



LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES

21 JUNE 2022

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 6/9/22

Presiding Member: *[Signature]* Date: 6/9/22

Shire of Brookton
Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held 21 June 2022
Commenced at 5.30 pm

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1.06.22 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ATTENDANCE

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

Committee Members (Voting)

Katrina Crute	Shire President (Chair)	
Cr Gail Macnab	Councillor	
Murray Hall	Chief Bushfire Control Officer	entered at 5:35pm
David Johnstone	Brookton – WA Police	
June Harwood	Baptistcare – Kalkarni	Via Zoom
Phillip Crute	Brookton - St Johns Ambulance	
Rodney Thornton	RoadWise (WALGA)	
Joanne Spadaccini	Department of Communities	

Staff (Non-Voting)

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

Apologies received

Jo-Ann De Marchi	SilverChain
Darren Simpson	Brookton District High School
William Wilkinson	Brookton Volunteer Fire & Rescue

2.06.22 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

2.06.22.01 LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING – 07 DECEMBER 2021

LEMC 06.22-01

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

MOVED R Thornton SECONDED P Crute

That the minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee meeting held in the Shire of Brookton Council Chambers, on 8th March 2022, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

CARRIED

3.06.22 PRESENTATIONS

- Overview of requirements for Local Recovery presented by Sandie Spencer, rescheduled from December 2021's meeting.
 - [To be rescheduled](#)

4.06.22 STANDING ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED AT EACH MEETING

4.06.22.01 UPDATE OF CONTACTS AND RESOURCES REGISTER

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

1. Leaving positions:

- Danni Chard – Shire of Brookton – Executive Governance Officer

2. New positions:

- Les Vidovich – Shire of Brookton – Manager of Infrastructure and Works

2. Delegates & Proxy's:

Organisation	Delegate	Proxy	CONFIRMATION REQUIRED
Baptistcare	June Harwood	Nil	
WAPOL	David Johnstone	Eddy Duffy	
Dept. Communities	Joanne Spadaccini	Nil	
Brookton Bushfire	CBFCO - Murray Hall	D/CBFCO - Travis Eva	
BDHS	Darren Simpson	Kris Dewson-Hall	
St Johns	TBA	TBA	
St Johns - Brookton	Phillip Crute	Cliff Fishlock	
DFES	Blake Halford (acting)		
DPIRD			
RoadWise	Rodney Thornton	Nil	
SilverChain	Jo-Ann De Marchi		
Brookton VFRS	Scott Atkins	William Wilkinson	
Shire of Brookton	SP - Katrina Crute Cr Gail Macnab		

4.06.22.03 INCIDENT SUPPORT GROUP ACTIVATIONS

The Incident Support Group was reactivated in April due to COVID 19. The concerns were for a rapid escalation of COVID within the community, however businesses managed well with rostering staff, limiting contact, which enabled the doors to stay open

4.06.22.04 RISK PROFILE CHANGE

Nil.

4.06.22.05 LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

4.06.22.06 LOCAL RECOVERY PLAN

- Outcomes/Actions for Shire of Brookton Local Recovery Plan
 - Still a work in progress. Staff shortages and changes within administration.

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

- CESM has several training days for brigades. Possibly run an exercise after lunch based on the Corrigin fire. Saturday 8th October 2022.
 - Not all can attend that date. Consider using as a desktop scenario at the following LEMC meeting.

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

5.06.22 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.06.22.01 LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS - CORRESPONDENCE

Nil.

6.06.22 GENERAL BUSINESS

- Bushfire Act 1954 due for change.
 - Shire of Waroona and Shire of Pingelly – high profile stance to hand over to Rural Fire Agency (new).
 - Responsibility of fire is the Local Governments, and once the incident escalates, DFES hand over of incident.
 - Local Government manage Bushfire Brigades or opportunity to hand over to DFES. This would enable DFES to handle all volunteer, funding and management responsibilities.
 - The Local Government applications for funding is time consuming and difficult with the continual application for grants, which are not always successful.
 - BFB under DFES would enable the supply and demand for equipment, ppe and vehicles, due to funding at hand.
 - Murray expressed concerns with the regard to chain of command, disconnect of volunteers. Respect from community to volunteering. Responsibility of Mitigation works.
 - WALGA implementing a review. Council to discuss at July meeting. Discussions to be held with Bushfire Advisory Committee (BFAC), to obtain feedback prior to the July Council meeting.

Background

WALGA Comment

WA Local Governments have extensive roles and responsibilities embedded in the State Emergency Management Framework across the emergency management spectrum of prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery.

Under the Bush Fires Act 1954, Local Governments have responsibility for bushfire and the management of volunteer Bush Fire Brigades (BFBs). 111 Local Governments manage 563 BFBs involving approximately 20,000 volunteers.

