



LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Emergency Management Act 2005

SECTION 38 (1)

A Local Government is to establish one or more local emergency management committees for the local government district.

**Meeting of the
Local Emergency Management Committee
held at the Council Chambers
Lowood Road, Mount Barker 6324**

1.00pm Thursday 3 March 2022

Cameron Woods

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Committee Members

Cr L Handasyde (Chairperson), Sgt D Johnson (Deputy), Cr S Etherington (Deputy Shire Representative), Mr D Lynch, Mr M Barnes, Ms A Tucker, Mr J Rutter, Mr P Schupp, Ms N Rouse, Ms J Hollingworth, Ms K Hill, Red Cross (vacant), Mr N Handasyde, Mr L Benavides, Ms K Beidatsch, Ms J Williamson, Mr A Smith, Mr A Fraser (No. 175/21)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ITEM		SUBJECT
	PAGE NO	
1	DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS	5
2	RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES	5
3	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	5
4	BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS	6
5	STANDARD AGENDA ITEMS.....	6
5.1	CONFIRMATION OF CONTACT DETAILS AND KEY STAKE HOLDERS.....	6
5.2	POST MAJOR INCIDENT REPORTS	6
5.3	LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS (LEMA).....	6
5.4	FUNDING NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATION PROGRESS	6
5.5	ISSUES TO BE RAISED AT DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (DEMC).....	6
5.6	COVID CASES AND VACCINATIONS	6
6	AGENCY REPORTS.....	6
6.1	SHIRE OF PLANTAGENET	6
6.2	Environmental Health	7
6.3	WA POLICE FORCE	7
6.4	BUSHFIRE BRIGADES – CHIEF BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICER.....	7
6.5	MOUNT BARKER VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE	7
6.6	ST JOHN AMBULANCE	7
6.7	STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE	8
6.8	DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES.....	8
6.9	PLANTAGENET/CRANBROOK HEALTH SERVICE	8
6.10	DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT .	9
6.11	RANGER SERVICES	9
6.12	DEPARTMENT OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATIONS AND ATTRACTIONS	9
6.13	DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES.....	10
6.14	RED CROSS.....	10
6.15	EDUCATION DEPARTMENT	10
6.16	OTHERS	11

- 7 EXERCISE UPDATES11
- 7.1 EXERCISE11
- 7.2 POST EXERCISE REPORT11
- 8 GENERAL BUSINESS11**
- 8.1 WA COVID 19 CASE SNAPSHOT11
- 8.2 COVID 19 MEETING GUIDELINES11
- 8.3 LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FORUM SUMMARY FOR THE REGION
.....11
- 8.4 DISCUSSION POINTS FOR LEMCS GIVING CONSIDERATION TO COVID 19
PREPARATIONS11
- 9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING11**
- 10 CLOSURE11**

MEMBERSHIP (Quorum 9)

Cr Len Handasyde	Chair
Sgt David Johnson	Western Australian Police Force – Deputy Chair
Cr Sue Etherington	Deputy Council Representative
Mr Adam Smith	District Emergency Management Advisory
Ms Alex Tucker	Environmental Health Coordinator: Shire
Mr Andrew Fraser	Mount Barker Community College
Mr David Lynch	Executive Manager Works and Services: Shire
Ms Kelly Hill	Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development
Ms Jan Williamson	St John Ambulance – Mount Barker
Vacant	Red Cross
Mr Jason Rutter	Senior Ranger: Shire
Ms Julie Hollingworth	Department of Health
Ms Kirsten Beidatsch	Mount Barker State Emergency Service
Mr Luis Benavides	Mount Barker Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service
Mr Mike Barnes	Community Emergency Services Manager
Ms Nikki Rouse	Department of Biodiversity Conservation & Attractions
Mr Norm Handasyde	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Mr Phil Schupp	District Emergency Services Officer

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

1.00pm the Presiding Member Cr Len Handasyde declared the meeting open.

