



MINUTES

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on

Wednesday, 11 May 2022

At

**Shire of Dardanup
Administration Centre Eaton
1 Council Drive - EATON**

This document is available in alternative formats such as:
~ Large Print
~ Electronic Format [disk or emailed]
Upon request.

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Members of Local Emergency Management Committee

- Cr. M T Bennett - Elected Member - Chairperson
- Cr. E Lilly - Elected Member
- Cr. P Perks – Elected Member (Proxy)
- Coordinator Emergency & Ranger Services – Staff
- Representative – WA Police (Deputy Chairperson’s)
- Representative – Department of Communities
- Representative – Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Representative – Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions
- Representative – Department of Health
- Representative – Main Roads WA
- Representative – Department of Fire & Emergency Services
- Representative – Department of Transport
- Representative – Water Corporation
- Representative – Western Power
- Representative – Aqwest
- Representative – St Johns Ambulance WA
- Representative – Telstra Australia
- Representative – Australian Rail Group
- Representative – ATCO Gas
- Representative – Moore Road Emergency Response Group
- Observer - District Emergency Management Advisor – SW Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference for this Committee are located in the Tardis records system – refer to the following link:
[2021 - ToR - Local Emergency Management Committee](#)

COUNCIL ROLE

Advocacy	When Council advocates on its own behalf or on behalf of its community to another level of government / body /agency.
Executive/Strategic	The substantial direction setting and oversight role of the Council eg. Adopting plans and reports, accepting tenders, directing operations, setting and amending budgets.
Legislative	Includes adopting local laws, town planning schemes and policies.
Review	When Council reviews decisions made by Officers.
Quasi-Judicial	<p>When Council determines an application/matter that directly affects a person's rights and interests. The Judicial character arises from the obligations to abide by the principles of natural justice.</p> <p>Examples of Quasi-Judicial authority include town planning applications, building licences, applications for other permits/licences (eg: under Health Act, Dog Act or Local Laws) and other decisions that may be appealable to the State Administrative Tribunal.</p>

DISCLAIMER

"Any statement, comment or decision made at a Council or Committee meeting regarding any application for an approval, consent or licence, including a resolution of approval, is not effective as an approval of any application and must not be relied upon as such.

Any person or entity that has an application before the Shire must obtain, and should only rely on, written notice of the Shire's decision and any conditions attaching to the decision, and cannot treat as an approval anything said or done at a Council or Committee meeting.

Any advice provided by an employee of the Shire on the operation of a written law, or the performance of a function by the Shire, is provided in the capacity of an employee, and to the best of that person's knowledge and ability. It does not constitute, and should not be relied upon, as a legal advice or representation by the Shire. Any advice on a matter of law, or anything sought to be relied upon as a representation by the Shire should be sought in writing and should make clear the purpose of the request."

SHIRE OF DARDANUP**MINUTES FOR THE SHIRE OF DARDANUP LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 MAY 2022, AT SHIRE OF DARDANUP – EATON ADMINISTRATION CENTRE, COMMENCING AT 10.00AM.****1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENTS OF VISITORS**

The Chairperson, Cr. M T Bennett declared the meeting open at 10.00am, welcomed those in attendance and referred to the Disclaimer, Acknowledgement of Country, Emergency Procedure and the Affirmation of Civic Duty and Responsibility on behalf of Councillors and Officers:

Acknowledgement of Country

The Shire of Dardanup wishes to acknowledge that this meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the Noongar people. In doing this, we recognise and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this region and pay our respects to their elders, past, present and emerging. The Shire of Dardanup also respects and celebrates all cultures of all our residents and visitors to our Shire.

Affirmation of Civic Duty and Responsibility

Councillors and Officers of the Shire of Dardanup collectively declare that we will duly, faithfully, honestly and with integrity fulfil the duties of our respective office and positions for all the people in the district according to the best of our judgement and ability. We will observe the Shire's Code of Conduct and Standing Orders to ensure efficient, effective and orderly decision making within this forum.

Committee members acknowledge that only the Chief Executive Officer or a member of the Shire of Dardanup staff appointed by the Chief Executive Officer is to have contact with consultants and suppliers that are appointed under contract to undertake the development and implementation of projects.

