



A G E N D A

FOR THE

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

TO BE HELD

Wednesday, 12 August 2026
Commencing at 10:00am

AT

ADMINISTRATION CENTRE EATON
1 Council Drive - EATON

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



NOTICE OF A LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Dear Committee Member

The next Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting of the Shire of Dardanup will be held on Wednesday, 12th August 2026 in the Council Chambers, Shire of Dardanup - Administration Centre Eaton, 1 Council Drive, Eaton - commencing at 10:00am.



MR THEO NAUDÉ

Acting Chief Executive Officer

7th August 2026

Note: If interested persons would like to make comment on any items in this agenda, please email records@dardanup.wa.gov.au or hand deliver written comment to the Shire of Dardanup – Administration Centre Eaton, 1 Council Drive, Eaton. To be included in the meeting comments are to be delivered no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting.

The Chief Executive Officer will use his discretion as to whether the written comments are relevant and applicable to the meeting before approving their inclusion in the meeting.

VISION STATEMENT

“The Shire of Dardanup is a healthy, self-sufficient and sustainable community, that is connected and inclusive, and where our culture and innovation are celebrated.”

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENTS OF VISITORS.....	1
2	RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED	2
2.1	<i>Attendance.....</i>	2
2.2	<i>Apologies.....</i>	2
2.3	<i>Contact Register</i>	2
3	PRESENTATIONS	2
4	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING	2
4.1	<i>Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting Held on 12th November 2025.</i>	2
5	ANNOUNCEMENTS OF MATTERS FOR WHICH MEETING MAY BE CLOSED	2
6	QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN.....	2
7	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	3
8	REPORTS OF OFFICERS	3
8.1	<i>Update Report from Shire of Dardanup</i>	3
8.2	<i>Agency Reports</i>	6
9	MATTERS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS	28
10	CLOSURE OF MEETING	28

Members of Local Emergency Management Committee

Voting

Cr T G Gardiner – Elected Member (Shire President)
Cr A L Webster – Elected Member
Cr B S Farrant – Elected Member (Proxy)
Cr K A Lauretsch – Elected Member (Proxy)

Representative – WA Police (Deputy Chairperson(s))
Representative – Department of Communities/Department of Child Protection and Family Services
Representative – Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
Representative – Public Transport Authority
Representative – Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
Representative – Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
Representative – Department of Health
Representative – Main Roads WA
Representative – Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)

Non-Voting

Chief Executive Officer – Staff
Executive Manager Development Services – Staff
Coordinator Emergency & Ranger Services – Staff
Executive Officer – Staff

Representative – Water Corporation
Representative – Department of Fire and Emergency Services (additional officer)
Representative – Western Power
Representative – Aqwest
Representative – St Johns Ambulance WA
Representative – Telstra Australia
Representative – Bethany Fields
Representative – South West Educational Institutes
Representative – Moore Road Emergency Response Group
Representative – Harvey Water
Representative – Australian Rail Group

Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference for this Committee are located in the Tardis records system – refer to the following link:
[2025 - 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 e.g. 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	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. Examples of Quasi-Judicial authority include town planning applications, building licences, applications for other permits/licences (e.g.: under Health Act, Dog Act or Local Laws) and other decisions that may be appealable to the State Administrative Tribunal.

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**AGENDA FOR THE SHIRE OF DARDANUP LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 12TH AUGUST 2026, AT THE ADMINISTRATION CENTRE EATON, 1 COUNCIL DRIVE, EATON, COMMENCING AT 10:00AM.****1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENTS OF VISITORS**

The Presiding Member to declare the meeting open, welcome those in attendance and refer 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/LEAVE OF ABSENCE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED

2.1 Attendance

2.2 Apologies

2.3 Contact Register

Any amendments to be noted.

3 PRESENTATIONS

None.

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting Held on 6th May 2026

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held on 6th May 2026 be confirmed as true and correct/ subject to the following corrections:

5 ANNOUNCEMENTS OF MATTERS FOR WHICH MEETING MAY BE CLOSED

None.

6 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

None.

7 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members should fill in Disclosure of Interest forms for items in which they have a financial, proximity or impartiality interest and forward these to the Presiding Member before the meeting commences.

Note: Chairperson to ask Committee Members if there are any Declarations of Interest to be made.

8 REPORTS OF OFFICERS

8.1 Update Report from Shire of Dardanup

Reporting Department	<i>Development Services Directorate</i>
Reporting Officer	<i>Stephen Loiterton – Coordinator Emergency & Ranger Services</i>
Legislation	<i>Local Government Act 1995 Emergency Management Act 2005</i>
Attachments	<i>Appendix LEMC: 8.1.1 – LEMC Business Plan Appendix LEMC: 8.1.2A – Local Emergency Management Arrangements Emergency Evacuation Support Plan Appendix LEMC: 8.1.2B – Local Emergency Management Arrangements Overview Appendix LEMC: 8.1.2C – Local Emergency Management Arrangements Emergency Recovery Plan Appendix LEMC: 8.1.2D – Local Emergency Management Arrangements Emergency Response Plan</i>

8.1.1 LEMC Business Plan

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC), established under the *Emergency Management Act 2005* develops the *State Emergency Management Policy* and *State Emergency Management Procedures* that govern emergency management arrangements in Western Australia.

In accordance with Section 3.7 of the *State Emergency Management Procedure*, the LEMC Executive Officer is responsible for coordinating the development and maintenance of an annual business plan. The business plan has elements that ensure the committee, and through the committee, the Shire, fulfils legislative requirements.

