



## LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

# MINUTES

Meeting of the Local Emergency Management Committee  
held at the  
First Responders Building, First Avenue Kendenup  
6.00pm Tuesday 5 February 2013

**Robert 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.*

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

**2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES**

Present:

Cr Sue Etherington (Chair)	Shire of Plantagenet
Eric Howard	Shire of Plantagenet
Jeff Drage	Mount Barker Volunteer Fire & Rescue
Andrew Buchanan	Shire of Plantagenet
Bryn Gladwin	St Johns Ambulance
Barry Cross	State Emergency Service
Nicole Selesnew	Shire of Plantagenet
Adam Smith	State Emergency Management Committee Secretariat
Sarah Mathews	Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)
Lorna Hayward	Department for Child Protection
Roma Boucher	Department for Child Protection
Wes Bailye	Department of Environment and Conservation

Apologies:

Wesley Beck	Mount Barker Volunteer Fire & Rescue
Sgt Alan Keough	WA Police
Murray Wills	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Alanna Robins	Plantagenet Cranbrook Health Service
Ruth Godden	Plantagenet Cranbrook Health Service
Ted Knight	Department of Agriculture and Food

**3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Moved Jeff Drage, seconded Eric Howard**

*THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Local Emergency Management Committee held 6 November 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

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#### Review of the Emergency Services Acts

A review of the emergency services legislation has recently been initiated and will be coordinated by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES). The new Emergency Services Act will be formed through the amalgamation of the Bush Fires Act 1954, the Fire Brigades Act 1942 and the Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998. The review team is currently seeking feedback from stakeholders on the effectiveness of the current legislation. I will write a submission on behalf of the Shire if there is sufficient call for it, otherwise the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) has called for comments to develop a submission on behalf of all local governments. If you have any comments, could you please forward them to me by 15 February 2013.

#### Mock Incident

A mock incident will be planned for the coming months. Our recent mock incidents have involved vehicle accidents and a hazardous chemical spill so this time we should aim to do something completely different. If anyone has any suggestions or would like to help organise the incident, please let me know.

General discussion followed about potentially holding a mock incident based on a train derailment or a gunman at the Mount Barker Community College.

#### **Action**

**Jeff Drage and Barry Cross to investigate holding a mock incident based on a gunman at the Mount Barker Community College.**

## 5 GENERAL BUSINESS / MATTERS ARISING

### Mount Barker Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service

The Brigade has had a number of incidents ranging from motor vehicle accidents, to false alarm calls at the Hospital and a bush fire. Jeff Drage has recently returned to the brigade after a leave of absence.

### St John Ambulance

The Kendenup First Responders are now officially a sub-branch of the Mount Barker sub-centre. The First Responders was initially set up to provide fast response first aid to people while an ambulance was on its way from Mount Barker. The Shed was funded through donations and is on land that is rented from the Shire on a peppercorn lease. The Kendenup sub branch has responded to five calls since December. This combined with the Mount Barker sub-centres total of 47 incidents for the month.

### State Emergency Service (SES)

The Mount Barker SES has been very quiet with only one call out since the last LEMC meeting. This was to a lost person at 2.00 am in the Denbarker area. The Unit mobilised but was stood down en-route.

### Bush Fire Service

The Bush Fire Service has been reasonably quiet with only one major fire which was cause by a hay baler on Pugh Road in Narrikup. One of the issues that came out of this fire was the closure of roads by police. If a road closure is requested no-one will be permitted through, if a road detour is requested, then vehicles and equipment relating to the incident can be let through. In this instance, two dozers on floats were not permitted through road blocks and needed to access the fire via another route and added a considerable delay in getting the dozers to the fire ground.

The Pugh Road fire burnt through pasture, native vegetation and an area of recently harvested blue gum plantation. The plantation had been harvested in a variety of ways and it demonstrated some very different fire behaviour. The difference in fuel characteristics from pasture to native bush and plantation was a great learning experience for many on the fire ground.

Department for Child Protection (DCP)

The Albany office has been without an District Emergency Support Officer for some time whilst Sarah Evans has been on secondment to the Albany Prison. Roma Boucher is now acting in the role and DCP is committed to providing ongoing support to Shires and LEMCs.

Roma will be working on updating Local Welfare Arrangements for local governments in the great southern region. It is expected that these Arrangements will eventually be adopted by council in each local government.

At the recent Bremer Bay bushfires, DCP was activated in order to set up a welfare centre for evacuees. During the event, a issue was noted when DCP staff set up a welfare centre in a safe location away from the incident to cater for evacuees. At the same time, the Shire had set up a welfare centre inside the incident area to cater for those who chose not to evacuate. The Shire then requested DCP support at the alternative welfare centre but DCP staff will not operate in the incident area.

DCP will establish welfare centres for large events but in small events, the Shire may establish a welfare centre without the support of DCP. An example is during an extended power outage, the Shire may allow free access to the recreation centre to allow residents to have hot showers. Also many local governments aren't aware that when a welfare centre is established during an emergency, that they will be forwarded all costs unless the event is declared as a natural disaster. It is recommended that Shire's give some budget consideration for this.

DCP will also be re-establishing the Local Welfare Committee and holding mock incidents following the setup of a welfare centre.

Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) Walpole

DEC Walpole has had a very quiet fire season so far with only two incidents, one being an illegal campfire.

Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) – Community Engagement

Sarah Mathews has recently started with DFES and is the Community Engagement Officer for the Great Southern Region based in Albany.

Sarah will work closely with the Community Emergency Services Managers (CESM) in supporting and developing community engagement programs.

Shire of Plantagenet - Environmental Health Officer

When conducting mock incidents, we should consider the process of evacuation and the activation of evacuation centres. This is an area that has potential to cause significant issues during an emergency.

District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC)

There has been a push after the Bremer Bay fires to identify areas that are at significant risk from natural hazards. Once identified the areas will be recognised in the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) and also reported to the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC). It is likely that the list will have implications for land use planning, subdivision of rural land and emergency / incident management.

The table below shows areas of concern in this Shire are.

Area	Threat / Hazard
Mira Flores / Stoney Creek Subdivisions	Bushfire
Kendenup Townsite	Bushfire Flood
Rocky Gully Townsite	Bushfire
Mount Barker	Flood
Porongurup (general area)	Poor road access
Albany Highway	Transport of hazardous chemicals
Pardelup Prison	Special considerations relating to prison
Fletchers (on site accommodation)	Large concentration of transient and culturally and linguistically diverse people

If you have any further ideas about high risk areas please contact Andrew Buchanan on 9892 1149 by Friday 1 March 2013.

**6 ATTACHMENTS**

WALGA Emergency Management Forum Report.

WALGA Information Page - Review of the Emergency Services Acts

**7 NEXT MEETING**

5.30pm Tuesday 7 May 2013 at the Mount Barker Courthouse.

**8 MEETING CLOSURE**

Meeting closed 7.30 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>
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