather events.

"More than 90 per cent of Western Australia is bushfire-prone and the North West is susceptible to cyclones, which is why risk reduction and mitigation is critical before natural hazards occur," Minister Watt said.

"The grant recipients are leading innovative and important projects including Aboriginal burning programs, vital infrastructure upgrades and training initiatives that will boost WA's resilience to natural disasters.

"Each of these initiatives will make WA a more resilient state that is better equipped to protect communities from the impacts of disasters like bushfires and cyclones."

Western Australia Acting Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon Don Punch MLA, said a record number of applicants had applied for the 2022-23 funding round and the successful projects would have an immediate impact in their community.

"Last summer's high-threat period, when there were bushfires across large areas of the state, showed us how important preparation is to minimising the impact of natural disasters.

"It is very encouraging to see Aboriginal burning practices being re-introduced across our state, building local capability in cultural fire and land management.

"Climate change is creating new challenges for emergency services, so we need to continue to back innovative ideas and projects that work to protect vulnerable communities in new ways.

"This is the largest amount of funding we've awarded WA applicants since the NDRR Grant Program began in 2020 and we will be working hard to continue this momentum when opportunities open again next year."

The Commonwealth will provide more than \$12.5 million to Western Australia under the jointly funded National Partnership Agreement on Disaster Risk Reduction over five years from 2019-20 to 2023-24.

More information on the NDRR Grant Program can be found at <https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/state-emergency-management-committee/apply-national-disaster-risk-reduction-ndrr-grant>.

### **Attachments**

Attachment 9.03.23.01A – WA NDRR Grant Program recipients for 2022/23.

WA NDRR Grant Program recipients for 2022-23 are:

Applicant	Grant	Project	Summary
Port School Inc	\$43,500	Port School Resilient and Ready Training Program	Empower at risk young people from vulnerable communities to be aware of and engage with natural disaster risks and impacts by working with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services youth programs.
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) – Midwest Region	\$450,000	Fire Management ICC, Training and Operations Centre Fit-out	DBCA Midwest Region plans to develop a new upgraded, fit-for-purpose works depot to adequately handle the increased incident management, training and operational workforce of 35 new Aboriginal rangers.
Shire of Bruce Rock	\$15,000	Generator for Shire Administration Building	Purchase generator for Shire administration building for back-up power for vital infrastructure and communications during an emergency.
Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety for Geological Survey of Western Australia	\$260,000	Rapid Deployment Earthquake Aftershock Monitoring in WA	Procure a rapid deployment aftershock monitoring capability for aftershock sequences and quantify strong ground motion following a significant earthquake.
Shire of West Arthur	\$13,498	Alternative Power Supplies for Darkan Incident Control and Welfare Centres	Purchase generator for Shire administration office or Darkan & Districts Sports Complex (welfare centre) for back-up power during event.
Shire of Derby/West Kimberley	\$167,500	Fitzroy Fire Working Group	A two-and-a-half-year project where Fitzroy land managers build a collaborative fire working group of pastoralists, Aboriginal ranger groups, State Government agencies and conservation groups to use effective preventive measures to reduce extent and severity of mid-late season wildfires.
Developmental Disability Council of WA	\$10,000	Natural Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Information for People with Intellectual Disability	To reduce the loss of life of people with intellectual disabilities and low literacy levels in natural disaster events by providing a series of targeted resources such as easy-to-read, accessible documents that cover critical information on emergency preparedness.
Volunteering WA	\$320,000	Spontaneous Volunteer Management System for Western Australia	Developing and mobilising a streamlined WA Spontaneous Volunteer Management System that is aligned and integrated into emergency management at all levels.
University of Western Australia	\$126,770	Caring for Country, People and Communities Through Noongar Cultural Burning	Develop resilient Country, people and communities through a cultural burning program in Shires of Gnowangerup and Jerramungup.
Shire of York	\$28,000	Traditional Aboriginal Mosaic Burning Programme on Ballardong Country in Shire of York	A two-year project where Aboriginal cultural burning will be re-introduced to enable the Ballardong community and local Elders to re-connect with Country and acquire practical mosaic burning skills and cultural knowledge.
Hygge Community Life (Home Hub)	\$128,443	Emergency Management Accommodation Platform (EMAP)	EMAP will centrally coordinate and map emergency accommodation, particularly for vulnerable/at risk people, during an event.
Financial Counsellors' Association of WA	\$300,000	Natural Disaster Financial Recovery Support	Delivery of a Financial Counselling Natural Disaster Response Framework, including processes, referrals and training.
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions	\$150,000	Swan Canning Riverpark Foreshore Risk Identification and Mapping (Risk Mapping) Project	To identify, understand and communicate risk to the Swan Canning Riverpark from erosion, inundation and climate change via risk identification baseline data to foreshore land managers.
Western Australian Council of Social Service	\$992,421	Heat Mapping Vulnerability	To map WA's high heat risk regions against heat-vulnerable populations. Develop criteria and map assets for cooling centre buildings and support services. Identify three pilot sites and resources for a cooling centre trial over one summer, then provide access and heatwave warnings to at-risk people.