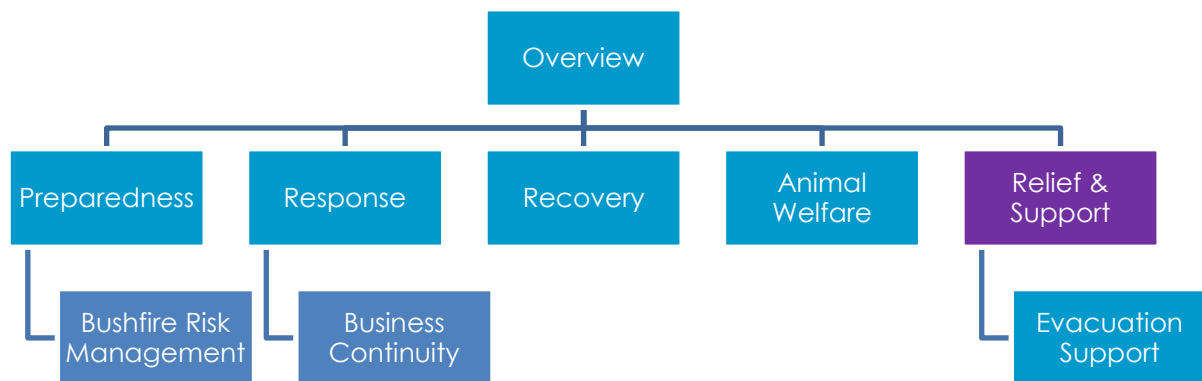
The *Local Emergency Management Handbook* also recommends that strategies in the business plan be reviewed, and progress be noted, as a standing agenda item at each LEMC committee meeting.

The business plan is attached (Appendix LEMC: 8.1.1), with updated status indicators and actions.

8.1.2 Review of Local Emergency Management Arrangements

Several components of the Shire's *Local Emergency Management Arrangements* are due to be reviewed by the end of 2026 (light blue in the figure below). The Local Emergency Management Arrangements Evacuation Support Plan (Appendix LEMC: 8.1.2A) is due for review in February 2027; however, the review process will need to commence in 2026 to allow sufficient time. Experience from

the review of the Bushfire Risk Management Plan and the introduction of the Local Evacuation Support Plan, indicates that any one plan may take up to 12 months to review.



The Local Emergency Management Arrangements Overview (Appendix LEMC: 8.1.2B), Emergency Recovery Plan (Appendix LEMC: 8.1.2C) and Emergency Evacuation Support Plan (Appendix LEMC: 8.1.2A) are now complete. Drafts have been provided to the Committee for their consideration. The Overview and Emergency Evacuation Support Plan were previously distributed for Committee comment.

The Local Emergency Management Arrangements Emergency Response plan (Appendix LEMC: 8.1.2D) has not previously been reviewed by the Committee. However, once the Overview is endorsed, continuing to apply elements of the previous version, which contains response matters, may cause confusion. In addition, staffing changes are expected to significantly delay the remainder of the project and the introduction of further elements of the Local Emergency Management Arrangements.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Local Emergency Management Committee recommends that Council approve the following:

1. **Local Emergency Management Arrangements Emergency Evacuation Support Plan – (Appendix LEMC: 8.1.2A)**
2. **Local Emergency Management Arrangements Overview – (Appendix LEMC: 8.1.2B).**
3. **Local Emergency Management Arrangements Emergency Recovery Plan – (Appendix LEMC: 8.1.2C).**
4. **Local Emergency Management Arrangements Emergency Response Plan – (Appendix LEMC: 8.1.2D).**

8.1.3 Mitigation Activity Funding

The Western Australian government has established the Mitigation Activity Fund Grants Program (MAFGP) to reduce bushfire hazards that present a high risk to assets throughout the State. The program supports local governments with endorsed Bushfire Risk Management Plans to treat bushfire risk in their communities on State land that they manage.

The Shire of Dardanup has been granted \$612,720 to fund 85 bushfire mitigation treatments over 3 years to mid-2028. The 3-year program should enable a little more flexibility with treatment scheduling. Table 1: Treatment counts show the status of those treatments as of 31 July 26.

Table 1: Treatment counts

	NOT COMMENCED	COMMENCED	COMPLETED
Mechanical	23	7	3
Chemical	29	4	0
Access track	12	1	0
Access gate	1	0	0
Planned burn	2	1	0
Maintain firebreak	2	0	0

8.2 Agency Reports

Reporting Department	<i>Various Agencies – Listed Below</i>
Reporting Officer	<i>Refer to Individual Report</i>
Legislation	<i>Local Government Act 1995 Emergency Management Act 2005</i>

Note: In the interest of time efficiency, reports are 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.

8.2.1 WA Police – Snr Sgt Scott Starkie (Australind) & Sgt Tim Rainer (Capel)

No report.

8.2.2 Department of Fire & Emergency Services – District Emergency Management Advisor – Mr Kohdy Flynn - Area Officer Preston

State News

The last meeting of the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) was held on the 21 May 2026. SEMC Communiques can be found [here](#).

2025 SEMC Meeting Schedule:

- 30 July 2026
- 01 October 2026
- 03 December 2026

H5 Bird Flu Update:

- As of 30 July 2026, Australia has 28 confirmed (or presumed) detections of H5 bird flu in wild birds.
- There are 10 confirmed in Western Australia (WA), 14 in South Australia (SA), 2 in New South Wales (NSW) and one in both Queensland and Victoria.
- There is no evidence of any mass mortality. There is no evidence of infection in poultry or the wider agriculture industry.
- The risk to human health remains low.
- Briefing updates and safety guidance continue to be shared with LEMC and DEMC members. DPIRD and WALGA have also delivered stakeholder webinars, while OASG and ISG meetings continue to support coordination in impacted districts.

Message to Public: Anyone who sees sick or dead birds or marine mammals should AVOID and not handle the animals but RECORD and take photos or a video and REPORT to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.

Further information and resources can be found on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry website: [Bird flu \(Avian influenza\) - DAFF](#). For information from Department of Health visit: [Avian influenza \(bird flu\)](#)

Aus Alert Update:

- AusAlert is Australia's new national emergency warning system, using cell broadcast technology to send fast, secure and targeted alerts to compatible mobile devices in affected areas. It supports a nationally consistent approach to emergency warnings through the Australian Warning System.
- A national test was conducted on Monday, 27 July 2026, with all compatible devices across Australia expected to receive a test message to confirm the system is working as intended.
- AusAlert was developed following the 2020 Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements and is being delivered by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in partnership with the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts (DITRDCA), with input from emergency services and governments across Australia. Initially, alerts will be issued in English only.

