



LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Meeting of the Local Emergency Management Committee
held at the
Mount Barker Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service, Mount Barker
5.30pm Tuesday 1 November 2011

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 R Clarke, Ms R Waud, Ms A Robbins.

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1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES

Present:

Cr Sue Etherington
Jeff Drage
Wesley Beck
Barry Cross
Alanna Robins
Adam Smith

Shire of Plantagenet
Mount Barker Volunteer Fire & Rescue
Mount Barker Volunteer Fire & Rescue
Mount Barker State Emergency Service
Plantagenet Cranbrook Health Service
Emergency Management WA /
Fire and Emergency Services Authority
Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Shire of Plantagenet
Shire of Plantagenet
WA Police
Department for Child Protection

Murray Wills
Andrew Buchanan
Eric Howard
Allan Keogh
Sarah Evans

Apologies:

Nicole Selesnew

Shire of Plantagenet

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Wesley Beck, seconded Jeff Drage

THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Local Emergency Management Committee held 3 August 2011 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: 17 October 2011

Regional Radio Network

\$94.5 million dollars has been committed to the implementation of a new community safety/emergency services digital radio network. The network will allow secure communications between the WA Police (WAPOL),

Department of Corrective Services (DCS) and the Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA). The project has been budgeted for the 2011/2012 financial year and will begin with Albany, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie Boulder and the Pilbara region. WAPOL and DCS have begun to receive the new equipment with FESA expected to join the network in the near future.

Keelty Review of the Perth Bushfires

After the Perth Bushfires early this year, the State Government commissioned an external review into the management of the event including factors contributing to it. The review has made a number of recommendations including the restructure of FESA into a Government Department, the amalgamation of the Bush Fires Act, FESA Act and the Fire Brigade Act into a single Emergency Services Act and improvements in the planning and preparation for large events. In total there are 55 recommendations which are being worked on by a committee made up of representatives of a number of organisations including Western Australia Local Government Association, government departments and volunteer representatives.

Major Emergency Exercise

Earlier this year a mock incident was held involving a motor vehicle accident with the added complexity of a large number of casualties. The exercise provided our organisations with an opportunity to test response capabilities when faced with a scale of event that exhausts local resources. Exercising is critical in ensuring preparedness for large scale emergency events. Prior to the next meeting of the Local Emergency Management Committee another exercise will be held and anyone interested in planning the event should contact me on 9892 1149.

5 GENERAL BUSINESS / MATTERS ARISING

Evacuation Exercise 19 October 2011

On Wednesday 19 October, a real time evacuation exercise was conducted by officers of the Shire and WAPol. The exercise focussed on First and Second Avenue in Kendenup and provided a snapshot of what could be expected if the need arose to evacuate a community within this Shire. Residents who were home were asked a few simple questions to simulate the discussion time required during an evacuation and also to gain a perspective of the readiness of the community. Some surprising results were found including the number of people that were prepared to leave, would wait to be told to leave and who would require assistance to leave. The results of the exercise will help the Mount Barker Police to

plan for evacuations and in any community education sessions conducted by the Shire.

Overview of the Evacuation plan for the Hospital and Health and Community Care (HACC) clients

The Hospital is currently reviewing its evacuation plan which should be completed by the end of this year. One of the requirements of the plan is that it be tested so this will be done shortly. A plan for HACC is very difficult to do due to the dynamics of the people receiving HACC support. The most effective plan for HACC is to maintain a contact in the Local Emergency Management Arrangements and to maintain an internal list of contacts, including mobility, access and medical issues.

Methods of flagging evacuation such as leaving a coloured bag or laying a wheelie bin on its side in the driveway and methods of communicating an evacuation advice

The committee discussed the benefits of flagging evacuation and also the likelihood that people would remember to do it under duress. The biggest issue in this Shire is the resources required to conduct an evacuation including the time it would take for resources to be mobilised and the potential risk to these resources. It was decided that in a Shire that has as many diverse populations and demographics, the most appropriate stance is to promote self evacuation.

Emergency Services Media Releases

Throughout this year, a calendar was drawn up and sent to all LEMC members to put information in the Plantagenet News. Most of the members missed their allocation so the calendar will be drawn up again at the next LEMC meeting for the 2012 calendar year.

Plantagenet Bush Fire Service

There has been fairly consistent rainfall during spring and the trend looks to be continuing at least for the next two weeks. This will result in high bushfire fuel loads across the Shire particularly to the west of Mount Barker. Everyone will need to be aware of this as the fire season approaches.

Mount Barker Volunteer Fire and Rescue

The Brigade has been very quiet this year with only five minor incidents recorded since the last meeting. The Brigade recently celebrated its 50 year anniversary which was celebrated with a Ball at the Mount Barker Town Hall.

Department for Child Protection

It has been some time since the Plantagenet Local Welfare Committee has met, so this will be done before the next meeting of the Local Emergency Management Committee.

Shire of Plantagenet

This being the last meeting of the Local Emergency Management Committee for 2011, Cr Sue Etherington expressed thanks to the committee and wished everyone a safe and happy Christmas and new year.

6 NEXT MEETING

5.30pm Tuesday 7 February 2012 at the Mount Barker Court House.

7 MEETING CLOSURE

Meeting closed 6.15 pm.