The exception to this Policy is when there is a meeting of the committee or working group with the consultant and the Chief Executive Officer or the Chief Executive Officer's representative is present.

Members of committees acknowledge that a breach of this Policy may result in a request to Council to have them removed from the committee.

Emergency Procedure

In the event of an emergency, please follow the instructions of the Chairperson who will direct you to the safest exit route. Once outside, please proceed to the muster point located at the front of the building where we will meet (and complete a roll call).

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES

2.1 Attendance

Cr Michael Bennett	-	Shire President (Chairperson) – <i>In Person</i>
Sgt Mike Bickford	-	WA Police (Australind) (Deputy Chairperson) – <i>Teams</i>
Sgt Chris Page	-	WA Police (Capel) – <i>In Person</i>
Mr André Schönfeldt	-	Chief Executive Officer - <i>Teams</i>
Cr Ellen Lilly	-	Elected Member – <i>Teams</i>
Mrs Erin Hutchins	-	Coordinator – Emergency & Ranger Services – <i>In person</i>
Mr John Carter	-	Department Fire & Emergency Services – <i>Teams</i>
Ms Michele Duxbury	-	Department of Communities - <i>Teams</i>
Mr Cam Van Veen	-	Water Corporation – <i>Teams</i>
Ms Julie Pelliciarì	-	Moore Road Emergency Response Group – <i>Teams</i>
Mr Reuben Jacobs	-	Department Parks & Wildlife – <i>Teams</i>
Mr Ron Jeakes	-	Aqwest - <i>Teams</i>
Mr Bruce Hancock	-	Main Roads - <i>Teams</i>

Guests - Presentation

Mr Brad Farrant	-	Account Executive (Connectiv)
Ms Danielle Devellerez	-	Telstra – IoT Solutions Specialist Telstra Enterprise
Mr Cameron McKenna	-	Attentis

2.2 Observer

Mrs Susan Oosthuizen	-	Director Sustainable Development – <i>In Person</i>
Mrs Kathleen Hoult	-	Governance Officer – <i>In Person</i>
Mr Gary Thompson	-	Manager Sport and Recreation - <i>Teams</i>
Mr Murray Connell	-	Manager Development Services – <i>In Person</i>
Mr Neil Nicholson	-	Principal Environmental Health Officer – <i>In Person</i>
Mr Clint Read	-	Connectiv - <i>Teams</i>

2.3 Apologies

Cr Patricia Perks	-	Elected Member
Ms Melissa Howard	-	Emergency Management Officer
Ms Melanie Ring	-	Place and Community Engagement Officer
Mr Vik Cheema	-	SW Office of Emergency Management
Sgt Luke Fowler	-	WA Police Australind (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Tim Stevens	-	Dept of Primary Industries and Regional Development
Mr Paul Sanderson	-	Eaton Lions Club

3 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Internet-of-Things (IoT) and Interactive Emergency Networks

A presentation by Mr Brad Farrant, Account Executive, Connectiv was provided on IoT and Interactive Emergency Networks.

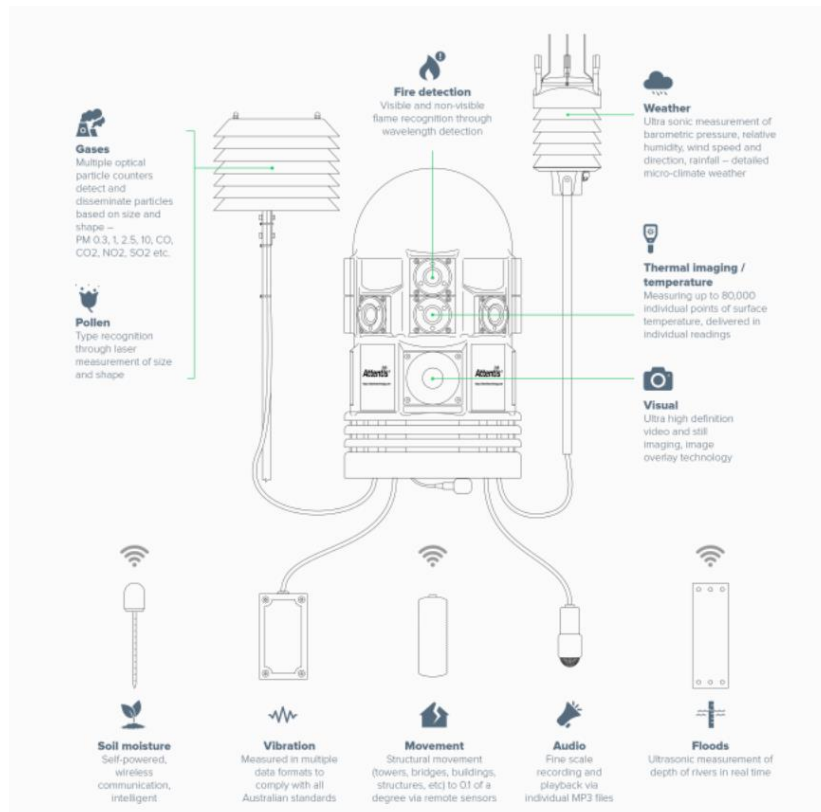
Mr Brad Farrant and Ms Danielle Devellerez provided an overview of the services they can provide in conjunction with AI and advanced technology from Attentis.