National Emergency Management Agency (Nema) Priorities:

- The State Emergency Management Committee received a briefing from Assistant Minister Josh Wilson MP and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) on the Hazard Insurance Partnership (HIP). The voluntary partnership brings together government and the insurance industry to identify ways to reduce disaster risk, improve the affordability of home and contents insurance, and enhance consumer awareness and outcomes.

NEMA also provided an overview of NEMA key priorities, including:

- AusAlert
- National Aerial Firefighting Fleet
- Public Safety Mobile Broadband
- National Emergency Management Stockpile
- Hazard Insurance Partnership
- Disaster Ready Fund.

State Emergency Management Framework:

The following State Emergency Management documents are planned for comprehensive review and broad consultation in 2025/2026:

- WA Community Evacuation in Emergencies Guideline
- State Hazard Plan – Cyber Security Incident
- Local Recovery Guidelines
- State Hazard Plan – HAZMAT Annex A Nuclear Powered Warship (NPW)
- State Hazard Plan – Animal and Plant Biosecurity
- State Hazard Plan – Hostile Act

- State Hazard Plan – Collapse
- State Hazard Plan – Earthquake
- State Hazard Plan – Maritime Environmental Emergencies
- State Hazard Plan – Tsunami
- State Support Plan – Emergency Public Information
- Impact Statement Guideline and Template
- WA Managing Exercising Guideline
- State EM Policy and Plan

You can view all current and past consultations on the [Engage WA EM consultation homepage](#)

Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Project Update

Phase 1 of the LEMA Improvement Program was completed in April 2026, with the delivery of a conceptual LEMA Development Model, new LEMA templates and guidance and the [Local Government Emergency Management Knowledge Hub](#).

The SEMC approved the allocation of \$242,000 from the State Level Project Fund to implement the following outputs of the LEMA Improvement Program:

- Publishing a SEMC Policy Communique confirming minimum LEMA requirements
- Releasing new LEMA templates and guidance, that meet these requirements, via the SEMC consultation portal.
- Providing practical support to local governments to adopt the new LEMA approach.
- Releasing the Local Emergency Management Development Model for sector wide consultation.
- Developing proposed amendments to the State Emergency Management Framework to embed the LEMA Development Model and the new LEMA templates and guidance.

A HUGE thank you to Local governments that participated in the pilot project these being City of Kwinana, Shire of Manjimup, Shire of Gingin, Shire of Chittering, and Shire of Shark Bay.

Further information on the LEMA Improvement Program is available at the [WALGA website](#).

Climate Adaption: Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan

Climate change continues to influence the frequency and severity of emergencies across Western Australia, making long-term planning increasingly important for Local Governments and emergency management partners.

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC), through DFES, is developing the Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan (EMSAP) as part of the Western Australian Government's Climate Adaptation Strategy.

The EMSAP will help guide how the emergency management sector prepares for and adapts to the increasing impacts of climate change, recognising the growing challenges posed by more frequent and severe natural hazards.

A key component of the project is the development of District Climate Risk and Vulnerability Profiles, which identify local hazards, vulnerabilities and emerging risks. Online engagement sessions are expected to commence in late August, providing Local Governments and partner agencies with an opportunity to validate the profiles, share local knowledge and help shape future emergency management capability, capacity and community resilience.

Further information, including session dates, will be distributed once confirmed.

2026 DEMC Meeting Schedule

- 20 October 2026

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Western Australia (DRFAWA)

The Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Western Australia (DRFAWA) 2018 have been activated for AGRN1290 – Severe Storm across the South West and Great Southern (30 May – 1 June 2026).

Local Governments that sustained eligible damage as a result of the event may be able to access financial assistance.

To view the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Activation of an Eligible Disaster Notice and Fact Sheet for this event, or for more detail regarding the activation of an eligible disaster and the available assistance measures, please visit the following website: [Recovery Funding - Department of Fire and Emergency Services \(dfes.wa.gov.au\)](https://dfes.wa.gov.au/recovery-funding).

You can contact the DFES Recovery Funding team to seek advice and guidance on 1800 920 659 or drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au

Funding Opportunities

- All West Australians Reducing Emergencies (AWARE) program:
This competitive annual grant program aims to enhance West Australia's emergency management arrangements by investing in capacity building and preparedness activities at a local level. Only Western Australian local governments are eligible to apply for AWARE grants. Applications are expected to open **July 2026**. Applicants can apply for between \$2,500 and \$35,000 (no GST applied) per application including local level risk assessment projects. The grant request can only account for up to 75% of the total project cost, in-kind contributions are acceptable.

Emergency Management Training Opportunities

- [WALGA Emergency Waste Management Masterclass](#)

Friday, 16 October 2026

9:30am - 12:30pm

Kaloorup Room | 2 Southern Drive, Busselton WA 6280

No Cost

- **Waste & Resource Recovery Conference: Beyond WAste**

9 – 10 September 2026 (2 Day)

Crown Perth

For costs and registration – [click here](#)

- **WALGA Local Government Climate Risk Assessment Training**

Monday, 17 August 2026

9:00 am - 4:30 pm

ONE70, LV1, 170 Railway Parade, West Leederville, WA 6007

Cost: \$650.00

- **WALGA Emergency Management for Local Government Leaders**

Friday, 25 September 2026

9:00 am - 4:30 pm

ONE70, LV1, 170 Railway Parade, West Leederville, WA 6007

Cost: \$720.00

- **WALGA Emergency Management Foundations for Local Government**

Tuesday, 20 October 2026

9:00 am - 4:30 pm

ONE70, LV1, 170 Railway Parade, West Leederville, WA 6007

Cost: \$720.00

- **WALGA Community Disaster Recovery**

Wednesday, 21 October 2026

9:00 am - 4:30 pm

ONE70, LV1, 170 Railway Parade, West Leederville, WA 6007

Cost: \$720.00

Superintendent Report

As we move through the first quarter of 2026–27, the South West has experienced a reasonably active storm season, with the most significant impacts occurring over the June long weekend. Severe storms and coastal conditions resulted in damage across parts of the South West and Great Southern, highlighting once again the importance of local preparedness, interagency coordination and community resilience.

