



LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Meeting of the Local Emergency Management Committee
held at the **Mount Barker Police Station**
17.30 Tuesday 2 February 2010

Rob Stewart
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

Meeting declared open by the Chairperson at 17.30

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES

Present:

Cr Sue Etherington(Chair)	Shire of Plantagenet
Sarah Evans	Department for Child Protection
Adam Smith	Fire and Emergency Services Authority
Phill Jeffery	State Emergency Service
Gary Wann	State Emergency Service
Ian Foote	State Emergency Service
Ewen Hill	St John Ambulance
David Burcham	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Jeff Drage	Mount Barker Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service
Wesley Beck	Mount Barker Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service
Irene Montefiore	ABC Radio
Alanna Robins	Health Department
Allan Spicer	Mount Barker Police
Eric Howard	Shire of Plantagenet
Ray Parry	Shire of Plantagenet
Nicole Selesnew	Shire of Plantagenet
Andrew Buchanan	Shire of Plantagenet

Apologies:

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Wes Beck, Seconded Allan Spicer:

That the minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee meeting held 3 November 2009 be confirmed.

CARRIED

4 REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

Location / Address: N / A
Name of Applicant: N / A
Author: Andrew Buchanan
Date of Report: 18 January 2010

Local Emergency Management Arrangements

The Local Emergency Management Arrangements are near complete, the Draft copy will be sent to LEMC Members, FESA Regional Office and to the local Emergency Coordinator (Allan Spicer) for comment prior to going to Council for adoption. Copies will be available prior to the next LEMC meeting.

LEMC Format

Recent amendments to the State Emergency Management Policy have identified a flowchart to assist the LEMC in annual programs. The flowchart can be found attached. The Shire of Plantagenet LEMC will endeavour to follow this in an effort to maintain a solid framework and consistency between surrounding Shires.

Emergency Services Levy allocations

The Shire's Emergency Services Levy (ESL) allocations for 2009 / 2010 are:

- Bush Fire Brigade Operational budget - \$91,600,
- State Emergency Service Operational budget - \$10,922.
- State Emergency Service Capital allocation – air conditioning unit and wooden window frame repairs. Works pending finalisation of transfer of land to the Shire

The request for new sheds for the South Porongurup and Forest Hill Bush Fire Brigades was not supported. The Shire lodged an appeal against the decision. The appeal for the Forest Hill Fire Shed was supported, works on the Shed will begin February 2010.

Changes to the Bush Fires Act

Amendments to the Bush Fires Act came into affect 1 December 2009 as follows:

- Introduction of Total Fire Bans
- New arrangements for assuming control of major fires
- New categories to Fire Danger Rating
- Changes to definition of the word 'property' to help combat arson

5 GENERAL BUSINESS / MATTERS ARISING

ABC Local Radio commitment to emergency broadcast

ABC Radio has a Memorandum of Understanding with FESA to broadcast emergency information. ABC does not broadcast from Albany 24hrs a day but emergency information can be broadcast from Albany, Perth or mobile units as required. During an emergency, local Police may be contacted by ABC to find out if any information needs to be broadcast. It is important to note, that the ABC is not pursuing news stories in these circumstances. The ABC has processes in place for varying degrees of alert and for large scale incidents however, where possible will broadcast any information relating to smaller incidents. Radio broadcast can only be at the direction of the Incident Controller. It is important that information be clear, concise and presented in a professional manner.

ABC/Irene Montefiore will broadcast community interest stories from time to time, this may include local emergency service training events and education days.

Department of Child Protection

If a road block is to be put in place for any length of time, welfare must be arranged for affected persons. This is the responsibility of DCP. DCP must only be activated by the Incident Controller. A recent incident raised confusion when a person other than the Incident Controller for the Hazard Management Agency activated DCP.

Action:

Sarah Tupp Evans to meet with Andrew Buchanan to develop Welfare arrangements in the Local Emergency Management Arrangements.

FESA/EMWA

The Local Emergency Management Arrangements will be the key focus of the next LEMC meeting. The Arrangements are to be implemented as soon as possible.

Mount Barker Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service (MBVFRS)

MBVFRS has attended 28 incidents so far in the 09/10 year, this is compared to 30 for 08/09 year. These have been mostly made up of scrub fires and vehicle accidents.

One member has resigned recently to pursue University studies.

WAPOL

Allan Spicer commented that there had been recent fatalities at Motor Vehicle Accidents. A great job was done by all and despite some issues with communications and complaints of speeding through Traffic Management the lives of two children were saved by the fast response of emergency volunteers. All focus needs to be put on the LEMA's to get them adopted and to then focus on evacuation plans. The key focus of the DEMC is to ensure that an evacuation plan exists for all risk areas.

St John Ambulance

Have been reasonably quiet of late.

Ewen Hill advised Leavers Alive program will be run again this year most likely in August.

Action:

Andrew Buchanan to provide support to Ewen Hill and the Leavers Alive Program.

Bush Fire Brigades

There have been roughly 15 incidents so far this season. Due to recent weather conditions, the Soil Dryness Index is very high meaning that ground fuel loads are very dry. This may result in some fairly bad fires between now and late March with potential for storms and lightning strikes. Everyone should remain vigilant.

Building works will be happening to the new Forest Hill Fire Shed, Rocky Gully Fire Shed and a Water Bomber reloading shed at Karri Oak Airstrip.

Health Department

When developing evacuation plans, consideration needs to be given to community care facilities and patients receiving community care at home. This includes any restricted mobility community members.

SES

Have recently been very quiet, will resume meetings after the summer holiday period. Upcoming exercises will include a Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) drill at the O'Neil Rd tip.

Community needs to be encouraged to call 000 for any emergency, recently a large number of calls have been received by SES/Brigade members direct. There is always space in the Plant News requiring 'fillers' which could be used to promote 000 or other safety messages.

Executive Officer

Nicole Selesnew will be stepping down from active participation in LEMC, Andrew Buchanan will undertake the role of Executive Officer.

Jeff Drage moved a vote of thanks to Nicole for her efforts to date.

Ian Foote

Ian presented an evacuation brochure for LEMC to consider and offer comment. It was suggested to avoid glossy pages as it causes difficulty for older readers. Any comments to be forwarded to either Ian Foote or Andrew Buchanan.

6 NEXT MEETING

17.30 Tuesday 30 March 2010 at the Shire Offices.

The key focus of this meeting will be the Local Emergency management Arrangements.

7 MEETING CLOSURE

Meeting closed 18.29

CONFIRMED:CHAIRPERSON _____ **DATE:** ___ / ___ / ___