The technology combines Telstra and Attentis technology with Connectiv implementation management in an intelligent network that will monitor, measure and highlight the effects of climate change, incorporating fire ignition, flood monitoring and prediction, air quality, soil and environmental health services such as electricity infrastructure or road network to provide a clear, concise picture of a local environment and crucial during emergencies and how we respond.

Our multi-sensors technology are equipped with AI analytics so that we, for the first time, can identify conditions and environmental factors and respond immediately, while continuing to measure and monitor live environmental conditions to aid situational awareness in the event of emergencies.

This technology supports real-world resilience and response to climate change, providing the tools for emergency services, industries and communities to make better, faster, and more informed decisions that protect citizens, property and natural resources.

Mr Cameron McKenna provided a demo of the Intelligent Sensors, by demonstrating the various features and dashboard information that can be captured by this unit. Information on the Attentis – Intelligent Sensors, can be found on their website: [Attentis® - Intelligent Sensors - Attentis® \(attentistechnology.com\)](https://www.attentistechnology.com) and in the supporting documentation, accompanied with these minutes [LEMC Additional Information: 3.1A]



Discussion:

Some questions were raised at the conclusion of the presentation:

Q: What Elevation does it sit at and can it view through forest canopy?

A: The fixed poles are 8.5m. The unit cannot look through a canopy. With Forestry it is put on the outsides of the plantations with thermal imaging picking up the approach of a fire.

Q: What distance can it see to?

A: Visual and Thermal up to 1km

Q: Have you had discussion with the relevant WA government and federal agencies?

A: Attentis has had communications at a Federal level, however no presence in Western Australia at the moment. They are currently operating in Victoria, New Zealand, California, South Australia and Tasmania.

Q: How many would be required for the Shire of Dardanup?

A: Area of 520 sq km, 26 units would be required to cover the Shire of Dardanup area. This has already been mapped out and scoped with features of air quality, weather, soil moisture, vibration, fire etc.

Q: Have you placed this technology on landfill sites or other high risk industrial sites?

A: Yes. This technology has already been used in a variety of refuse sites and other high risk areas including plantations, coal mines, land fill etc. Example is the LaTrobe Valley which currently monitors for fire ignition and pollution levels.

Q: Can they be moved easily?

A: Yes. There are fixed units and mobile units available.

Q: From emergency services perspective with DFES and DPAW already having existing software and systems for emergency management in place these organisations would need to be able to integrate all systems. Is this system able to be applied to aircraft?

A: Yes. These units are able to be applied to aircraft, however these have not been mounted to any aircraft at the moment. The company is currently in negotiations with a satellite company (confidential) to look at opportunities in this area.

Note: Sgt Mike Bickford has requested that further information be sent on the abilities and advantages that this would be able to provide law enforcement especially with the case of the missing persons or information into incidents and investigations. Mr Cam McKenna advised that they are already engaged with VicPol and it is being used in the community with the integration of AI technology they are able to capture persons, car number plates etc., all live.