The activation of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Western Australia (DRFAWA) for AGRN1290 – Severe Storm across the South West and Great Southern in Western Australia (30 May – 1 June 2026) will assist eligible local governments with their recovery efforts. I would like to sincerely

thank our State Emergency Service (SES) volunteers and all responding agencies whose professionalism and commitment ensured communities received timely assistance during this event.

Across the region, training, exercising and capability development continue as we prepare for the upcoming bushfire season. Building and maintaining capability is a year-round effort, and it is encouraging to see the ongoing commitment of local governments, volunteers and partner agencies to strengthening emergency management across our district.

Looking ahead, El Niño has emerged as one of the key climate drivers influencing Australia's weather. Current indicators suggest the event is developing, which for Western Australia can mean a hotter, drier spring and summer, reduced rainfall across southern parts of the State, and an increased potential for an earlier and more challenging bushfire season. While seasonal outlooks will continue to evolve, they reinforce the importance of preparedness at every level.

The South West is no stranger to challenging conditions. They are exactly what we train for, what we plan for, and what we prepare together for every year. I remain confident that, through the strong partnerships across our emergency management sector and the dedication of our personnel and volunteers, we are well positioned to meet whatever this season brings.

Thank you for your continued support, collaboration and commitment to keeping our communities safe.

Area Officer Report

- **Seasonal Outlook**
El Nino weather pattern has been underway since mid-June and continues to strengthen with further intensification likely in the coming months. Above average fire danger risk is indicated for much of the Southwest land division with deficiencies in deep soil moisture also predicted across much of the state.
- **Fire Season 2026/27**
DFES South West Region is continuing to undertake planning activities for the 2026/27 fire season. Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade training courses and are well underway with a high uptake of volunteers across all courses. The regional training calendar is continuing to be updated to support capability uplift and preparedness across the region. Planning is also underway for pre-season forums and engagement activities. Prescribed burning and mitigation work continue to be undertaken throughout the South West region.
- **Suspicious Fire Activity**
Multiple accounts of suspicious Fire Activity are continuing to occur across various South West Local Government areas, DFES encourages the community to report any suspicious behaviour immediately by calling Triple Zero (000). Information relating to suspected arson or fire-lighting activity can also be reported to [Crime Stoppers online](#) or via 1300 333 000.

Community Preparedness Advisor Report

Lithium-ion batteries are a major cause of fires across Western Australia, with firefighters responding to more than three battery-related incidents each week on average.

This winter, DFES has launched an advertising campaign to better inform Western Australians about the risks posed by lithium-ion batteries and how to buy, store and use them safely.

Lithium-ion batteries are found in a wide range of household and recreational products and while lithium-ion battery technology has its benefits, there are also risks community members need to be aware of to stay safer.

Through this campaign, DFES is encouraging community members to:

- purchase equipment from reputable manufacturers and suppliers;
- choose quality products, rather than damaged or second-hand items;
- regularly check batteries for signs of physical damage or overheating;
- avoid leaving batteries on charge for extended periods or unattended;
- dispose of batteries correctly through appropriate recycling or disposal facilities; and
- stay well clear and call 000 immediately in the event of an emergency.

The campaign is running across the Perth Metropolitan area and Bunbury on digital media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and TikTok, digital screens in shopping centres and press advertising.

You can watch the 30-second YouTube video [here](#).

Compiled by: Melissa Howard

District Emergency Management Advisor – South West/ Lower South West

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

As at 3 August 2026

8.2.3 *Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development – Mr Tim Stevens*

DPIRD EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW			
LEMC/DEMC Representatives			
Emergency Coordination Overview			
Reporting Period:		01 July to 31 July 2026	
Emergency Activations and Declarations			
Emergency Declarations		H5 HPAI (Avian Influenza detections) 19/06/2026	
Incident Coordination Overview			
Animal and Plant Based Biosecurity ¹			
Incident Title	Location	Date	Incident Level ²
H5 HPAI WA (Avian Influenza)	South West of WA	June 2026	Level 2
DPIRD is responding to the confirmed detection of H5 bird flu in wild seabirds found along the coast from Esperance to Geraldton in Western Australia. Testing by CSIRO's Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (ACDP) has confirmed the highly infectious bird flu in (10) wild vagrant migratory sea birds on the WA coast. DPIRD Talking points for LEMC/DEMC update: • WA is well prepared to respond quickly to H5 bird flu to protect poultry production and reduce impacts on wildlife and communities. • DPIRD is leading the State response working in collaboration with the departments of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and Health and local government, with national coordination led by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. • An Incident Management Team (IMT) has been stood up to respond to this detection. • Surveillance for H5 bird flu has been enhanced together with targeted engagement with the poultry industry, veterinarians and wildlife carers. • Bird flu is a low risk to people. Transmission requires close contact with infected birds or animals, or contaminated environments. • Anyone community members who sees sick or dead birds or marine mammals should Avoid and not handle the animals but Record and take photos or a video and Report to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888. • Reference DPIRD H5 HPAI Talking points for any updates https://wagov01.sharepoint.com/sites/intranet_whowere/SitePages/H5-avian-influenza-response.aspx			
African Black Sugar Ant	Perth Metro	Since Jan 2020	Level 1
Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer	Perth Metro	Since Sep 2021	Level 2
Red Dwarf Honeybee	Pilbara Region	Since Jul 2023	Level 1
Q-Fly Como	Perth Metro	Since Mar 2026	Level 1

¹ Regarding a "Declared Pest", an incident is only listed where a formal Incident Management Team has been established.

