



**LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING**

MINUTES

Meeting of the Local Emergency Management Committee
held at the **Mount Barker Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service**
5.30pm Tuesday 4 August 2009

Rob Stewart
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

Meeting declared open by the Chairperson at 5.30pm.

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES

Present:

Eric Howard (Chair)	Shire of Plantagenet
Sarah Evans	Department for Child Protection
Adam Smith	Fire & Emergency Services Authority
Phill Jeffery	State Emergency Service
Gary Wann	State Emergency Service
Ewen Hill	St John Ambulance
Carrie Linster	St John Ambulance
	Mount Barker Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service
Keith Hart	Community Representative
David Burcham	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Jeff Drage	Mount Barker Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service
Wesley Beck	Mount Barker Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service

Apologies:

Ken Clements	Shire of Plantagenet
Ted Knight	Department of Agriculture
Gill Toone	Red Cross

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved W Beck, Seconded G Wann:

That the minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee meeting held 5 May 2009 be confirmed.

CARRIED

4 REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

Location / Address: N / A
Name of Applicant: N / A
Author: Nicole Selesnew
Date of Report: 27 July 2009

Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM)

There is a possibility that the CESM position may occur in 2009 / 2010. Shire staff have been liaising with FESA about the opportunity of FESA covering all of the funding for the position for the first year. FESA is reviewing their finances to see if this proposal is possible.

Public Evacuation Announcements

At the last LEMC meeting the Committee discussed public evacuation alerts. The Committee requested that we investigate the different methods of public announcement available and report back to the next LEMC meeting.

Adam Smith, Community Emergency Management Officer (FESA) has advised that the ABC is the preferred method of communication with the community because of their government link. Irene Montifiore usually attends the District Emergency Management Committee meetings to reinforce their role in information distribution. In addition to the ABC there are a number of other options including the local FM stations, the Shire website and phone hotline, local notice boards and SMS services.

Another option is State Alert Emergency Warning System. State Alert allows the FESA Communication Centre to phone/SMS landlines & mobiles within a given range of a tower or exchange. Attached is a copy of the new operating procedure for State Alert. A copy of the operating procedure is also available on the Volunteers website <http://extranet/sites/volunteers/members/Pages/Home.aspx>

Adam supports a community education campaign that highlight the highest risks in the Shire such as bushfire and storm events and focus on the response numbers (ie '000' or ;132 500') and listen to ABC for more information. It may also be possible to have the FESA Community Engagement section do some targeted work regarding community education within the Shire.

Changes to the Bush Fires Act

There are some proposed amendments to the Bush Fires Act which will enable FESA to take control of a fire from Local Government or the Department of Environment and Conservation when a fire has escalated to a major incident.

Comments from the Local Emergency Management Committee are sought so they may be discussed with FESA or other agencies where appropriate.

David Burcham commented on proposed change. David expressed concerns about the proposal and that many Councils are opposed to the concept. A Main concern is that local knowledge may be ignored in the event of an emergency.

Motion

Moved W Beck, seconded G Wann:

That the Local Emergency Management Committee not support the proposed changes to the Bush Fire Act 1954 as prepared by Fire and Emergency Services Authority until further information is provided such as wording amendments.

CARRIED

Lotterywest Grants

FESA volunteer groups who are eligible for the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) may now apply for additional funding under a new Lotterywest Grant Scheme. The funding program is active for the next three years and covers non essential items not funded through the ESL. An information page is attached.

5 GENERAL BUSINESS / MATTERS ARISING

Evacuation Alerts

Adam Smith advised that evacuation alert systems should be included into LEMC Plans. FESA have a Local Emergency Development Guide template to help ensure that all requirements are met and nothing is omitted.

ACTION

Rayona to forward copy of Shire of Plantagenet LEMC Plan to Adam Smith and Sarah Evans to review.

State Emergency Services

The SES has now got 17 active members in their unit and are looking at recruiting another 3 members. Members have been attending a number of training courses, with more training to be undertaken in the coming months.

One of the main aims for the unit is to keep young cadets involved and interested.

Jeff Roach has stepped down from the SES due to work commitments.

Risk Management

Eric Howard suggested that the LEMC revisit the Emergency Risk Management plans. Eric recently attended a meeting with Department of Agriculture and Food where the possibility of a landfill site for diseased animals was discussed. This scenario should be incorporated into the Emergency Risk Management plans.

Bush Fire Update

It is a very quiet time of year for bush fires. Volunteers recently attended house fire in Kendenup.

Mount Barker Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service (MBVFRS)

MBVFRS currently has 16 active members.

Jeff Drage will be hosting an Open Station Visit from 14-18 September 2009. The exercise is aimed at children from Kindergarten to Year 2.

MBVFRS is also very quiet this time of year, having attends some traffic accidents and a cat stuck in a tree.

Department of Child Protection

Sarah Tup Evans has been working on Local Welfare Plans and will be holding community meetings in the near future.

6 NEXT MEETING

5.30pm Tuesday 3 November 2009 at the Shire Offices.

7 MEETING CLOSURE

Meeting closed 6.20pm.