Presentation concluded at 10:45am and presenters Mr Brad Farrant, Ms Danielle Devellerez and Mr Cameron McKenna left the room.

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES/NOTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 Title: Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting Held 9 February 2022 – UPDATED

Note: Due to a lack of quorum at the Local Emergency Committee Meeting of 9 February 2022, there was no official meeting minutes taken. The informal 'Notes' were distributed to the LEMC via email on 17 February 2022 and can be found on the Shire of Dardanup website for review at [Local Emergency Management Committee : Shire of Dardanup](#).

RECEIVED

4.2 Title: Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting Held 10 November 2021

Note: Due to a lack of quorum at the Local Emergency Committee Meeting of 9 February 2022, the minutes of the meeting prior to that one, held on 10 November 2021, were not confirmed by the Local Emergency Management Committee. The minutes and notes from previous meetings are available on the Shire of Dardanup website for review at [Local Emergency Management Committee : Shire of Dardanup](#).

**OFFICER RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION
& LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE RESOLUTION**

LEM 01-22 MOVED - Mrs E Hutchins SECONDED - Sgt C Page

THAT the Minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held on 10 November 2021, be confirmed as true and correct subject to no / the following corrections:

CARRIED

5 ANNOUNCEMENTS OF MATTERS FOR WHICH MEETING MAY BE CLOSED

None.

6 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

None.

7 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None.

- All West Australians Reducing Emergencies (AWARE) grant program. Total funding available is \$200,000 and is now open and closes on the 10 June 2022. Projects delivered under the AWARE program will support local government projects that fall into one or more of the following categories:
 - o Furthering the emergency risk management process;
 - o Facilitating capability-based exercises;
 - o Assisting in reviewing Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA);
 - o Delivering emergency management training; and
 - o Hosting or facilitating emergency management events or forums.
- National Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) grant program that will enable natural disaster risk reduction projects and initiatives. The total funding available is \$4.8 million dollars. The NDRR grant application is now open and closes on 5 May 2022.
- The Shire of Dardanup has made an application to Round 2 of the Australian 5G Innovation Initiative to assist with the delivery of the Dardanup Emergency Information Network (DEIN) project. The project could see a continuous high speed information network, established through the installation of a range of intelligent Attentis sensors, supported by 5G technology, across the Shire of Dardanup footprint.

The multi-sensors featured in the network provide early fire ignition and flood warning, weather, air quality, rainfall, temperature, barometric pressure, humidity and wind as well as thermal and visual imaging supporting machine learning capabilities to identify future areas of significant risk to fire ignition.

8.1.11. Incident Support Group Activations/ Incidents - Nil to report.

8.1.12. Emergency Risk Management Processes/Treatment Strategies - Nil to report.

8.1.13. Post Incident / Exercise Reports - Nil to report.

8.1.14. Completion of Annual and Preparedness Report Capability Survey

In March 2022, the Shire received their 2021 Emergency Management Capability Summary Report from the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) Chair.

The report was prepared by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) State Capability Team, on behalf of the SEMC. It is based on the Shire's responses to the 2019 and 2021 state emergency management capability survey, focusing on areas of highest capability and the aspects that may require more attention.

The summary can be used for a variety of purposes, such as:

- Facilitating and guiding emergency management planning;
- Informing Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA);
- Informing Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) business plans and activities;
- Informing EM exercising in line with the State Exercise Framework requirements;
- Supporting review and refinement of broader business continuity plans;
- Supporting business cases; and
- Highlighting areas of success.

The Shire has reviewed the report where it highlighted an opportunity to increase our emergency management capabilities in relation to opening up Dardanup local emergency welfare centres in the absence or delay of the Department of Communities as well as providing ongoing support.

The Shire is making application to the AWARE grant program to enable the Shire to create and promote internal emergency support arrangements and processes for opening up Dardanup local emergency welfare centre(s).

The proposed Local Emergency Welfare Support Plan (LEWSP) will guide internal preparedness by enhancing capacity, capability, knowledge and understanding of Local Government officers' responsibilities for opening an emergency welfare centre for an impacted community.

