



**LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MINUTES**

Meeting of the Local Emergency Management Committee  
held at the **Shire of Plantagenet Administration Building**  
17.30 Tuesday 30 March 2010

Rob Stewart  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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

Meeting declared open by the Chairperson at 17.40

## **2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES**

Present:

Cr Sue Etherington (Chair)	Shire of Plantagenet
Sarah Evans	Department for Child Protection
Phill Jeffery	State Emergency Service
Rob Clarke	St John Ambulance
Wesley Beck	Mount Barker Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service
Nicole Selesnew	Shire of Plantagenet
Andrew Buchanan	Shire of Plantagenet

Apologies:

Eric Howard	Shire of Plantagenet
Ray Parry	Shire of Plantagenet
Ted Knight	Department of Agriculture and Food

## **3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Moved Sarah Evans, Seconded Wes Beck:**

**That the minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee meeting held 2 February 2010 be confirmed.**

**CARRIED**

## 4 REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

### COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

**Location / Address:** N / A  
**Name of Applicant:** N / A  
**Author:** Andrew Buchanan  
**Date of Report:** 18 January 2010

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#### Local Emergency Management Arrangements

The Local Emergency Management Arrangements are in a final draft stage to be approved by this committee. The Arrangements are an over arching document to several individual and specific plans for the Shire. Individual plans for the Shire will be reviewed / developed once the arrangements have been adopted, the first priority will be Evacuation and Welfare. The assistance of the Local Emergency Management Committee will be appreciated in the development of these plans.

#### **Moved Wesley Beck, Seconded Rob Clark:**

**That the Local Emergency Management Arrangements be endorsed by the Local Emergency Management Committee.**

**CARRIED**

#### LEMC Attendance

The effectiveness of the LEMC in managing emergencies lies within the diversity of the Committee members. In order to increase the effectiveness of this LEMC, additional Committee members are sought from all areas of emergency management and representatives of essential services, utilities, and transport as well as any organisations conducting high risk activities. It is suggested that representatives of: Department of Agriculture and Food; Forestry Industry; Kendenup First Responders; and Pardelup Work Camp be invited to future meetings. It is also suggested that the LEMC hold meetings in the outlying town sites to allow a greater awareness of the Committee and to improve accessibility to the meetings for people living in outlying areas.

#### **ACTION:**

**The Committee strongly supported this proposal, Andrew Buchanan to extend an invitation to other representatives for future meetings.**

### Multi Agency Response

On the 28 February 2010 a fire started at a power pole on private property in Forest Hill. Strong gusty winds, high temperatures and some of the driest soils in the last ten years assisted the rapid spread of this fire. As crews responded, another fire was detected some 10km to the North on private land adjacent Wambellup Reserve. This initiated a chain of events focused on the fast control of these fires, both with potential for high impact upon individuals and the community. Department of Environment and Conservation Water Bombers were activated from Albany and Manjimup, requiring the support of the State Emergency Service at Karri Oak Airstrip. Machinery was called in including Shire and contractor graders, private tractors and a bulldozer. Western Power responded quickly isolating and repairing damaged power lines. Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service, St John Ambulance and Police crews assisted at the Incident Control Point. The summary of resources and agencies utilised on this day as follows:

- 14 x Heavy Fire Tenders
- 20 x Light Fire Tenders (including private vehicles)
- 2 x Graders
- 3 x Tractors (privately owned)
- 1x Bulldozer
- 1 x Water Truck
- 5 x Water Bombers
- Police
- St John Ambulance
- Fire and Emergency Services Authority
- State Emergency Services
- Western Power
- Southern Road Service
- Department of Environment and Conservation

The efforts and cooperation displayed both at the fire scene and support locations are a testament to the emergency service volunteers within this Shire. Had any of these organisations or individuals been unavailable it is highly likely that these fires could have spread at an expanding rate and impacted upon infrastructure, stock and livelihoods. 73 hectares of bush land/pasture, 1km of irrigation lines and 10km of fencing were impacted by these fires. Electrical faults on Western Power infrastructure has been identified as the cause of both fires and is currently being investigated by the Office of Energy Safety.

The owner of the property at Forest Hill has expressed a heart felt thanks to all those involved in these incidents.

### Community Education

The focus of community education sessions and media will now shift from bush fires to storm preparation/safety, localised flooding and

house fires. These are the hazards most likely to impact the community over the incoming months. Anyone wishing to be involved in developing or conducting education sessions should contact the SES, VFRS or the CESH. FESA has an advertising campaign to encourage the community to change smoke alarm batteries on 1 April being 'April Fools' day. The slogan for the campaign is 'Don't be a fool, change your smoke alarm batteries on April first'. This is to be included in the upcoming Plantagenet News.

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

### Mount Barker Fire and Rescue

There have been relatively few incidents since the last LEMC meeting. The Brigade recently attended a fire at Mount Barker Hill caused by fallen power lines. Wesley Beck and Jeff Drage conducted a Bush Fire Awareness course for students at the Community College. The Station was struck by lightning during a recent storm disabling the communications system which will be repaired as a matter of urgency.

### Department of Child Protection (DCP)

DCP were activated to the Windfarm Fire in Albany 13 March 2010, a number of issues have arisen from this mainly relating to internal processes. A major issue is that radio stations were transmitting incorrect evacuation centre details. To correct this in future, emergency groups and media are encouraged to support ABC Local Radio as the sole emergency broadcaster.

### St John Ambulance

Thanks to Wesley Beck for providing Mount Barker St John's with two hand-held bush fire (VHF High Band) radios. This will improve communications between emergency services.

### SES

The SES has been activated twice recently, once to provide support to the Water Bombers at the Forest Hill Fire and once to Perth to assist in the clean up from a 1 in 50 year storm event. Upcoming exercises will include a Bushland Search in conjunction with the Mount Barker Police. There are a number of training courses being held over the coming months including Australasian Interagency Incident Management System Awareness and Land Search Techniques.

### CESM

The blessing of the Roads ceremony is to be held 31 March 2010 at 1100 at the Shire Administration Offices.

**6 NEXT MEETING**

17.30 Tuesday 3 August 2010 at the SES Depot.

**7 MEETING CLOSURE**

Meeting closed 18.35

CONFIRMED:CHAIRPERSON\_\_\_\_\_DATE:\_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_