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIESMembers Present

Cr Len Handasyde (LH)	Council Representative – Presiding Member
Sgt David Johnson (DJ)	Western Australian Police Force (Deputy Presiding Member)
Mr Andrew Fraser (AF)	Mount Barker Community College
Mr David Lynch (DL)	Executive Manager Works and Services
Mr Jason Rutter (JR)	Acting Ranger – Shire
Mr Luis Benavides (LB)	Mount Barker Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service
Mr Mike Barnes (MB)	Community Emergency Services Manager
Mr Ian Foote (IF)	Mount Barker State Emergency Service

Optional Attendees

Mr David Rae (DR)	St John Ambulance Paramedic
Mr Derek Jones (DJ)	Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Mr Ken Jones (KJ)	Department of Health
Mr Vince Hilder (VH)	Department of Biodiversity Conservation & Attractions – Albany District

Microsoft Team attendance

Ms Nikki Rouse (NR)	Department of Biodiversity Conservation & Attractions
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VisitorsApologies

Cr Sue Etherington (SE)	Deputy Council Representative
Mr Adam Smith (AS)	Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Ms Alex Tucker	Environmental Health Officer – Shire
Ms Jan Williamson (JW)	St John Ambulance – Mount Barker Chair
Vacant	Red Cross
Ms Julie Hollingworth (JH)	Department of Health
Ms Kelly Hill (KH)	Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development
Ms Kirsten Beidatsch (KB)	Mount Barker State Emergency Service
Mr Norm Handasyde (NH)	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Mr Phil Schupp	District Emergency Services Officer

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved Mr David Rae,

Seconded SGT David Johnson;

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Local Emergency Management Committee held on 2 December 2021, as circulated with amendments as above, be taken as read and adopted as a correct record.

CARRIED

4 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Refer to Action List

5 STANDARD AGENDA ITEMS

5.1 CONFIRMATION OF CONTACT DETAILS AND KEY STAKE HOLDERS.

(As per attached contact list)

5.2 POST MAJOR INCIDENT REPORTS

Nil

5.3 LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS (LEMA)

LEMA review is due by the end of the year.

5.4 FUNDING NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATION PROGRESS

The Local Government Grants Scheme is well underway to being submitted by early April 2022. This is the grant that helps to facilitate the bushfire brigades and state emergency service.

5.5 ISSUES TO BE RAISED AT DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (DEMC)

Nil

5.6 COVID CASES AND VACCINATIONS

Attachment Two

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/359bca83a1264e3fb8d3b6f0a028d768>

Attachment Three - Covid 19 Meeting Guidelines

Second dose vaccination is at 95%

Boosted vaccination is at 65%

6 AGENCY REPORTS

6.1 SHIRE OF PLANTAGENET

Works and Services

The MAF grant has been approved with 65 treatments identified. Tender has been won by MC Civil Contractors and work will begin shortly

Listing for WA State Government – State Stimulus Package - Water Tanks for Remote BFB Sheds Round Two

Approved, the successful water tanks are.

- Kendenup/Mortigallup BFB - Agricultural Grounds – 150,000L – Approved – Completed
- Porongurup BFB – Res 24073 Porongurup Road – 100,000L - Approved – Purchase order issued – Tank pad has been constructed.

Unallocated Crown Land and Unmanaged Reserves (UCL/UMR) funding has been approved. Work has been Completed

Brigade Training is ongoing with bushfire brigade members up to minimum standards as per the Shire of Plantagenet Brigade Local Laws 2019.

Approximately 26 courses run since October 2021

Satellite NBN has now being installed into the Recreation Centre and will be activated each time the centre is opened for evacuations. This will enable evacuees to access the internet to communicate to family and friends during the incident.

6.2 Environmental Health

Apology

6.3 WA POLICE FORCE

Assistance was given to the Denmark fires.

SGT David Johnson announced that this will be his last LEMC meeting at the Sergeant of the Mount Barker Police. David has resigned from the Police force in favour of other pursuits.

The presiding member Mr Len Handasyde thanked David for the effort, time and personal cost over the years of his service.

6.4 BUSHFIRE BRIGADES – CHIEF BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICER

Apology

6.5 MOUNT BARKER VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE

Eight incidents since the new year, 2 being assistance to other emergency services at Bluff Knoll.

Six new members have jointed the brigade.

Assistance with the Denbarker and Tambellup fires.

Planned burning in the process for the town site.

Thank you to all of the training being conducted over the last four months.