By undertaking this project that incorporates the development of the LEWSP and a functional exercise with Shire of Dardanup staff, it is anticipated the following benefits will be achieved, including;

- Support for the Local Emergency Management Arrangements and Department of Communities Local Emergency Welfare Plan in the coordination of opening an emergency welfare centre(s).
- Define roles and responsibilities for Shire staff in the coordination of opening an emergency welfare centre(s) for impacted residents.
- Provide useable tools and templates to assist in the management of impacted persons presenting at a Welfare Centre(s) in an emergency.
- Increased staff understanding of Local Governments role and responsibilities in opening a Welfare Centre(s) for evacuating community members in an emergency.

The Shire is currently completing the 2022 Annual and Preparedness Report Capability Survey and will be submitted **no later than Wednesday 15 June 2022**.

8.1.15. Local Emergency Management Committee Business Plan

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) endorsed a new business plan template, to assist local governments with the administration of LEMC, at their December 2021 meeting.

Attached is the Shire of Dardanup Local Emergency Management Committee Business Plan 2022-2023 for endorsement (APPENDIX LEMC: 8.1A).

OFFICER RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION & LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEM 02-22 MOVED - Cr M T Bennett SECONDED - Sgt C Page

THAT the Local Emergency Management Committee endorse the Local Emergency Management Committee Business Plan 2022-2023 provided in Appendix LEMC: 8.1A.

CARRIED

8.1.16. Seasonal review – fire season preparedness

Refer DFES representative report if applicable.

8.1.17. Seasonal review – storm season preparedness

Refer DFES representative report if applicable.

8.1.18. Other Business

After a recent review of the 'All Hazards Evacuation Flagging Guideline' and State EM Plan section 5.3.2 was completed by the DFES State EM Policy Branch, the SEMC Policy and Legislation branch are now seeking feedback on the proposal to remove the 'All Hazards Evacuation Flagging Guideline' and evacuation flagging section within the State EM Plan. Feedback will help identify and address any concerns before requesting endorsement and approval from the SEMC Response and Capability subcommittee and SEMC.

LEMC members wishing to take up the opportunity, please refer to the **Consultation Information** below for information about the consultation process as well as instructions on how to submit feedback:

Consultation Information

All Hazards Evacuation Flagging Guideline

The DFES State EM Policy Branch is conducting consultation via Social Pinpoint.

You can view all current consultations on the [State Emergency Management Policy Branch Consultation Homepage](https://dfes.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/all-hazard-evacuation-flagging-guidelines-review/), including the All Hazards Evacuation Flagging Guideline:

On this page you will be able to:

- *View information about the consultation process.*
- *Download and view the proposed amendments to the State EM Plan and current guidelines.*
- *Submit your feedback.*

Please submit your feedback by COB Tuesday 24 May 2022.

As the SEMC continue to trial Social Pinpoint, they would also appreciate your feedback on this platform. You can share your thoughts and experiences in the 'Feedback on the use of Social Pinpoint' at the bottom of the page.

If you experience any difficulties with accessing Social Pinpoint or have any other questions, please contact SEMC.policylegislation@dfes.wa.gov.au

8.2 Title: Agency Reports – Various

<i>Reporting Department:</i>	<i>Various</i>
<i>Reporting Officer:</i>	<i>Various</i>
<i>Legislation:</i>	<i>Local Government Act 1995</i> <i>Emergency Management Act 2005</i>

(In the interest of time efficiency report to be accepted as presented, not read aloud at the meeting)

Background

Each agency is invited to provide the meeting with a report of their activities for the benefit of the committee.

◇ **Office of Emergency Management – Vik Cheema**

State

State Emergency Management Committee met on 11 March 2022 and a copy of the SEMC Communique is provided for your information (APPENDIX LEMC 8.2A).

Funding

The State Emergency Management Committee has recently endorsed the following funding opportunities and applications are now open

1. All West Australians Reducing Emergencies (AWARE) grant program. Total funding available is \$200,000. Grant opens on 29 April 2022 and closes on 10 June 2022. I would highly encourage all local governments due for the 5 yearly LEMA review in 2022 to apply for the funding if required. Funding could support your internal staff to undertake the review process or if you choose to engage the external contractor.
2. National Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) grant program. The total funding available in this round is \$4.8 million dollars. The NDRR grant application is open now and closes on 5 May 2022.