# Bushfire Operations Committee Communique



Meeting date: Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Location: Bushfire Centre of Excellence, 20 Dollyup Street, Nambelup

The BOC met for the third meeting of 2022 at the Bushfire Centre of Excellence.

## CES ACT CONSULTATION

*Update by DFES Project Manager Review of the Emergency Services Acts, Ms Lauren Townsend*

The *Consolidated Emergency Services Act (CES Act)* discussion took place the day prior to the BOC meeting on Thursday 6 October 2022. The DFES Project Manager led the session, answering questions of members.

## WOOROLOO IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

*Presentation by DFES Bushfire Centre of Excellence Bushfire Knowledge & Practice Manager, Mr Peter Galvin.*

Bushfire Operations Committee received a presentation from the Wooroloo Implementation Coordination Group (WICG).

The WICG was formed following the release of the State Government's response to the [AFAC Independent Operational Review of the Management of the Wooroloo Fire of February 2021](#). The State Government commissioned the review into the bushfire, which destroyed 86 homes and burnt more than 10,000 hectares in the Perth Hills. Of the 13 Recommendations, the Government accepted 10, noted 2 and accepted 1 in-principle. The report also made 5 conclusions, of which, 1 was accepted and 4 were accepted in principle.

The WICG is led by Murray Carter, Executive Director, DFES Rural Fire Division, and oversees the progress of the Report recommendations. Each recommendation will be addressed by Government and is being treated as an individual project, and each project has been appointed a report lead. Several projects are already established and underway prior to the release of the report. The WICG will be supporting the overarching monitoring and reporting to ensure the intent is being met, drive progress and improve communications amongst stakeholders.

Four recommendations will report through the BOC - Recommendations 5, 6, 11 & 12.

## AFTER ACTIONS REVIEW – SEVERE WEATHER EVENT

A joint After Actions Review (AAR) is being undertaken by DFES, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, and WALGA, in relation to the significant weather event resulting in four concurrent level 3 bushfires that affected the State during 3-6 February 2022. Unusual and extreme fire weather affected the broader southwest land division during this period, resulting in significant bushfire activity across several DFES regions. The response to these emergencies required significant state-wide coordination involving numerous emergency management partner agencies. This review will focus on the preparatory actions, coordinated response and transition to recovery relating to this operational period for the four concurrent Level 3 bushfires:

- Bayview Rise Bushfire in the Shire of Denmark commenced on Friday 4 February 2022
- Bridgetown Bushfire in the Shire Bridgetown/Greenbushes commenced on Saturday 5 February 2022
- Shackleton Complex Bushfire in Shires of Bruce Rock, Quairading and Corrigin commenced on Sunday 6 February 2022
- Narrogin East Bushfire in the Shire of Narrogin commenced on Sunday 6 February 2022

## CONTACTS

For BOC related information or enquiries please email [Jo.Harding@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:Jo.Harding@dfes.wa.gov.au)

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Bushfire Operations Committee appointed member, Rob Lynn is the representative on the review team. The Committee met in August and reviewed over 900 observations and submissions that were received as part of the review from online forms from DFES internally and volunteers through Local Governments. A draft report will be reviewed by the Committee in the coming weeks.