6.6 ST JOHN AMBULANCE

6.6.1 Community Paramedic

Assistance from Mr David Rae and the Kendenup sub-centre at the Denbarker fire. Great to be involved to see how resources were used and how quickly everything was able to be ramped up, with the preparation paying dividends.

COVID situation is of concern in the Great Southern, training is being ramped up.

The sub-centres are fully operational, with RAT tests being performed to assist with the triage admission in to hospitals. There is a reduction of the patients being transported. With encouragement of self-transportation to hospital is able. Clearly if the patient is sick then of course they will be transported.

There is now a second team in Perth to assist with alternate means of transportation.

There have need no loss of ambulance volunteers due to COVID.

6.6.2 Mount Barker Sub-Centre

New community transport volunteers have come on board.

The rear shed is at lock up stage.

Driver revive has been cancelled

6.6.3 Rocky Gully Sub-Centre

Volunteer numbers going really well.

Radio link to the Belmont operation centre with a piece of hardware going in on Mount Barker tower.

6.7 STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE

Assistance at Denbarker fire in the logistics cell.

Assistance with Castle Rock and Bluff Knoll rescues.

Volunteer numbers are short at the moment for various reasons.

6.8 DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

6.8.1 District Officer

Business continuity plans are ready to go for the COVID pandemic, this will involve isolation from face to face meetings to aid in response activities.

COVID has been detected in the Albany Leisure and Aquatic Centre (ALAC), this is Albany's evacuation centre.

Bushfire season is almost over with local brigades handling their fire very well.

Denmark level 3 fire came at a time while there were three other level 3 fires around the state this had resources stretched. Although requests from State office for assistance to the Denmark fire was met and fill with the neighbouring Local Governments helping out.

As of the first of September 2022, the Fire Danger Ratings (FDR) will change from six points to four points to bring it in line nationally. This will be brought up at the next District Operation Area Committee (DOAC).

The fire districts are also changed after extensive consultation. Currently the Shire of Plantagenet and the Shire of Gnowangerup are the Stirling Inland. This will change to the Shires of Plantagenet, Cranbrook and Kojonup will now form the Stirling Inland. This is because the fuel types and weather patterns are very similar, and should slow the amount of Total Fire Bans or very high and above fire danger ratings being applied. These are calculated by finding the worst weather for 10% of the area for 1 hour.

6.8.2 District Emergency Management Advisor

Apology

6.9 PLANTAGENET/CRANBROOK HEALTH SERVICE

The hospitals are locking down with minimum visitation allowed.

If you present at the hospital requesting medical assistance that you will be asked to take a RAT test prior to being seen. This takes a minimum of 15 minutes to produce a result.

If a patient presents a positive COVID result the Albany health campus will be the preferred location for these patients.

The hospital will be having an upgrade and will take about four months. The works will upgrade to a resus bay and more emergency bays. These works will affect the ambulance service at some point apologies for this, these are much needed improvements.

If anyone needs to be tested then the Albany drive through will be able to facilitate that or RATs can be purchased from the chemist.

Ambulance officers are requested not to test patients if the only reason for calling an ambulance is to be tested.

Question

Is there a drive through in Mount Baker similar to Denmark?

Answer

Not at this stage.

6.10 DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Ms Kelly Hill is an apology and has emailed a report. This was read out to the meeting.

What I can share with you, which you are welcome to present on my behalf at the LEMC meeting is:

- DPIRD continues to manage declared incidents across the State – 6 x plant pest Level 2 incidents, and 2 x animal pest/disease Level 2 incidents. (a total of 8 incidents).

Thankfully none of these incidents are impacting the Shire of Plantagenet.

- DPIRD has been supporting recent fire responses. We activated the State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies (SSP-AWiE) for the Bayview Rise (Denmark) fire and the Narrogin East fire responses. We (DPIRD) are currently assisting the local governments with recovery activities.
- Previously I've mentioned mice and locusts and the potential for increased numbers in 2022 if there were favourable conditions are over the summer period. I can advise these pests (mice & locusts) are still being monitored. We expect mice numbers will be reported again as paddock activities increase. DPIRD encourages farmers to monitor paddocks prior to sowing & report
 - mouse activity using the FeralScan MouseAlert app; and
 - locust activity using the DPIRD PestFax reporter app.