² Incident levels as per section 5.1.5 of the State Emergency Management Plan

Support to Animal Welfare in Emergencies ³				
Incident Title	Region	Date	HMA	Details

Emergency Preparedness Coordination Overview	
Program	Description
Foot and Mouth	Program work description
Additional Comments and Outlook	
- Updated incident information is available on the internet at Alert centre Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development - Updated information is available on the internet at Animal welfare in emergencies Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development	

DPIRD Exercising & Training Overview	
Program	Location
Exercise Assisi – State Animal Welfare in Emergencies Discussion exercise with stakeholders and supporting agencies	Perth Metro

DPIRD Local Relevance / Regional Specific for Awareness
<i>This section is for local/district representatives to provide Committee localised program updates</i> Seasonal Conditions of Interest <u>Increased Mouse activity</u> - Extreme mice numbers have impacted farms and communities in Western Australia's grain growing regions, particularly in the Mid-West and Goldfields-Esperance areas. - DPIRD continues to work closely with industry groups, scientists and regulators, including through the National Mouse Group hosted by CSIRO, to stay informed and support coordinated management efforts. - We're encouraging landholders and communities to continue reporting mouse activity through MouseAlert <u>Feral animal management – Aerial program</u> - A successful aerial management program completed in early June to reduce numbers of several deer species (including Rusa deer) in the Shire of Harvey. <u>H5 HPAI</u> - Targeted Surveillance activities conducted in the Quindalup beach area and other areas of the coast in response to the positive detection of Bird flu in a juvenile Southern Giant Petrel on the 20th of June. - Case investigation (sampling of deceased birds that meet sample criteria) continues where required. - Engagement activities continue through WALGA and local Incident Support Group (ISG) meetings to provide awareness on response activities - Planning and engagement activities continue in relation to managing impact on poultry enterprises and mass mortality events on wildlife.
Local Industry Impacts - No shutdown of agric industry business presently - Increased Poultry Industry Hygiene preventative actions being implemented by producers.
Significant Agric or Animal Welfare regional (localised) incidents

³ Only when the State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies has been activated

• Nil
Local Exercise / Activity Participation • None planned to date
Other Emerging DPIRD Issues/considerations for Awareness • Monitor H5 HPAI intranet page for up-to-date information in relation to the DPIRD response • Committee information provided should not extend beyond this report or the Departments talking points/key messages.

H5 bird flu detection – Key Messages
Current as at 3 August 2026

Australia has 62 confirmed detections of H5 bird flu in wild seabirds:

STATE	NUMBER OF CONFIRMED DETECTIONS
Western Australia	10
South Australia	42
New South Wales	2
Queensland	1
Victoria	7

DPIRD is responding to 10 confirmed detections of H5 bird flu

LOCATION	NUMBER OF CONFIRMED DETECTIONS
Esperance	3
Denmark	1
Seabird	1
Quindalup	1
Mullaloo	2
Northampton	1
Lancelin	1

All 10 detections in WA have been in individual, migratory seabirds. In line with overseas experience, the increase in detections and further spread in wild birds is not unexpected.

With further potential spread among wild birds, nationally agreed arrangements have been activated to support ongoing management and response efforts focused on minimising impacts on wildlife, animal and human health, communities and agricultural industries.

All confirmed detections of H5 bird flu have been tested by CSIRO's Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness.

These are Australia's first cases of the highly infectious H5 bird flu that has spread rapidly around the world in recent years.

There have been no detections in poultry and no evidence of other significant mortalities.

There is no evidence that H5 bird flu is established across Australia. A national surveillance plan is in place to find and track ongoing detections.

Bird flu is not a food safety risk for chicken meat and eggs if they are handled and cooked correctly.

Bird flu is a low risk to people. Transmission requires close contact with infected birds or animals, or contaminated environments.

Stay up to date with recommended influenza vaccination. The seasonal flu vaccine won't protect against bird flu but minimises the risk that people become unwell with both seasonal and bird flu viruses at the same time. For more visit Australian Centre for Disease Control.

WA is well prepared to respond quickly to H5 bird flu to protect our poultry production and reduce impacts on wildlife and communities.

DPIRD is leading the State response working with the departments of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and Health, and the WA Local Government Association.

Enhanced surveillance for H5 bird flu is continuing, and we are engaging with the community, poultry industry, veterinarians and wildlife carers.

The State Government is engaging with First Nations people and community leaders. Culturally and economically important species could be impacted.

The Australian Government is actively working through regulatory and policy arrangements for the potential vaccination of some priority native bird species.

A national surveillance plan is in operation to monitor for any further detections and facilitate rapid, coordinated response. This includes wildlife mortality monitoring. Some targeted surveillance will also occur for water birds without visible signs of sickness and local non-migratory shorebirds.

The community is asked to assist with surveillance for H5 bird flu.

Anyone who sees sick or dead birds or marine mammals should AVOID and not handle the animals but RECORD and take photos or a video and REPORT to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.

There have been over 2400 reports to the WA EAD Hotline since 19 June.

While not every report will result in birds needing to be collected or tested, every report plays an important role in helping understand what is happening in the environment.

People should also take steps to keep pets away from wildlife, including preventing cats from roaming and keeping dogs on leads in wildlife areas.

- If you own, care for, or work with birds, you should:
- prevent wild birds from mingling with your birds, and accessing their feed and water
- keep pens, aviaries, feeders and equipment clean
- wash hands thoroughly with soap before and after handling birds
- More information about H5 bird flu is available at birdflu.gov.au

General enquiries about H5 bird flu can be emailed to H5birdflu@dpird.wa.gov.au

Important Disclaimer

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the State of Western Australia accept no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it. Copyright © State of Western Australia (Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development) [2026]

8.2.4 Department of Communities – Department of Child Protection & Family Services – Ms Renee Flaxman

Emergency Relief and Support

LEMC REPORT FOR DISTRIBUTION

1st Quarter 2026-2027

Regional Emergency Relief and Support contact

Activation of Emergency Relief and Support (ERS) services is via Communities Emergency Operations Coordinator (EOC)

M: 0418 943 835 and Email: emergencyservices@communities.wa.gov.au

Regional Officer

-

Regional Coordinator

Renee Flaxman

Regional Manager

Mark Schorer

Emergency Relief and Support update

Assessment of Evacuation Centres and local hazard risks

Communities is seeking to confirm Local Government facilities included in the State register as part of an annual preparedness activity. Communities encourage local governments and LEMCs to review the community facilities identified as evacuation centres against local hazard risks.

Why it Matters

Ensuring evacuation centres are properly assessed, approved, and aligned with local risk profiles strengthens community safety and readiness during emergencies. Accurate information in the State register reduces confusion during response, supports timely evacuation, and ensures only fit-for-purpose facilities are activated. This improves coordination with Hazard Management and Controlling agencies and helps ensure affected communities can be safely accommodated.