As part of WALGA's 2021 Emergency Management Survey, Local Governments were asked about their level of satisfaction with current arrangements for managing BFBs. 92 Local Governments (69 of which manage BFBs) provided the following feedback:

- 93% were not wholly satisfied with the current arrangements for the management of BFBs; and
- 51% expressed that their Local Government does not support the requirements for Local Governments to manage BFBs.

The State Government is currently drafting the Consolidated Emergency Services Act (CES Act), which consolidates the Fire Brigades Act 1942, Bush Fires Act 1954 and Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998 into a single piece of legislation, anticipated to be released as a Green Bill for consultation in early 2023.

The introduction of the Work Health and Safety Act 2020 has also shone a spotlight on Local Government responsibilities for managing volunteer BFBs.

The development of the CES Act represents an important and timely opportunity for the sector to determine its position on the management of volunteer BFBs. An endorsed advocacy position will guide the Association in its engagement with the State Government on this issue.

WALGA has prepared a proposed Advocacy Position for the sector's consideration. A copy of this paper will be circulated to Councillors.

WALGA identifies four possible for the future management of BFBs:

1. Status quo - continue with the current arrangements for management of BFBs whereby the majority are managed by Local Government and transfer arrangements are negotiated on an ad hoc basis between DFES and Local Governments (or their BFBs).
2. Improvements - continue with the current arrangements for Local Government management of BFBs with additional support provided by the State Government with respect to increased funding and better access to training resources and other support.
3. Hybrid Model - Local Government continues to manage BFBs where they have the capacity, capability and resources to do so; however where they do not have the capacity, capability and resources, responsibility for management of BFBs is transferred to DFES.
4. Transfer - Responsibility for management of all BFBs is transferred to the State Government, consistent with the arrangements in other States and Territories.

The proposed WALGA position is a hybrid model for the management of BFBs that would enable the continued management of BFBs by those LGs with capacity, capability, resources and a desire to do so, while providing a framework for the transfer of the management of BFBs to the State Government where a LG does not.

A six week period for LG consultation is designed to enable Local Governments to engage with relevant stakeholders, including volunteers, and for Councils to consider their position. Feedback on the proposed position will be reviewed and inform a final position to be considered by WALGA State Council in September 2022.

Shire Staff Comment

The responsibility for Bushfire has traditionally sat with LG because LG was the only agency able to provide services and knowledge in the community. This is no longer the case.

DFES now has access to resources and funds a significantly higher level of Bushfire service than ever before. The Shire of Brookton has access to a CESM, new fire appliances, new fire shed and a range of new technology.

The Bushfire resources have increased to a level where the Shire of Brookton does not have the resources to effectively manage Bushfire.

In reviewing Shire of Brookton Bushfire management there are two very separate considerations –

1. Responsibility; and
2. Funding.

Through the ESL the LG's have access to unprecedented levels of funding for Bushfire equipment and response activities. They access this funding through DFES's grant programs. There is no concrete link between responsibility and funding.

The Shire of Brookton has full responsibility for Bushfire management. Therefore if there is any fire management issue – i.e. response to a fire, the standard or maintenance of fire fighting equipment, the safety of fire fighters – the Shire of Brookton is responsible. This responsibility only ceases if DFES want to take over an incident - but there is no requirement for them to do so.

DFES restricts access to only DFES specified equipment and uses. If an LG believes that it needs equipment and DFES won't fund the purchase of it, the LG can use its own resources to purchase them.

An example is the provision of WAERN radios. DFES have not provided almost no new radios to LGs since the initial roll out. If an LG believes they need more for operational purpose – DFES will not provide them. Because the responsibility lies with the LG, the LG can use their own resources to buy radios if they wish.

In comparison, if DFES had responsibility for Bushfire and DFES identified an operational need for WAERN radios, they would use DFES resources to supply them.

Any local operational issues for other emergency services – ambulance, Fire and Rescue, health, police, water rescue – would see the local government discussing the issue with that service, the department responsible or the relevant politician or government minister. However because LG is responsible for Bushfire, any operational issue is a LG issue.

A comparison between DFES funding levels of DFES responsible emergency services (Fire & Rescue, State Emergency Service, boat rescue) and the DFES grant system for Bushfire would see DFES ensuring that their responsibilities are funded, but LGs told to make do with whatever DFES think is appropriate.

If DFES was responsible for Bushfire Management in the Shire of Brookton, the Shire of Brookton could expect that:

- DFES would fully resource their local volunteer brigades. The long grant process would disappear for LG and DFES;
 - DFES would need to meet the management role. The CESM would be replaced by a permanent DFES employee with real authority
 - DFES would support and manage their local volunteers. Currently DFES are happy to play off LGs and volunteers. Volunteers would have real input into DFES services – appliance specifications and equipment provision are just two areas;
 - The entirety of DFES would need to learn about Bushfire. Currently the senior management only turn up to a large incident. With responsibility they would need to be across all the issues all the time;
- The Shire of Brookton should also expect support the local bushfire volunteers in the same way that the Shire currently supports our ambulance volunteers and our FRS volunteers. And if the Shire believes that DFES is not meeting their requirements, there will be a course of action available to the Shire to require changes.

