



## LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

# MINUTES

Meeting of the Local Emergency Management Committee  
held at the  
Mount Barker Court House, Mount Barker  
5.30pm Tuesday 7 February 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 A Robbins.*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE NO
1	DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS.....	1
2	RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES .....	1
3	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES.....	1
4	REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS.....	1
5	GENERAL BUSINESS / MATTERS ARISING.....	2
6	ATTACHMENTS .....	5
7	NEXT MEETING.....	5
8	MEETING CLOSURE.....	5

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

**2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES**

Present:

Nicole Selesnew (Chair)	Shire of Plantagenet
Jeff Drage	Mount Barker Volunteer Fire & Rescue
Wesley Beck	Mount Barker Volunteer Fire & Rescue
Alanna Robins	Plantagenet Cranbrook Health Service
Adam Smith	Emergency Management WA / Fire and Emergency Services Authority
Murray Wills	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Andrew Buchanan	Shire of Plantagenet
Eric Howard	Shire of Plantagenet
Allan Keogh	WA Police
Bryn Gladwin	St Johns Ambulance

Apologies:

Cr Sue Etherington	Shire of Plantagenet
Ruth Godden	Plantagenet Cranbrook Health Service
Ted Knight	Department of Agriculture and Food
Alan Watkins	Shire of Plantagenet

**3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Moved Allan Keogh, seconded Jeff Drage**

*THAT the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Local Emergency Management Committee held 1 November 2011 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>4 January 2012</b>

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### Bush Fire Fuel Management and Burn Plans

I am currently working on mapping fuel loads across the Shire including known burn history and bush fire threat. This is a large project and I will be working with all of the bush fire brigades to be able to get as much accurate information as possible. This work will also include fuel loads in the rail corridor which I have been discussing management options with the operator of the rail network, Brookfield Rail. The information that I collate from this work will help in risk management, financial planning, development of a master burn plan for the Shire and also provide a vital resource when managing fires.

### Automatic Weather Station (AWS)

After some recent campaigning, it appears that an AWS will be installed in the South Stirlings area. The AWS will be a Department of Agriculture and Food site and though a location is yet to be confirmed, we have recommended a site adjacent to the South Stirlings Fire Brigade Shed. The AWS will result in a much needed boost in the information available to us when fighting fires and managing Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans in the east of our Shire.

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

### Mount Barker Police

Sgt Allan Keogh offered assistance in updating the contact, resource and recovery components of the Local Emergency Management Arrangements. These have recently been updated and will not need to be reviewed until later this year. An updated copy of the Arrangements will be delivered to the Police Station.

### Mount Barker Volunteer Fire and Rescue

The brigade had a number of incidents over the Christmas New Year period including a number of small grass fires and a motor vehicle accident involving a double fatality. A member of the brigade, Cody Woolhouse, recently passed away after a long battle with illness.

### Plantagenet Cranbrook Health Service

The Director of Nursing will attend all future meetings of the LEMC. The Hospital was recently bypassed by St John Ambulance which is contrary to standard operating procedures. The bypass occurred due to the urgent nature of the casualty and a waiting Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) aircraft at Albany Airport.

### St Johns Ambulance

An Ambulance recently bypassed Mount Barker Hospital with a casualty due to a waiting RFDS flight and a paramedic that had been dispatched to meet them en-route to the Albany airport. This is the subject of an ongoing investigation as normal procedures state that a casualty must be taken to the nearest hospital.

St Johns is nearing the release of Amby-Plan which is an Ambulance specific emergency plan.

St Johns now have a number of Paramedics that can be dispatched from Albany to assist with critical patients. Katanning also has a Community Paramedic who will travel to incidents as far south as Kojonup.

### Plantagenet Bush Fire Service

There have been no major incidents as yet over summer. The Shire sent crews to assist in the Margaret River fires toward the end of last year. There have recently been a number of small fires caused by lighting strikes. Without quick detection and a fast response these fires could easily have escalated into large incidents.

### Fire and Emergency Services Authority

A meeting of the District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC) will be held in two weeks. This will be the first meeting chaired by the new Police Superintendent Katherine Bullen. There has not been a lot of information released by the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) due to the number of large incidents in the north west.

### Mobile Phone Towers

The Regional Mobile Communications Project has recently been announced providing funding for additional mobile phone infrastructure in regional and rural Australia. It is not yet known where these towers will be located but there are significant black spots in mobile phone reception along Muir Highway west of the Denmark turn off and Chester Pass Road north of the Kambellup Store. The Police and St Johns Ambulance are increasing the use of computers and mobile internet in their operations which presents issues when working in these areas. The Bush Fire

Service regularly experience difficulty when trying to use mobile phones when managing fires in these areas.

**Moved Murray Wills, Seconded Wesley Beck:**

**That a letter be written on behalf of the LEMC to Telstra, requesting that consideration be given to the installation of mobile phone infrastructure to provide coverage on the Muir Highway west of Denmark Mount Barker Road and on Chester Pass Road north of the Kambellup Store.**

**CARRIED**

***Action:***

***Each emergency service on the LEMC write a letter of support to Telstra requesting the installation of infrastructure in these areas.***

***Action:***

***Wesley Beck to forward the website link regarding the mobile phone infrastructure upgrade program.***

Mock Incident

The benefit of holding large mock incidents between responders was discussed and it was requested that another one be held.

***Action:***

***A mock incident is to be organised by Bryn Gladwin and Wesley Beck, testing the local response capabilities of local emergency services.***

Desktop Exercise

A desktop exercise was held under the guise of an earthquake impacting Mount Barker similar to the one that impacted Kalgoorlie in 2010. Due to the nature of the exercise, LEMC members were required to form an Incident Support Group (ISG) to provide assistance and specialist advice to the Incident Management Team (IMT). In an incident of this scale and duration, the role of the ISG is very important to ensure that all information is communicated efficiently and that the community recovers quickly from an event.

**6 ATTACHMENTS**

Desktop exercise documents.

**7 NEXT MEETING**

5.30pm Tuesday 1 May 2012 at the Mount Barker State Emergency  
Service Depot.

**8 MEETING CLOSURE**

Meeting closed 7.30 pm.