### **CBFCO FORUM 2023 NEXT STEPS**

*Presentation by DFES Bushfire Centre of Excellence Engagement & Outreach Coordinator, Ms Loredana Manfredi.*

Two online Chief Bush Fire Control Officer sessions were held in June 2022. Following these sessions, a survey was sent to attendees for feedback on the proposed Chief Bushfire Control Officer Forum for 2023. Results from the surveys provided suggestions on content which will shape the Forum.

Bushfire Operations Committee nominated members, Craig Stewart, Murray Dixon and proxy Rod Wallington will participate in the working group and assist with the planning to progress arrangements for the Forum

### **AFDRS IMPLEMENTATION**

*Presentation by DFES Australia Fire Danger Rating System Project Manager, Ms Rachael Parkes.*

The Project Manager provided members an overview of the implementation of the Australian Fire Danger Rating System following its launch on 1 September 2022. Any queries can be sent to the AFDRS inbox – [afdrs@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:afdrs@dfes.wa.gov.au)

### **LGIS – BUSHFIRE VOLUNTEER PROTECTION**

*Presentation by LGIS Portfolio Manager Liability and Property, Mr Udam Wickremaratne*

The Portfolio Manager presented to the BOC on behalf of LGIS, providing an overview of protection available to Bushfire Volunteer through LGIS.

Topic covered by LGIS included:

- Personal Injury
- Personal Property
- Motor Vehicle
- Public Liability
- Statutory Liability

**9.03.23.03 INDEPENDENT REVIEW UNDERWAY TO STREAMLINE NATIONAL DISASTER RECOVERY FUNDING – MEDIA STATEMENT – 3<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY 2023**

Emergency Services Minister Stephen Dawson has welcomed the Commonwealth's decision to commission an independent review into Australia's Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) to ensure the scheme meets the expectations of Western Australians.

The review - led by former National Bushfire Recovery Agency head Andrew Colvin APM OAM - will determine the strengths and weaknesses of the current system to help bolster WA's resilience to hazards like bushfires, cyclones or floods.

Communities recently impacted by disasters will be encouraged to have their say on what did and didn't work in accessing recovery funding through the current arrangements.

DRFA provides a range of practical assistance measures to support communities through the challenging recovery period.

State Governments are responsible for administering the DRFA assistance measures, with the Commonwealth reimbursing the State for up to 75 per cent of eligible costs.

Expected to be completed by 2024, the review seeks to address recommendations from the 2021 Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements.

The Royal Commission recommended a review of the DRFA to help identify roadblocks to applying and help streamline processes that slow down recovery payments.

Supporting continual efforts to improve WA's emergency management capabilities, the review will also examine what is needed to build Australia's resilience to an increasing number of extreme disaster events.

Several WA-led projects are already underway to strengthen the State's resilience to disasters including the establishment of a State Disaster Recovery working group, implementing a Community Disaster Resilience Strategy and developing an improvement plan for Local Emergency Management Arrangements.

**Comments attributed to Emergency Services Minister Stephen Dawson:**

"Disaster recovery is a complex and challenging process - everyone's recovery journey is different.

"This review is an important step forward in identifying what the State and Commonwealth can do to create a more efficient and simplified recovery funding model that works for all Australians.

"In many cases, the work has already started on several important projects that are set to have a major impact on the way our State manages disaster recovery.

"I thank Minister Watt for listening to concerns brought by the State Government and commissioning this review."

**10.03.23      NEXT MEETING & CLOSURE**

- Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023 – 5:30pm

The Shire President declared the meeting closed at 7:02pm.