Key Dates

Local Emergency Management Committees meetings from July will be provided with a list of evacuation centres from the State register, for review and confirmation for inclusion for the 2026-27 year.

Please contact Renee Flaxman via email (renee.flaxman@communities.wa.gov.au) if a building identified as an Evacuation centre undergoes renovations, building works, cannot be accessed or is closed.

Emergency Relief and Support Training

As we move into the preparedness and capability development season, Communities will be rolling out updated training across local government, partner organisations, and to our internal staffing group. This 2.5-hour session (which can be adapted to suit local needs) is designed to support local government staff who may be asked to support Communities to open an evacuation centre prior to Communities' arrival. This practical based training builds knowledge of key processes, common challenges, and the adaptations required for different cohorts and scenarios. Multiple scenarios and exercises targeting local government preparedness are included.

Please contact Renee Flaxman via email (renee.flaxman@communities.wa.gov.au) to arrange dates for this training

Exercising

Local governments are encouraged to include ERS early in all hazard emergency exercise planning to strengthen coordination across response and recovery.

At-Risk groups in emergencies

During the 2025-26 high threat season, a number of events highlighted the importance of planning for people at risk / vulnerable groups in our communities during emergencies.

Communities has portfolio responsibility across a range of at risk and vulnerable cohort groups, including people with a disability, those experiencing homelessness and family and domestic violence. ERS is collaborating to strengthen service linkages and engagement opportunities ahead of the 26-27 high threat season. A key message for Service providers is to have a clear business continuity plan outlining safe alternative arrangements in the event of an emergency.

ERS is available to support and facilitate connections for local governments or agencies if planning activities for vulnerable or at-risk groups in emergencies are being undertaken.

AusAlert

AusAlert will enable Australian emergency services to issue national or local alerts about impending or existing disasters, including natural hazards such as bushfires, floods, cyclones and tsunamis, as well as other emergencies, including public health, security and biosecurity incidents. The system includes two alert types:

Priority alerts, which users can manually silence; and

Critical alerts, which override silent and 'do-not-disturb' settings and cannot be disabled through standard device settings.

A national test of a [Critical AusAlert](#) will be held on 27 July 2026, in WA this will be at 12:00 pm.

No decision has been made regarding when AusAlert will be introduced in Western Australia. It is important to note that Emergency WA remains the official and authoritative source of emergency information in Western Australia. The Emergency Alert telephone warning system will continue to be used during the coming summer.

Response ERS activations

Between 1 July 2025 and 8 June 2026, Communities responded to 41 emergency events, opening 48 centres to support shelter and information to impacted people.

The State Support Plan – Emergency Relief and Support was activated on 26 March, as a result of Severe Tropical Cyclone Narelle with 5 evacuation centres opened and more than 180 people supported. Exmouth experienced widespread damage to homes and critical infrastructure, prolonged power and water disruptions, telecommunications outages and flooding, while Carnarvon experienced major flooding affecting homes and plantations.

Communities have continued coordinating welfare in the State Social Recovery Domain, in partnership with relevant government and non-government organisations. Key community needs identified include housing damage, increased costs and limited availability of essentials, requests for financial and wellbeing support, limited face-to-face services, and heightened environmental health concerns.

Other updates

Monitoring H5 Avian Influenza

DPIRD is leading the State response to recently detected H5 avian influenza with enhanced surveillance and monitoring activities are underway in partnership with relevant agencies.

ERS is not an active participant in the operational response and is maintaining situational awareness through established emergency management arrangements. Should the situation escalate and require broader whole-of-government coordination or support to impacted communities, ERS will work within existing emergency management frameworks to support recovery activities.

TITLE: Confirmation of facilities on the State Evacuation Register 2026-2027

MEETING DATE: 11 August 2026

PREPARED BY: Renee Flaxman, Regional Coordinator South West, Emergency Relief and Support, Department of Communities

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Local Emergency Management Committee:

- 1. Reviews and endorse the identified facilities for inclusion on the Department of Communities State Evacuation Register for 2026-27.**
- 2. Confirms that the facilities have been considered against locally identified hazard risks and community requirements.**
- 3. Request Hazard Management Agency representatives to advise of any hazard-specific concerns that may affect the suitability of the identified facilities for evacuation, refuge, or shelter purposes.**
- 4. Recommend any additions, removals or amendments to facility records prior to submission to the Department of Communities.**

BACKGROUND:

The State Support Plan – Emergency Relief and Support documents the arrangements for the strategic management and coordination of emergency relief and support services under the Western Australian's State Emergency Management arrangements.

Under the State's Emergency Management Arrangements, Local Governments are required to identify evacuation centres suitable for relevant hazards and/or communities. When identifying potential evacuation centre locations, the Local Government Authority, in collaboration with the Local

Emergency Management Committee and relevant emergency management agencies, determine that facilities are appropriate for hazards that are high risk to the area.

The Arrangements identifies the Department of Communities to maintain a record of evacuation centres across the State and to provide this to Hazard Management or Controlling Agencies as required, for consideration during emergency evacuation planning and response activities. The State Evacuation Register is not a public register.

Annual review of facilities provides an opportunity for Local Governments and emergency management partners to confirm that facilities remain appropriate having regard to local hazard risks, community requirements and operational considerations.

CURRENT SITUATION:

The following facilities are currently recorded on the Department of Communities State Evacuation Register for the Shire of Dardanup:

Facility	Address	Capacity	Hazard considerations
Eaton Recreation Centre - Primary	18 Recreation Drive, Eaton	500 standing, 125 sleeping	
Eaton Boomers Football Club - Secondary	3 Council Drive, Eaton	standing, sleeping	
Dardanup Hall - Secondary	3 Little Street, Dardanup	200 standing, 50 standing	

The Department of Communities requests that:

- LEMC members:
 - Review the nominated facilities.
 - Confirm their ongoing suitability for the hazards relevant to the district.
 - Identify any known operational limitations or upcoming infrastructure projects (within the 2026-27 season).
 - Recommend any additions, removals or amendments to the Register.
- HMA representatives confirm whether any known hazard-specific considerations would affect the suitability of the identified facilities, including:
 - flood inundation;
 - bushfire exposure;
 - cyclone vulnerability;
 - hazardous materials risks;
 - access and egress constraints;

- isolation risks; and
- any other operational considerations.

