



## LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

# MINUTES

Meeting of the Local Emergency Management Committee  
held at the  
St John Ambulance Hall, Mount Barker  
5.30pm Tuesday 7 August 2012

**Rob 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:

Eric Howard (Chair)	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 Allan Keogh	WA Police
Bryn Gladwin	St Johns Ambulance
Barry Cross	State Emergency Service
Alanna Robins	Plantagenet Cranbrook Health Service

Apologies:

Cr Sue Etherington	Shire of Plantagenet
Nicole Selesnew	Shire of Plantagenet
Adam Smith	Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA)
Ruth Godden	Plantagenet Cranbrook Health Service

**3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Moved Jeff Drage, seconded Sgt Allan Keogh**

*THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Local Emergency Management Committee held 1 May 2012 be confirmed.*

**CARRIED**

**4 REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

**COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT**

<b>Location / Address:</b>	<b>N / A</b>
<b>Name of Applicant:</b>	<b>N / A</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Andrew Buchanan</b>
<b>Date of Report:</b>	<b>15 April 2012</b>

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Mock Incident

Thanks to all of the groups involved in the mock incident held 27 June 2012. It was great to see so many people respond. I think it gave the

response agencies some good perspective toward the management of large incidents. Thanks especially to Bryn Gladwin and Wesley Beck for the massive effort in organising the event.

Please keep in mind that it is always hard to come up with different scenarios when organising mock incidents so if anyone has any ideas, please let me know.

#### National Work Safe Harmonisation

With the move to nationwide occupational health and safety legislation, there may be changes to organisations policies and procedures. The date for the harmonisation of the legislation i.e. the abolishment of the current Western Australian (WA) Occupational Health and Safety Act and the adoption of the national legislation, has not been set for WA but has been in place since 1 July 2012 for many other states. I would like to encourage everyone to check with their organisations to make sure that processes are in place to adopt any changes.

#### Local Government Emergency Management Forum

The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) recently hosted an emergency management forum in Perth. The forum was attended by Local Government representatives including staff and elected members. The forum work-shopped a number of issues such as the difficulty in developing / maintaining Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) in small Local Governments and managing expectations of Council, the community and emergency responders in an emergency management context. The forums will continue to be held in an effort to manage some of the issues identified.

#### Online Emergency Management Training

Emergency Management Australia has created an online information/training session for recovery and risk management. If you are interested, you can go to the websites below.

Intro to Recovery: <http://irm.ema.edu.au/>

Intro to Risk Management:

[http://ierm.ema.edu.au/ierm/about\\_erm/index.htm](http://ierm.ema.edu.au/ierm/about_erm/index.htm)

There are also a number emergency management courses planned to be held in the coming months, these will include; AIIMS Awareness, Introduction to Recovery and Introduction to Emergency Management. The dates for these courses are yet to be finalised and when they are confirmed, course information will be sent to LEMC members.

Westplan Heatwave

Westplan Heatwave has recently been released by the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) in draft format for comment. If anyone would like a copy of the document, please let me know.

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

Storm Event 10 June 2012

On Sunday 10 June 2012 a storm impacted the Shire that was considerably stronger than what was forecast. The storm hit at approximately 5pm and caused widespread damage in the Shire including downed powerlines, trees over roads and minor property damage. Additional severe weather alerts were issued through until Wednesday 13 June 2012 however actual conditions were much milder than the storm on Sunday 10 June.

The response to the event was discussed by the Committee and the following points were raised:

- In events such as this it may be best to call together the LEMC to make sure necessary plans are in place and then stand down the Committee as required rather than trying to call everyone together after the event has impacted the Shire.
- The police were kept very busy with downed powerlines and a number of traffic accidents including a truck that had ruptured its fuel tank on Albany Highway. Responding to incidents when so many roads are blocked presents significant issues for emergency responders and the question was raised if the Shire could provide a crew with the sole purpose of supporting emergency responders. The Shire doesn't have the resources to be able to dedicate a crew to emergency responders however clearing roads to allow a response to an emergency should take precedence over any other works.
- If emergency crews are tasked with blocking roads due to fallen powerlines, they can only provide advice to the public. If a person chooses to ignore that advice, then that person does so at their own risk.
- The bush fire radio network (Western Australian Emergency Radio Network or WAERN) can be used to gain information about the extent of an incident. There are approximately 75 radios spread out across the Shire and these radios are a mix of base mounted units and ones fitted in vehicles. The operators of the radios also have a wealth of local knowledge such as the location of heavy machinery, roads that regularly flood etc that can be drawn upon during emergency events.