In addition to the two funding opportunities above, the SEMC is providing support to the National Recovery and Resilience Agency in administering the Coastal and Estuarine Risk Mitigation Program 2022/23. This Commonwealth-funded grant seeks to address coastal hazards, such as inundation, storm surge and erosion. I believe WALGA has written to local governments interested in applying EOI for this funding.

To access all funding opportunities, criteria and application process currently available, please check out the link at <https://semc.wa.gov.au/funding>

District – South West

COVID-19: Department of Health (HMA) facilitates regular Operations Area Support Group (OASG) meetings. Additional OASG meetings are held to share time-critical information with the emergency management stakeholders and local government representatives.

SW DEMC: meeting (via MS TEAMS) held on 22 March 2022.

Local

Annual and Preparedness Report Capability Survey: Local Emergency Management Committees are required to submit annual reports to the SEMC regarding their emergency management activities. A letter requesting the 2021-2022 annual preparedness report capability survey will be sent to the local governments over the coming weeks. Survey will open 18 April and close on 15 June 2022.

A status of the Local Emergency Management Arrangements is provided below. Please check the due date for the five-yearly LEMA reviews and allow a minimum of six months to complete the LEMA review process.



South West
District Emergency Management Committee
Local EM report as at 28 February 2022

Number local governments	Number LEMCs	LEMA noted/submitted to SEMC	% Local governments with current required LEMA		
12	12	12	100%		
Local Government		LEMA Status	Date	Resolution No	Date of 5 year review
Shire of Augusta Margaret River	Augusta Margaret River	Annual review required	3/10/2017	46/2017	3/10/2022
Shire of Boyup Brook	Boyup Brook	Current	3/08/2018	52/2018	3/08/2023
Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes	Bridgetown-Greenbushes	Annual review required	3/10/2017	46/2017	3/10/2022
City of Bunbury	Bunbury	Current	6/03/2020	08/2020	6/03/2025
City of Busseton	Busseton	Annual review required	8/12/2017	63/2017	8/12/2022
Shire of Capel	Capel	Draft to tabled at LEMC	2/08/2016	40/2016	2/08/2021
Shire of Collie	Collie	Annual review required	3/10/2017	46/2017	3/10/2022
Shire of Dardanup	Dardanup	Draft tabled at SW DEMC	2/08/2016	40/2016	2/08/2021
Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup	Donnybrook-Balingup	Annual review required	3/10/2017	46/2017	3/10/2022
Shire of Harvey	Harvey	Annual review required	3/10/2017	46/2017	3/10/2022
Shire of Manjimup	Manjimup	Current	6/03/2020	08/2020	6/03/2025
Shire of Nannup	Nannup	Current	14/08/2020	50/2020	14/08/2025

◇ **Department of Communities – Michele Duxbury**

Agency:				
Department of Communities (Communities)				
Date: From – Apr 2022 to June 2022 inclusive				
INCIDENTS:				
Date	Type of Incident	Location of Incident	Other Agencies Involved	Comments/Outcomes
Continual	Health – Pandemic	South West	HMA – Health	
EXERCISES AND TRAINING:				
Date:	Title	Objectives	Comments/Outcomes	
Additional Comments/Suggestions:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the Bridgetown/Hester Area Bushfire has been declared an event, Communities has been contacting residents affected and providing recovery to those who can apply for <i>Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements – Category 3</i>. • Welfare Plans have been updated and are ready for tabling at the LEMC meetings. • COVID: Communities has been working diligently in providing certain cohorts with accommodation and provisions over the last couple of months. 				

The *Local Emergency Welfare Plan – Bunbury Region* has been provided for your review (APPENDIX LEMC 8.2B).

The Department of Communities have been deployed to NSW to assist with recovery after the recent floods. Staff currently deployed will return in 1 ½ weeks. Michele will be deployed on their return.

Michele is interested in the attending upcoming exercises.

◇ **Department of Fire & Emergency Services – John Carter (District Officer Emergency Management)**

High Threat Bushfire Season 2021/22

The 2021/22 high-threat period for the bushfire season was extended to the 28th April 2022 due to the underlying dry conditions in the South West of WA. While many local governments have opened their restricted burning season, we urge all landowners to proceed with caution during this period.