Discussion

The Shire of Brookton will consider this matter at their July 2022 Meeting.

While there will be further opportunity to provide comment to Council, the LEMC may wish to discuss and provide comment to Council.

7.06.22 ATTENDEE REPORTS AROUND THE ROOM

June Harwood – Baptistcare

- Since March, managing on going COVID within the Centre with staff and clients. Then there was the second wave of the COVID gastro.
- Have an abundance of PPE, more than welcome to come and get some – let the school know.

Rodney Thornton (RoadWise)

- Fatalities-
 - 17 Metro Roads
 - 11 Wheatbelt
 - 3 Wheatbelt South
- Local Government Road Rating Workshop at Wickiepin.
- New road safety report out at end of month.
- Funded through Road Safety Commission. Driver behaviour / performance of the roads. Presenting workshops in Local Government road safety.
- Audible road lines. Bruce Rock / Corrigin Road. 3 fatalities – fatigue.
- Reducing speed limits within in towns. Expanding further out.
- Senior Road auditors – blackspot funding.

Joanne Spadaccini – Department of Communities

- Welfare Plan – updated information
- Roadhouse Puma – 24hr service – find out credit card
- Wheelchairs for Welfares Centres – Baptistcare would be able to provide.
- Training – provide training to Local Governments. Department of Communities to run the Shire through responsibilities. This could be incorporated into the September meeting.
- On leave for four weeks. Please use the on call number.

David Johnstone – Brookton Police

- Decrease in crime due to cold weather.
- Eddy Duffy I son long service leave until the end of August.

Phillip Crute – St John’s Brookton

- A new Country Paramedic will be assigned as – waiting for contact details.

Murrah Hall – Brookton Chief Bushfire Control Officer

- Quiet fire season towards the end.
- Training
- Thursday 23rd June, Federal Minister for Agriculture and Emergency Services will be at the farm 8:30-11:00am.

Jason Carrall - CESM

- Currently action AO role with DFES. Will be back to CESM role 1 July 2022.
- Target training to increase skill levels.
- Conducting training at Corrigin first week back in CESM role.

8.06.22 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence IN

Date	Correspondence FROM	Subject
24 May 22	Brookton CWA	Representation of CWA at LEMC Meetings

Correspondence OUT

Date	Correspondence TO	Subject
27 May 22	Brookton CWA	CWA representation at LEMC

Attachments

Attachment 8.06.22.01A – Copy of Correspondence from Brookton CWA

Attachment 8.06.22.01B – Copy of response sent to Brookton CWA from Shire of Brookton



Brookton CWA
PO Box 62
Brookton WA

The CEO – Mr Gary Sherry
Shire of Brookton
White St
Brookton WA 6306

Dear Gary

Re: *The Representation of CWA at the LEMC Meetings*

At the April Meeting of CWA the Members of the Brookton CWA discussed and passed a motion to write to the Shire of Brookton and LEMC and ask to become a representative part of the LEMC Meetings. As it is well known the CWA are at the very front of catering for any emergency when called on or asked to partake.

We believe that it would be very advantageous to be part of the meetings so that in the event of an emergency we would have the knowledge and capabilities to fulfil the role of catering alongside other community groups and the LEMC Members.

We ask that you consider this request at the next LEMC Meeting so that we can have the knowledge and preparedness for when we have an actual emergency.

Thankyou for your consideration, Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gail Macnab'.

Gail Macnab
Treasurer
Brookton CWA
Brookton



OUR REF: EME015
YOUR REF:
ENQUIRIES/CONTACT: SANDIE SPENCER

Brookton CWA
Attention: Mrs G McNab
PO Box 62
BROOKTON WA 6306

Dear Gail

CWA representation at the Shire of Brookton Local Emergency Management Committee meetings

Thank you for your correspondence received on 24th May 2022, requesting representation of the CWA at the Shire of Brookton Local Emergency Management Committee meetings.

In correspondence sent to the CWA dated the 14th June 2021, the CWA were invited to nominate a representative to attend the LEMC meetings. To date this information has not been received. Please see attached copy of this letter.

The Shire of Brookton welcomes the CWA to nominate a representative to attend the LEMC meeting. This can be arranged by forwarding contact details of your nominated representative to Mrs Sandie Spencer at the Shire office on 9642 1106 or email sandie.spencer@brookton.wa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary Sherry".

Gary Sherry
Chief Executive Officer

27 May 2022

Att.

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



9.06.22 FOR INFORMATION

10.06.22 NEXT MEETING AND CLOSURE

Next meeting dates for 2022:

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

The Shire President declared the meeting closed at 6:21pm