(all available on iPhone or Android app stores).

6.11 RANGER SERVICES

Business as usual with a meeting planned next month with all of the ranges in the Great Southern.

6.12 DEPARTMENT OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATIONS AND ATTRACTIONS**6.12.1 Albany District****New District Manager**

The District has a new manager Mr Peter Harley.

COVID

Some staff stood down due to the mandated COVID vaccinations

Police have 27 stood down, with a court case pending, the Department are in the same boat

Fire Response

Denmark fire required a level three team to be in place by the Saturday with the request coming in at 8.30pm on Friday evening, with the lack of facilities in Denmark the logistic crew mobilised the office containers to travel overnight and arrived to set up by the Saturday morning, great team effort. With the increase of staff, 60 to 70 personnel, from all agencies the decision was made to move the Incident control to Albany and utilise the DBCA offices. Post incident a deep clean was conducted throughout the buildings.

Frost oval was also looked at as a potential site, it was decided against the use of Frost due to lack of office break out rooms, lack of communications facilities and internet coverage within the building

Traditional Owners Management of Reserves

A meeting has been arranged with traditional owners to discuss the joint management of natural reserves.

Extra Water Source

Porongurup now has an extra hydrant just off Bolganup dam.

6.12.2 Frankland District – Report**Fire Mitigation**

No additional burning within the Shire of Plantagenet since last report.

Autumn burning will commence after suitable rainfall.

Fire Response

No fires on DBCA estate within the Shire of Plantagenet since last report.

Crews have spent extensive time away from the district this summer at fires around the state including: Boranup (Margaret River), Canebreak (Rosa Brook), Gascoyne Complex (Carnarvon), Ravenscliffe Rd (Kirup), Topanup (Tone River), West Mt Barren (Fitzgerald River National Park), Stuart Rd (Rosa Brook), Charles Knife (Exmouth/Cape Range National Park).

Fire Resource Availability

Seasonal firefighting crews finish April-June 2022.

Fire rosters continuing until May. Duty Officer is available 24/7 on 0417 939 607

Mt Frankland fire tower, water bombing aircraft and spotter aircraft all currently operational.

Fire Training

AIIMS Awareness training tentatively booked for 24 March 2022 in Walpole. Shire staff and brigade members welcome to attend if they wish.

Visitor Services and Management

Rangers assisted with locating missing truck and driver, found Kompup Track in January.

Other

New District Manager in Frankland District is Jamie Conway-Physick

6.13 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES

Apology

6.14 RED CROSS

Vacant

6.15 EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**6.15.1 Mount Barker Community College – Primary Evacuation Centre****COVID**

Year three are to wear face masks as of today.

Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) supplies for staff will arrive next week.

Face masks can be supplied to students

Exposure sites like ALAC cause students to miss school.

6.16 OTHERS

Nil

7 EXERCISE UPDATES**7.1 EXERCISE**

SGT David Johnson will send through a desk top exercise, and will pass on to his successor this information for future exercises.

7.2 POST EXERCISE REPORT

Nil

8 GENERAL BUSINESS**8.1 WA COVID 19 CASE SNAPSHOT**

(Attachment Two)

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/359bca83a1264e3fb8d3b6f0a028d768>

8.2 COVID 19 MEETING GUIDELINES

(Attachment 3 - FYI)

8.3 LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FORUM SUMMARY FOR THE REGION

(Attachment 4 - FYI)

8.4 DISCUSSION POINTS FOR LEMCS GIVING CONSIDERATION TO COVID 19 PREPARATIONS

(Attachment 5 - FYI) - Health Department

Most agencies are in a high state of preparedness.

South Australia are pulling back on the state of emergency, as to are the eastern states, and will almost be business as usual from next week. Western Australia may not be far behind the rest of the country if these restrictions go ahead. WA will need to have had their peak first.

Recommendation to get the booster if and when you are eligible.

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Due to COVID and the expectation that it will be in the Shire of Plantagenet prior to the next meeting, then the next meeting will be suspended and the date to be advised.

10 CLOSURE

1.58pm The Presiding Member Cr Chris Pavlovich declared the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED

Presiding Member

Date