



## LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

# MINUTES

Meeting of the Local Emergency Management Committee  
held at the  
State Emergency Service, Mount Barker  
5.30pm Tuesday 1 May 2012

**Rob Stewart**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Committee Members

*Cr S Etherington (Chair), Cr A Budrikis (Deputy), (Resolution No.251/11), Mr A Buchanan (Executive Officer), Mr E Howard, Ms Nicole Selesnew, Sgt Al Keogh, Mr M Wills, Mr W Beck, Mr B Cross, Mr B Gladwin, Ms R Waud, Ms R Godden.*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE NO
1	DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS.....	1
2	RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES .....	1
3	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.....	1
4	REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS.....	1
5	GENERAL BUSINESS / MATTERS ARISING.....	2
6	ATTACHMENTS .....	5
7	NEXT MEETING.....	5
8	MEETING CLOSURE.....	5

**1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS**

**2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES**

Present:

Nicole Selesnew (Chair)	Shire of Plantagenet
Jeff Drage	Mount Barker Volunteer Fire & Rescue
Wesley Beck	Mount Barker Volunteer Fire & Rescue
Ruth Godden	Plantagenet Cranbrook Health Service
Murray Wills	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Eric Howard	Shire of Plantagenet
Allan Keogh	WA Police
Bryn Gladwin	St Johns Ambulance
Barry Cross	State Emergency Service

Apologies:

Cr Sue Etherington	Shire of Plantagenet
Andrew Buchanan	Shire of Plantagenet
Alanna Robbins	Plantagenet Cranbrook Health Service

**3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Moved Wesley Beck, seconded Allan Keogh**

*THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Local Emergency Management Committee held 7 February 2012 be confirmed.*

**CARRIED**

**4 REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

**COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT**

**Location / Address:** N / A  
**Name of Applicant:** N / A  
**Author:** Andrew Buchanan  
**Date of Report:** 15 April 2012

---

A Shared Responsibility (Keelty Report) Implementation Process

After the Perth Hills bushfires in 2011, a report commissioned by the state government titled A Shared Responsibility identified 55 recommendations to improve emergency preparedness and response in Western Australia. The state government has tasked the Department of Premier and Cabinet with implementing these recommendations. The most significant

recommendations to date have been the transition of the Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) to a Department and work being done by the Interagency Bushfire Mitigation Project. The transition of FESA to a Department is likely to be in effect by the start of the next financial year with a full overhaul of the organisation taking place over the next 12 months. The Interagency Bushfire Mitigation Project has made significant in-roads to the identification of bushfire prone areas and bushfire risk mitigation in the urban rural interface which includes rural townships.

#### Local Emergency Management Arrangements

The Shire of Plantagenet Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) are nearing three years old and will be undergoing a major review over the next few months. The arrangements set out details for the planning, preparation, response and recovery to all emergencies in this Shire. If anyone is interested in being involved in the review process please contact me on 9892 1149.

## **5 GENERAL BUSINESS / MATTERS ARISING**

### Service Group Summaries

#### Bush Fire Service

The Bush Fire Service has had an average season with 35 – 40 incidents. The 'Pile Road Fire' was one of the bigger incidents for the year which involved aerial fire fighting aircraft.

Murray Wills passed on his thanks to the State Emergency Service (SES) and the Pardelup Work Camp for their assistance providing a re-filling service at Karriook Air Strip for the aerial fire fighters.

#### State Emergency Service (SES)

The SES has arranged a promotional day and membership drive on Saturday 5 May 2012 outside the Mount Barker Newsagency.

They have correlated the promotional day with an insert in the Plantagenet News.

At present, the Mount Barker Unit is acting as a support service for the Albany unit. They have nine stable members.

#### Mount Barker Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS)

The VFRS has attended 11 incidents since the February Emergency Management Committee meeting, including vehicle rescues, scrub / bin fires and HAZMAT incidents. They worked alongside the Tambellup VFRS crew when attending a vehicle rescue and found the partnership very successful.

Western Australian Police

The Police have had a very busy quarter and emphasised that if required, the Albany Police Service will support them at an incident.

Allan Keogh suggested that the Committee give some thought to the coming winter months and the risks associated with winter, including storm / tempest, flooding etc.

Plantagenet Cranbrook Health Service

Ruth Godden advised that herself, or Alanna Robbins, will attend the Committee meetings in the future. Ruth also sits on the Cranbrook Local Emergency Management Committee.

St John Ambulance

The Kendenup First Responders service has been closed down due to Occupational Health and Safety concerns. The St John Ambulance will be positioned in Kendenup instead, once the existing shed has been extended and a medication safe installed. A minimum of six accredited officers will be required to run the Kendenup Ambulance service.

The Service is aiming for a third Ambulance in Mount Barker by December and, in time, a fourth Ambulance on site as a back-up vehicle.

The building refurbishments and new garage are progressing well.

The Service has a new Regional Manager, Regional Training Co-ordinator and Regional Finance Officer.

Shire of Plantagenet

The distribution of flu vaccinations for all volunteers and emergency service groups was queried. Many of the emergency services are provided flu vaccinations within the work place however groups such as the VFRS and Bush Fire Service are not offered the vaccinations.