There were approximately 23 lightning caused fires on and around the 13th March 2022 across a number of Shires and land tenures. Most quickly contained, with a few requiring ongoing management due to inaccessibility and heavy fuels.

Thank-you to all the agencies and volunteers who have assisted during these incidents including Bush Fire Brigade, Volunteer Fire and Emergency Service, Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service who have worked incredibly hard in very tough conditions, motivated by a common desire to protect the homes and lives of Western Australian people.

An important message in all the incidents over this summer has been the value of having local knowledge imbedded within the Incident Management Team. This local knowledge permits the IMT to gather important local information to assist in combatting the incident and provides a gateway of getting information back into the community.

Autumn Prescribed Burning Season

The Autumn prescribed burning season is amongst us and DBCA, DFES, LGs and private property owners are taking advantage of the recent rains and milder weather conditions.

COVID-19

The State Government will ease its COVID-19 public health and safety measures from a Level 1 status to baseline settings. Some of the new measures will impact DFES staff and volunteers undertaking their duties.

Masks

Under the OSH Act, DFES, as an employer, has the responsibility to provide a safe workplace and therefore staff and volunteers are encouraged to continue to wear Face Masks, especially where physical distancing isn't possible. If you feel at risk, you are encouraged to wear a Face Mask.

Close contacts

WA will fall into line with other States by removing the requirement for a Close Contact of a positive COVID-19 case to isolate for seven (7) days.

Under the new measures, Close Contacts with no symptoms must:

- Undertake a daily Rapid Antigen Test (RAT);
- Work from home, where possible and in consultation with your line manager;
- Wear a mask when leaving the house;
- Avoid high-risk settings, including hospitals, healthcare settings, disability and aged care facilities, and correctional facilities; and
- Avoid non-essential gatherings and contact with people at risk of severe illness.

Close contacts must still report their details to the DFES COVID-19 Call Centre – 1800 161 136 as soon as possible to assist with the management of staff and volunteers and ensure the continuation of emergency services.

Proof of COVID-19 vaccinations

Mandatory workplace vaccination requirements remain in place.

Reporting COVID-19 details

Staff and volunteers are still required to register their positive PCR test or RAT results and Close Contact status with the DFES COVID-19 Call centre on 1800 161 136. If you are unwell do not attend work or your Brigade, Group or Unit (BGU).

Work Health and Safety Act 2020

The Work Health and Safety Act, 2020 (WHS Act) which took effect on 31 March 2022 provides a framework to protect the health, safety, and welfare of workers in Western Australian workplaces, and of other people who might be affected by the work. The new WHS Act retains the principle that workers (inclusive of volunteers) and other persons should be given the highest level of protection against harm to their health, safety and welfare from hazards and risks arising from work as is reasonably practicable.

WA Fire and Emergency Services Conference 2022

I am pleased to announce the 11th annual WA Fire and Emergency Services (WAFES) Conference will be held on Friday 9 and Saturday 10 September 2022 at Crown Perth. The WAFES Awards gala dinner will again round out the program on Saturday evening.

Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS)

The new AFDRS is launching on 1 September 2022. It will:

- Incorporate new science;
- Accurately reflect more fuel types;
- Better predict fire danger conditions;
- Simplify and improve public information about fire danger; and
- Support strategic planning, operations and risk mitigation.

To leverage the community's familiarity with the current fire danger signage, the new ratings framework has been simplified to four levels. There will be clear messages and distinct actions at each level.

People are encouraged to sign-up to receive regular email updates from the DFES AFDRS project team (see attached circular). The updates will provide the latest information about the system, signage, training, legislation and policy changes, public information, communication and education products and more.

Climate Outlook

BOM have released their latest climate outlook for May to July 2022 (issued 28th April) which is available at <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary>.

- May to July rainfall is likely to be above median for most of Australia, except south- Western Australia and western Tasmania which have roughly equal chances of being above or below median.
- May to July maximum temperatures are likely to be above median for northern, and far south-western and south-eastern parts of Australia, but below median for broad areas of inland southern and central Australia.
- Minimum temperatures for May to July are very likely to be warmer than median across almost all of Australia.
- The weakening La Niña, the chance of a negative Indian Ocean Dipole, and other localised drivers are likely to be influencing this outlook.