Where concerns are identified, members are requested to provide recommendations for alternative facilities or mitigation measures.

ATTACHMENTS REFERENCED:

Local Emergency Relief and Support Plan South West – Bunbury Region – Bunbury, Capel, Dardanup, Donnybrook-Balingup, Harvey 2025

8.2.5 *Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions – Mr Jewell Crossberg*

8.2.6 *Department of Health (WA Country Health Service) – Mr. Glenn Gates*

No report.

8.2.7 *Main Roads WA – Mr Bruce Hancock*

General

Main Roads South West Region is committed to supporting the relevant agencies involved in Emergencies and Incidents.

It has recently reviewed and restructured its resources to be more responsive to the increasing number of Emergencies and Incidents.

We endeavour to have a representative in attendance at the Oct-Dec and Apr-June LEMC meetings. We will also have a representative at the DEMC meetings and a minimum of 2 at any Exercise.

This ensures our sustainability, rapport and knowledge is spread through the team and does not become person dependent.

We have a Customer Information Centre which is resourced 24 hours a day. They can be contacted on 138 138 for all Emergencies and Incidents.

This team will immediately notify the region of any Emergency/Incident by contacting our 24hr on Call Duty Manager.

The Duty Manager will dispatch resources as required/requested to the Emergency/Incident.

Should the situation warrant, the Duty Manager will activate the On Call Incident Manager.

The Incident Manager may then take charge as the point of contact with IC for the Incident and will activate other resources as required.

Resources

Incident Managers:

- Main Roads South West Region have 6 Incident Managers (IM) that it can call upon to respond to, manage and support the IC.
- Large complex Incidents involving a number of roads may require 2 x IM's to manage the Incident.

On Scene Liaison Officers:

- Main Roads South West Region has 12 On Scene Liaison Officers (OSLO) to call upon. The OSLO's are generally dispatched to an Incident to make first point of contact with the IC, assess the situation and report back to the MRWA Duty Manager or IM.
- The OSLO's can also assist initially by implementing a VCP as required. They will also support our Vehicle Control Point (VCP) personnel when they are established for the duration of the Emergency/Incident.

Rapid Response Crews

- Main Roads South West Region has 3 Rapid Response Crews (RRC) to call upon. The RRC's are a 2 person crew. They are designed to respond to Emergencies and Incidents and set up the initial VCP control with limited signage.
- They will also support our Vehicle Control Point personnel as required.

Traffic Management Crews

- These are contract resources; Main Roads South West Region generally has 3 of these crews engaged on a daily basis. Further to these crews Main Roads is able to call on additional crews from its Contract Traffic Control providers.
- There are 3 companies Main Roads generally uses but can also call on resources outside our Region depending on the scale and location of the Incident.
- These crews form the backbone of our VCP resources. Initially Main Roads will operate crews on 12-hour shifts and if the Incident is likely to extend beyond 3 days will reduce the shifts to 8hrs to manage fatigue. Each VCP would require 4 resources for a 12-hour shift and 6 resources for an 8 Hr shift.

Traffic Management at Incidents

Once an Incident has been declared an Incident Controller is appointed. The agency managing the Incident will be determined by the nature and severity of the Incident.

In the case of a bushfire the responsibility may fall to the Local Government in which case generally the Local Governments Chief Fire Office may be the Incident Controller (IC). The IC in accordance with the State Emergency Management Plan has significant powers to deal with the Incident in a timely manner and to minimise the loss of life or loss /damage of property.

One of these powers is to take control of other agencies assets, in this case road infrastructure. It is often necessary to close roads to prevent people from entering the Incident Site and establish Vehicle Control Points (VCP's).

This is usually delegated to WA Police in the first instance as they can deploy resources quickly to the site. Also, the extent of the VCP's in relation to the Incident may rapidly evolve and they may need to be expanded/relocated to meet the demands of the Incident.

Other resources can also undertake the function of establishing VCP's at the direction of the IC. These are Local Government, Main Roads, DFES, DBCA etc. Depending on availability of resources initially the IC may direct these resources to provide VCP's on assets that they do not normally control. That is Local Government resources may establish a VCP on a Main Roads, and visa-versa Main Roads may establish a VCP on a Local Government Rd.

Main Roads has recently reverted to inhouse Day Labour Resources. When Main Roads are requested to attend an incident they may choose, depending on availability, to send their own staff or they may send a sub-contract Traffic Management resources. It is important for agencies who are managing Incidents to make early direct contact with Main Roads to identify any potential or actual impact on our assets so we can best manage our response and support of the IC.

