



## LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

# MINUTES

Meeting of the Local Emergency Management Committee  
held at the  
Shire of Plantagenet, Mount Barker  
5.30pm Tuesday 2 August 2011

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

Committee Members

*Cr S Etherington (Chair), Cr A Budrikis (Deputy), (Resolution No. 318/09), Mr A Buchanan (Executive Officer), Mr E Howard, Sgt Al Keough, 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	Shire of Plantagenet
Jeff Drage	Mount Barker Volunteer Fire & Rescue
Wesley Beck	Mount Barker Volunteer Fire & Rescue
Rob Clarke	Mount Barker Ambulance
Bryn Gladwin	Mount Barker Ambulance
Barry Cross	Mount Barker State Emergency Service
Alanna Robins	Plantagenet Cranbrook Health Service
Adam Smith	Emergency Management WA / Fire and Emergency Services Authority
Nicole Selesnew	Shire of Plantagenet
Eric Howard	Shire of Plantagenet

Apologies:

Murray Wills	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Andrew Buchanan	Shire of Plantagenet

**3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Moved Rob Clarke, seconded Jeff Drage**

*THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Local Emergency Management Committee held 3 May 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:** 11 July 2011

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Emergency Management Western Australia (EMWA) Review of Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA)

EMWA which operates as a section of the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia (FESA) is currently undergoing a review of the process involved and the content of each Local Government's Local

Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA). A working group has been formed of representatives from EMWA, Local Government and the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA). This group will conduct targeted surveys in an effort to improve the effectiveness of the LEMA and the process involved in their development. If anyone would like any further information, please call me on 9892 1149 or contact Adam Smith (EMWA / FESA Albany) on 9845 5000.

#### Funding for Emergency Events

Funding arrangements exist for Local Governments to apply to when an emergency event has been declared a natural disaster. There are a number of triggers that must be met prior to a Local Government being eligible for the funds one of these being that the work must be carried out by contractors. This presents a major issue for Local Government as often its own Works Department is the most readily available and cost effective resource that can be used to recover from an event. The funding arrangements are currently under review to ensure that funds are available for Local Government when required and it is hoped that conditions are relaxed making the funds much more available for small rural Local Governments such as the Shire of Plantagenet.

#### Bush Fire Service Consultative Committee

There are currently two Major Incident Reviews that have been completed or are nearing completion relating to the Perth Fires (Lake Clifton, Roleystone and Red Hill) in January / February of this year. It is likely that a number of recommendations of these reports will be adopted by FESA in the areas of fire prevention, management and information dissemination. One of the other major issues that has been raised exclusive of these reports is the reporting of near miss injuries. I encourage all organisations represented on the Shire of Plantagenet LEMC to ensure that procedures are in place covering information dissemination and near miss injuries and that everyone in your organisations are aware of the protocol. Information dissemination is becoming more and more critical as access to social media through mobile phones becomes increasingly common.

#### New Standards in Rural and Urban Addressing

A new Standard in the way that Rural and Urban (postal) Addressing is conducted is currently in draft form. Standards Australia is working towards ensuring that a properties postal address accurately relates to its actual location. This will be extremely beneficial to rural emergency services. I have heard countless tales of emergency services in this Shire chasing an Incident only to find they have received the wrong address.

Hopefully the new Standard is adopted soon and will improve our efficiency and effectiveness.

Discussion Arising from Community Emergency Services Report:

The Shire of Plantagenet to consider forwarding its concerns regarding the methodology for providing funding for natural disasters to the Review Group.

All Emergency Service groups discussed the positive benefits of the rural road numbering system. Rural road numbering on Carbarup Road needs to be revised as some inconsistencies exist along the road. Some groups mentioned difficulties in determining which direction to turn at an intersection when only provided with a rural road number, as road signs do not indicate the direction in which different rural road numbers are located (as often seen in townsites).

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

Mount Barker Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS)

The mock incident held on Saturday 25 June 2011 was very beneficial. The incident involved a truck and multiple car collision with 12 casualties. The incident highlighted a number of issues such as the lack of a command post, communication issues and lack of awareness of each others activities during the emergency event.

A follow up mock incident will be advantageous to improve on the areas of concern.

The VFRS will be working through some plans to address a possible fire scenario at the Apple Packing Shed (located at the rear of the Shire Office and VFRS Station). Large areas of the building are asbestos which would need exclusion zones around the site of up to 500m. This will be an in-house planning exercise.

The VFRS has attended two incidents since the new financial year: a car accident and a stuck cat.

Wes Beck recently attended the Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) annual Emergency Services conference. The format of the 2011 conference was different to previous years and combined all Emergency Service groups at the one event.

The issue of Total Fire Bans was a strong topic at the conference.

The Fireman's Ball will be held on 3 September 2011.

St John Ambulance Service – Mount Barker

Rob Clarke advised that he may be stepping away from the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC), to be potentially replaced by Bryn Gladwin. Rob has been a LEMC member for the past five years.

Cr Sue Etherington thanked Rob for his valuable contributions as a LEMC member and wished him all the best for his future endeavours.

Bryn Gladwin provided some feedback on their recent volunteer promotion night where 20 potential new volunteers attended. Of the 20 people who showed an interest, nine people have starting their training to become regular volunteers. The volunteer promotion night was advertised in the Plantagenet News.

The Ambulance volunteers found the mock incident a beneficial exercise. The large numbers of casualties were difficult to handle and highlighted that their triage and emergency response needs attention. The Service is committed to working through these issues and will welcome a future mock incident to ensure these areas have been improved.

#### Plantagenet Cranbrook Health Service

The Health Service has prepared a report following the mock incident (copy attached). The incident provided some valuable feedback for hospital staff, in particular how to manage large numbers of casualties, responding to police requests for drug and alcohol tests, orientation for nurses who will be working in the Accident and Emergency Department and handling deceased people.

Alanna advised that the hospital can handle up to two seriously injured people at any one time. They have the capacity to take a larger number of 'walking wounded' people.

#### Mount Barker State Emergency Service

Barry Cross advised that they are reviewing their future in conjunction with FESA. Due to their low membership they do not get called to attend incidents, which in turn impacts on their ability to attract members when they are not an active unit.

Barry advised they are keen to find some new members and hope that their work with FESA will assist. They have not had much interest from people they have canvassed.

#### Community Emergency Management Officer / FESA

Adam Smith advised that there is a review of the State Recovery Arrangements underway following the Toodyay fires and Carnarvon floods. Officers will be seeking information on 'real life experiences' to consider in the review and he may be in touch with the LEMC / Shire to seek information on how the community recovery was managed after the Porongurup fires.

#### Shire of Plantagenet

Nicole Selesnew spoke of the Shire's lobbying of State Government Ministers, FESA and the West Australian Local Government Association

regarding the Total Fire Ban (TFB) legislation and the difficulties that have been occurring in the Great Southern Region as a result of the Bans.

Feedback from Ministers and FESA has been positive and a review of the TFB legislation and procedures is underway. Some areas that have been highlighted for review are the length of time a ban is imposed, consultation with local governments prior to imposing a ban and extending exemptions to cover agricultural activities.

Cr Sue Etherington reminded the LEMC that a schedule of articles for the Plantagenet News promoting the LEMC and emergency service work was prepared but has not been followed.

The schedule to be updated and distributed with the LEMC Minutes for groups to follow.

## **6 NEXT MEETING**

5.30pm      Tuesday 1 November 2011 at the Mount Barker Volunteer Fire and Rescue Brigade.

## **7 MEETING CLOSURE**

Meeting closed 6.10 pm.