**General Business**

Information provided in 000 calls

Concerns were expressed regarding the amount of information passed on to emergency service groups when receiving 000 calls. There has been examples of the VFRS and Ambulance Service wasting valuable time trying to find an incident, or attending incidents which didn't really require their service.

**Action:**

**Wesley Beck to prepare a Media Release in consultation with the WA Police and Shire, emphasising the need to contact 000 in an emergency and to provide as much information as possible when making a 000 call. Suggestions for information include:**

- The road the incident is on;

- Nearest cross road;
- Surrounding landmarks;
- Nearest town;
- Closest rural street number; and
- A call back / contact number.

#### Action

- Andrew Buchanan to forward a request to the District Emergency Management Committee to promote the need for more detailed information to 000 calls on a state-wide basis;
- Andrew Buchanan to include the contact number for the SES (132500) when preparing the annual 'Prepare for Storms' media release; and
- Andrew Buchanan to prepare a Media Release encouraging people to check their Rural Roadside Number is correct and if not, to contact the Shire of Plantagenet to have it amended.

#### Action

**Shire of Plantagenet to consider an information pamphlet to be distributed with the Rates Notices promoting the need to provide clear, detailed information when making a 000 call.**

#### Karriok Airstrip

The Karriok Airstrip is a privately owned airstrip used by the community and emergency services such as the aerial fire fighters. The surface of the airstrip is in urgent need of maintenance, in particular the area on which the aerial fire fighters are landing and turning.

The company which owns the land is not in a financial position to contribute to the cost and does not use the airstrip for their own purposes.

The cost to repair the immediate areas of concern is \$35,000.00. Funding applications were made to a Federal and State Government program for assistance towards the costs. The Federal application was unsuccessful and the State Government application will be decided in the coming month.

The Council is considering a financial contribution towards the airstrip however is hampered by the private ownership status of the facilities.

#### Action

**The Council be encouraged to spend money on the Karriok airstrip to retain the infrastructure in a serviceable condition and that the Council also be made aware that the Angel Flight service uses the airstrip occasionally.**

Automatic Weather Station

The Department of Agriculture and Food has advised that the Automatic Weather Station proposed for the South Stirlings Area will be placed on the Hunt property on Woogenellup Road.

Mobile Phone Infrastructure Allocations

Murray Wills tabled an e-mail he had sent, and received, regarding the placement of a Mobile Phone tower in the Rocky Gully area to improve communications. The response indicates that the need for a tower at Rocky Gully will be discussed with the Telstra Project Management Team.

The St John Ambulance service indicated that they will be using a new 3G system in the near future which is going to have limited coverage outside the Mount Barker townsite.

**6 ATTACHMENTS**

E-mail response from Telstra regarding Mobile Phone Infrastructure Allocations

E-mail from Murray Wills, Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, to the Department of Commerce and their response regarding Mobile Phone Infrastructure Allocations.

**7 NEXT MEETING**

5.30pm      Tuesday 7 August 2012 at the St John Ambulance Service Building, Mount Barker Road.

**8 MEETING CLOSURE**

Meeting closed 7.00 pm.

**LEMC E-mail Distribution List**

Name	Organisation	E-mail
Murray Wills	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	<a href="mailto:willsym@westnet.com.au">willsym@westnet.com.au</a>
Barry Cross	State Emergency Service	<a href="mailto:bdcross@cygnus.uwa.edu.au">bdcross@cygnus.uwa.edu.au</a>
Jeff Drage	Mount Barker Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service	<a href="mailto:jeff@moutbarkervfrs.info">jeff@moutbarkervfrs.info</a>
Wesley Beck	Mount Barker Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service	<a href="mailto:wbeck@wn.com.au">wbeck@wn.com.au</a>
Allan Keogh	Western Australian Police	<a href="mailto:allan.keogh@police.wa.gov.au">allan.keogh@police.wa.gov.au</a>
Ruth Godden	Plantagenet Cranbrook Health Service	<a href="mailto:ruth.godden@health.wa.gov.au">ruth.godden@health.wa.gov.au</a>
Alanna Robbins	Plantagenet Cranbrook Health Service	alanna.robins@health.wa.gov.au
Bryn Gladwin	St John Ambulance	<a href="mailto:bcgladwin@gmail.com">bcgladwin@gmail.com</a>
Sue Etherington	Shire of Plantagenet	<a href="mailto:sue.e@plantagenet.wa.gov.au">sue.e@plantagenet.wa.gov.au</a>
Nicole Selesnew	Shire of Plantagenet	<a href="mailto:nicole@plantagenet.wa.gov.au">nicole@plantagenet.wa.gov.au</a>
Eric Howard	Shire of Plantagenet	<a href="mailto:ehoward@plantagenet.wa.gov.au">ehoward@plantagenet.wa.gov.au</a>
Andrew Buchanan	Shire of Plantagenet	<a href="mailto:abuchanan@plantagenet.wa.gov.au">abuchanan@plantagenet.wa.gov.au</a>