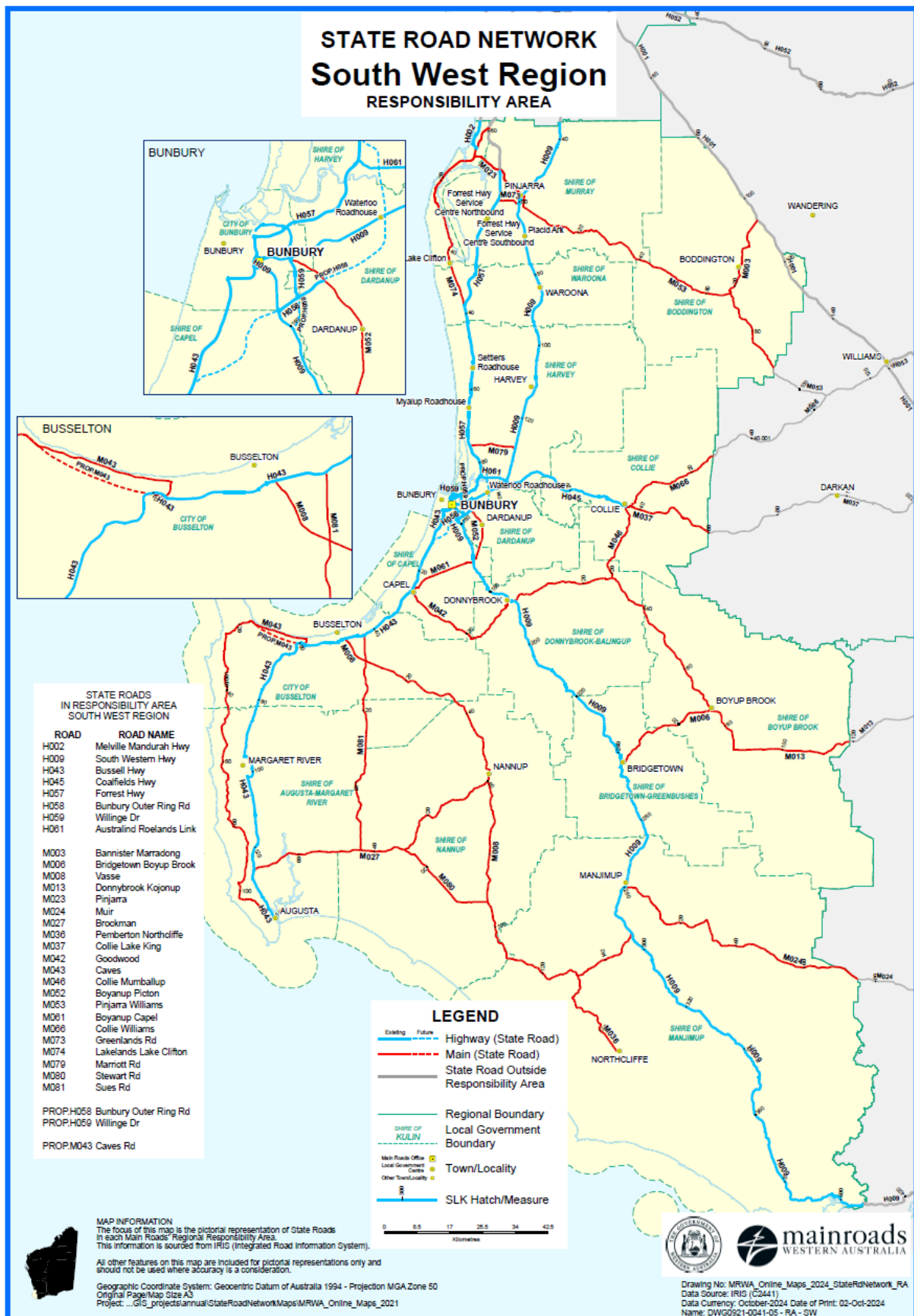
There have been a couple of recent events where an Incident affected a Main Roads asset however a request for our assistance was made very late in the day by the IC. Due to the timing of these incidents, it meant resources were not readily available and there was a delay in responding to the Incident. This put additional strain on the people dealing with the Incident and WA Police Force (WAPOL) who were providing the VCP's.

Also, when the active phase of the Incident concluded, and it moved to recovery the IC was not aware of the process for handing back the Asset to the Asset Owner. In particular the IC must ensure the Asset is safe prior to hand back to the Asset Owner. The Asset Owner then makes their own determination if any other remedial work is required prior to the Asset Owner reopening the road.

There were also a couple of other incidents where the IC endeavoured to open a road. This is in contravention of the State Emergency Management Plan which clearly states it is the responsibility of the Asset Owner as to when and how the asset will be put back into service.

Early contact with Main Roads when Main Roads assets are or are likely to be affected will ensure a smoother management of the assets, VCP's, handback and opening of the road. Main Roads can also assist by identifying alternate routes or detours if required for the management of traffic to avoid the incident as well as identifying timber structures such as bridges and culverts on both Main Roads and Local Government Roads.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT		REGIONAL MANAGEMENT	Emergency MANAGER	OPERATIONS OFFICER	PLANNING/ LOGISTICS OFFICER	LIAISON OFFICER	ROAD INSPECTION		ONSCENE LIAISON OFFICER	COMMUNICATION OFFICER	LOG KEEPER
	Quick Glance Positions (may change month to month)										
Title											
A/DSWO	BRUCE WALKER	1									
A/MAMO	JAICE BENZIE	2									
MM	ANTHONY WILLETTS		1	1							
RRRCS	KERRIE MCNEVIN		2	2	1	1					
WS	JORDAN PILLAR		3	3	2	2					
RMWM(S)	RON AITKEN		4			3			1		
RMWM(N)	BEN PAYNE		5			4			1		
MC	JOHN TRELA				3						
VCO	STEVE SHARP						1				
VRO	BLAIR BLOOMEFIELD						2				
NI(S)	BILL LISHMAN								2		
WS	STEWART BRAND								3		
NI	PAUL HILLIS								4		
NI	CRAIG CURTIS								5		
NI	MICK AITKEN								6		
NI	KEITH DAVIS								7		
NI	JAYCON MARINELLI								8		
AMO	SCOTT FRATER								9		
RR	DAKOTA RASSIP								10		
RR	JOSH BOYLAND								11		
MRWA	CIC OFFICER									1	4
MA	TRACEY TAME									2	1
AMO	KAREN HOGAN									3	2
CSM	PETA NOLAN									4	3



8.2.8 Department of Transport – Mr Peter Westgate

No report.

8.2.9 Water Corporation – Mr Steve Collins

No report.

8.2.10 Western Power – Mr Scott Fitzgerald

No report.

8.2.11 Aqwest – TBC

No report.

8.2.12 St John Ambulance WA – Mr Chris Smith

No report.

8.2.13 Telstra – Ms Debra Leverington

No report.

8.2.14 Moore Road Emergency Response Group – Mr Graeme Offer

No report.

8.2.15 Harvey Water – Mr Rod Johnson

No report.

8.2.16 Bethany Fields – Mr Robert Tuckey

No report.

8.2.17 South West Education Institute Representative

No report.

9 MATTERS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

None.

10 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Presiding Member to advise that the next date of the Local Emergency Management Committee meeting is to be held on Wednesday, 11th November 2026, commencing at 10:00am at the Shire of Dardanup Administration Centre, Eaton.

There being no further business, the Presiding Member to declare the meeting closed at [time].