



LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Meeting of the Local Emergency Management Committee
held at the
Shire of Plantagenet Administration Office
6.00pm Tuesday 6 November 2012

John Fathers
ACTING 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
Wesley Beck	Mount Barker Volunteer Fire & Rescue
Murray Wills	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Andrew Buchanan	Shire of Plantagenet
Sgt Rob Smithson	WA Police
Bryn Gladwin	St Johns Ambulance
Barry Cross	State Emergency Service
Alanna Robins	Plantagenet Cranbrook Health Service
Ruth Godden	Plantagenet Cranbrook Health Service
Steve Player	Shire of Plantagenet

Apologies:

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Jeff Drage, seconded Wes Beck

THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Local Emergency Management Committee held 2 August 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

Bush Fire Hazard Reduction Work

The bush fire hazard reduction work on Shire properties, Crown land and bush land is nearly complete. There are a few areas that are currently too wet to access so these works will be done once conditions allow. This

year the Council approved an increase to the hazard reduction budget from \$25,000 to \$87,000 which is evidence of the commitment of Council to bush fire preparedness. This additional funding has allowed the construction of new strategic firebreaks in Kendenup, Porongurup, Forest Hill and Mount Barker. There will also be a number of fire access gates that will be installed across firebreaks. The gates will be a simple treated pine post arrangement similar to those used by the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC).

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

The Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) is now officially known as the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES). It is anticipated that the re-branding of the organisation will take place over the next 12 months.

Community Engagement Officer

DFES are in the process of employing a locally based Community Engagement Officer. The Great Southern Region has always been supported by the DFES Community Engagement Team based in Perth but now that an Officer will be based in Albany, the level of support available will increase considerably. The successful applicant will help with developing programs to improve awareness of natural hazards in the key risk areas of the Great Southern Region.

Bush Fire Street Meets

The Bush Fire Street Meet program was very successful last year and has been expanded this year. There are a number of meets planned in the lead up to the fire season and depending on weather conditions and the number of fires we have, the program may continue throughout summer. I currently have Meets planned for McCook Road, Stoney Creek Subdivision, Kendenup, Mount Barker (Tower) Hill and Rocky Gully.

Kendenup Street Numbering

The street numbering in the Kendenup townsite has been a concern for emergency services responding to incidents in the area. Currently residents in the townsite use a mixture of lot numbers, street numbers and rural road numbers to identify their properties. This has caused a number of issues for emergency services when responding to incidents. The Shire has employed an officer to work through the property numbering issues and develop a consistent road numbering system for the townsite.

5 GENERAL BUSINESS / MATTERS ARISING

Bush Fire Service

Vegetation across the Shire has been drying out quite quickly, however recent rains may be enough to increase the vegetation moisture content. These recent rains may also be enough to start some growth of fresh grass. After a mild winter, fuel loads are moderate around the Shire.

After campaigning through the LEMC, the state government has committed funding to mobile phone infrastructure in Rocky Gully. This will greatly improve phone reception in and around Rocky Gully and some of the way to Manjimup. This will be a significant increase in the response capabilities for emergency services.

Mount Barker Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service

The Brigade has been quiet with only a couple of false alarm calls to the Hospital and a car fire.

St John Ambulance

The Sub-centre has been very busy averaging two calls per day. One of the Ambulances will be relocated to the Kendenup First Responders shed shortly. The official opening of the Mount Barker St John Hall is coming up and members of the Local Emergency Management Committee will be invited.

West Australian Police (WAPOL)

Sgt Al Keogh is currently on leave and Sgt Rob Smithson from Katanning is working in his place.

State Emergency Service (SES)

The Mount Barker SES is working towards gaining Vertical Rescue capability. In order to get the capability, a number of members will be attending training sessions with the Albany SES. It is hoped that the Vertical Rescue capability will assist the unit when trying to attract new members.

Up until recently, the Mount Barker SES Unit was in danger of closing down due to poor morale and low membership numbers. After a

significant commitment of time and energy by Barry Cross, membership numbers have increased and morale in the Unit is excellent. Barry has achieved some excellent results.

The Unit has taken delivery of an Automated External Defibrillator. The Defibrillator has been provided to ensure that emergency responders have the appropriate equipment should any member of the Unit require first aid assistance.

Shire of Plantagenet Incident Control Centre

The Committee was taken through the process of setting up the Council Chambers and Committee room as an Incident Control Centre (ICC). This included operating the generator, the phone system and the computer / telephone requirements for the ICC. There were a number of areas for improvement identified including access to more white boards, provision for external organisations to access the Shires internet, Incident Support Group membership and contact lists, the identification of emergency trigger points around townsites and the identification / engagement of community members or champions to get emergency information out to community groups.

A mock incident was carried out as a discussion exercise focussing on the response and management of an incident. The scenario was a significant bushfire which had started north west of Kendenup and impacted both Kendenup and Mount Barker. Wes Bailye from the Department of Environment and Conservation was able to provide valuable insight into the resources and level of support available to Local Governments at large incidents.

6 ATTACHMENTS

7 NEXT MEETING

5.30pm Tuesday 5 February 2013 at the Kendenup First Responders
Shed, First Avenue Kendenup.

8 MEETING CLOSURE

Meeting closed 7.30 pm.

LEMC E-mail Distribution List

Name	Organisation	E-mail
Murray Wills	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	willsym@westnet.com.au
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Jeff Drage	Mount Barker Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service	jeff@moutbarkervfrs.info
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