New Burning Grass Trees Information Sheet

The DFES Bushfire Technical Services Team has released a new 'Burning Grass Trees' information sheet to help build a greater understanding of how to manage the bushfire hazard and wildlife habitat values of grass trees in a safe and ecologically sustainable manner. Bushfire practitioners, land managers, private landholders and other interested parties are encouraged to review the information sheet to support a consistent and ecologically sensitive approach to grass tree burning.

DFES General Circular No: 53/2022 has been provided for your information (APPENDIX LEMC 8.2C).

Discussion:

DFES have advised that there will be a Regional Flood exercise planned for July this year and would very much like the Shire of Dardanup and other surrounding government agencies involved in the ISG and/or OASG, to participate in the exercise. Further information will be sent through to Erin Hutchins once details are confirmed for distribution.

A DFES Safety Circular on the Potential Exposure to Chromated Copper Arsenate (CCA) are provided with these minutes [LEMC Additional Information: 3.1B] based on the recent events at the Bridgetown Bushfire.

◇ **Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development – Tim Stevens (Operations Manager – Incident & Emergency Management Branch)**

Situation Report:

1. Declared incidents – DPIRD is managing:
 - 6 plant pest Level 2 Incidents.
 - 3 animal pest/disease Level 2 Incidents
 - This includes assisting the National response to Japanese Encephalitis (JE).
2. Alerts and investigations – DPIRD currently investigating a further six pests and diseases.
3. DPIRD continues to monitor reported outbreaks of African Swine Fever – Republic of Korea, China, Malaysia, Indonesia.
4. Severe Tropical Cyclone Seroja (Recovery) – DPIRD’s Rural Business Develop Unit are administering reimbursement grants (Commonwealth funding) and available to help growers through the process.
5. COVID 19 – DPIRD continues to support COVID response activities as per DoH advice. This includes maintaining awareness of the virus with staff, facilitating proof of vaccination requirements and adhering to the latest DoH requirements. (including wearing of masks & updated advice on close contacts)
6. Preparedness for 2021/22 High Risk Weather Season – DPIRD has completed a series of Natural Hazards & Biosecurity Preparedness workshops including a discussion exercise with DPIRD first response teams across the State. Kununurra and Broome staff undertook a “Cyclone” exercise. Bunbury, Northam, Geraldton, Esperance, Albany & Perth metro workshops were based on a “Fire” event discussion exercise.
7. DPIRD has and continues to support HMA’s in regard to Animal Welfare in Emergencies for a number of Fires over the summer months with the State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies (SSP – AWiE) activated twice in recent weeks for the Bayview Rise (Denmark) and Narrogin East Fire responses.

Incident and Emergency Management:

The **Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development** (DPIRD) plays a crucial role in emergency management to safeguard Western Australia’s primary industries and regions, and support their growth by preventing and minimizing the impact of incidents.

DPIRD’s role is as the Hazard Management Agency (HMA) for animal and plant biosecurity, as well as managing risk in other areas in relation to animal welfare, marine and fish pest incidents. The department also has responsibility for providing support services to other Hazard Management Agencies. This includes:

- Coordinating responses to animal welfare during natural disasters and severe weather events such as cyclones or bushfires;
- Assisting with fish pest events;
- Rapid assessment of natural disaster impacts on primary industries where the affected sector specific skills, experience or expertise resides within the department; and
- Assisting, within DPIRD's capabilities and portfolio, affected primary industries and regions to recover from the consequences of an emergency.

◇ **WA Police**

No further updates or information from Capel or Australind Police

◇ **Moore Road Emergency Response Group**

The Moore Road Emergency Response group, alongside DFES, have been actively carrying out evacuation drills in their area to assist with emergency management planning. The last drill was conducted in March 2022. The next evacuation drill will be carried out onsite on 25th May 2022.

The Emergency Response group would be interested in participating in the Regional Flood Exercise, organised by DFES later on in the year.

9 MATTERS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

10 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Chairperson advises that the date of the next Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting will be Wednesday 10 August 2022 commencing at 10.00am at the Shire of Dardanup - Administration Centre Eaton.

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 11:02am.