- Fuel supplies during extended power outages are an issue for the police as one vehicle uses unleaded fuel and one is diesel. Diesel is readily available however unleaded is usually only available at the service stations. A maximum of 20 litres of spare unleaded can be kept at the police station.

#### Mock Incident Debrief

A mock incident was held on 27 June based on the scenario of a hazardous material spill at the Mount Barker Elders branch. As the Hazard Management Agency, Mount Barker VFRS Captain, Wesley Beck was the Incident Controller. There were 12 casualties made up of students from Mount Barker Community College and Elders staff.

Overall the incident was a great success as it showed a number of key areas of improvement for the SES, VFRS and St John Ambulance. Communications continued to be of concern but the development of a communications plan at the start of any large incident may help in future incidents.

The hospital managed the influx of patients really well but in an actual incident they may have needed to divert some casualties to Albany. During the mock, actual casualties presented at the Emergency Department which necessitated moving all of the mock casualties out and into the kitchen. A member of the St Johns Ambulance was sent to the hospital at the start of the incident to help with communications and this worked very well as it allowed hospital staff to be aware of and prepare for casualties before they arrived.

#### Police Assistance Centre Calls

Recently there has been two examples in which calls to the Police Assistance Centre requesting police attendance did not get passed on to the relevant officers. One example was during the controlled burn of Mondurup Reserve requesting police attendance due to motor bikes driving in and around the reserve while it was being burnt. The second example was when a group of tourists became bogged in the Stirling Ranges and needed help. Sgt Al Keogh advised the Committee that if police assistance is required, they should call the station phone number and if that doesn't work choose to be diverted to Albany. Alternatively the mobile phones for the station or Sgt Al Keogh can be contacted.

New Shire Ranger

Ray Parry has now moved to Building Maintenance and will no longer be carrying out any Ranger duties. Steve Player is the new Ranger and will be contactable on Ray's old phone numbers, 0419 042 237 or 9892 1137. Steve has been relief Ranger for a number of years and is well aware of all of the issues that Ray has been dealing with.

Leavers Alive

The highly successful Leavers Alive program will be held again this year at the Community College. It is planned for Wednesday 22 August 2012 from 11am to 1pm. It will be based around the scenario of a car crash and is aimed at reminding students to take care as they get drivers licenses and begin their post high school celebrations.

**6 ATTACHMENTS**

**7 NEXT MEETING**

5.30pm Tuesday 6 November 2012 at the Shire of Plantagenet Administration Building, Lowood Road.

**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>
Sgt Allan Keogh	Western Australian Police	<a href="mailto:allan.keogh@police.wa.gov.au">allan.keogh@police.wa.gov.au</a>
Ruth Godden	Plantagenet Cranbrook Health Service	<a href="mailto:ruth.godden@health.wa.gov.au">ruth.godden@health.wa.gov.au</a>
Alanna Robbins	Plantagenet Cranbrook Health Service	<a href="mailto:alanna.robins@health.wa.gov.au">alanna.robins@health.wa.gov.au</a>
Bryn Gladwin	St John Ambulance	<a href="mailto:bcgladwin@gmail.com">bcgladwin@gmail.com</a>
Sue Etherington	Shire of Plantagenet	<a href="mailto:sue.e@plantagenet.wa.gov.au">sue.e@plantagenet.wa.gov.au</a>
Nicole Selesnew	Shire of Plantagenet	<a href="mailto:nicole@plantagenet.wa.gov.au">nicole@plantagenet.wa.gov.au</a>
Eric Howard	Shire of Plantagenet	<a href="mailto:ehoward@plantagenet.wa.gov.au">ehoward@plantagenet.wa.gov.au</a>
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