



CONFIRMED

MINUTES

FOR THE

**LOCAL EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING**

Held

13th August 2025

At

**ADMINISTRATION CENTRE EATON
1 Council Drive - EATON**

This document is available in alternative formats such as:

- ~ Large Print
- ~ Electronic Format [emailed]
- Upon request.

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.”

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Members of Local Emergency Management Committee

- Cr. T Gardiner - Elected Member
- Cr. E Lilly - Elected Member
- Cr. A Jenour – Elected Member
- Cr. M Hutchinson – Elected Member
- Coordinator Emergency & Ranger Services – Staff
- Representative(s) – WA Police (Deputy Chairperson(s))
- Representative – Department of Communities
- Representative – Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
- Representative – Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions
- Representative – WA Country Health Service
- Representative – Main Roads WA
- Representative – Department of Fire & Emergency Services – Fire
- Representative – Water Corporation
- Representative – Western Power
- Representative – Aqwest
- Representative – St Johns Ambulance WA
- Representative – Telstra Australia
- Representative – ATCO Gas
- Representative – Moore Road Emergency Response Group
- Representative – Harvey Water
- Representative – Aurizon

Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference for this Committee are located in the Tardis records system – refer to the following link:
[2023 - 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

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES FOR THE SHIRE OF DARDANUP LEMC MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, THE 13TH AUGUST 2025, AT ADMINISTRATION CENTRE EATON, 1 COUNCIL DRIVE, EATON, COMMENCED AT 10.00AM.

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENTS OF VISITORS

The Chairperson, Cr Tyrrell Gardiner declared the meeting open at 10.01am, welcomed 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

Cr T Gardiner	-	Shire President
Cr T Jenour	-	Elected member
Mr Stephen Loiterton	-	Coordinator – Emergency & Ranger Services
Mr Steve Collins	-	Water Corporation [via Teams]
Mr Bruce Hancock	-	Main Roads WA
Ms Ceri Elliot	-	WA Country Health Services – SW [via Teams]
Ms Renee Flaxman	-	Department of Communities
Mr Tim Rainer	-	Capel Police [via Teams]
Mr Graeme Offer	-	Hexion
Mr Rowan Hunter	-	Department of Fire & Emergency Services
Mr Garth Grimsley	-	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
Mr Clem Neill	-	Western Power

Observers

Mr André Schönfeldt	-	Chief Executive Officer
Mr Ashwin Nair	-	Director Sustainable Development
Mr Neil Nicholson	-	Principal Environmental Health Officer
Mr Dallas Brennan	-	Ranger
Mrs Jolene Roots	-	Executive Support Officer

2.2 Apologies

Mr. Tim Stevens	-	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
Cr E Lilly	-	Deputy Shire President
Mr Scott Fitzgerald	-	Western Power
Mr Stephen Reid	-	Aurizon
Mr Peter Westgate	-	Department of Transport and Major Infrastructure

3 PRESENTATIONS

None.

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting Held on the 7th May 2025.

OFFICER RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION

LEMC 05-25 MOVED – Cr T G Gardiner SECONDED – Ms Renee Flaxman

THAT the Minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held on 7th May 2025, be confirmed as true and correct.

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

"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: Cr. T Gardiner asked the Committee if there were any Declarations of Interest to be made. There were none.

8 REPORTS OF OFFICERS

8.1 Title: Update Report from Shire of Dardanup

Reporting Department	<i>Sustainable Development Directorate</i>
Reporting Officer	<i>Stephen Loiterton - Coordinator – Health, Emergency & Ranger Services</i>
Legislation	<i>Local Government Act 1995 Emergency Management Act 2005</i>

8.1.1 LEMC Business Plan

The *State Emergency Management Procedure* (s3.7) requires the Executive Officer to coordinate the development of an annual business plan. The business plan has elements that ensure the committee, and through the committee, the Shire, meets legislative requirements.

The *Local Emergency Management Committee Handbook* states that the business plan can:

- ensure local objectives are aligned to the district and state emergency management committees' strategic plans, capturing key priorities,
- clearly outline the committee's priorities for the nominated time period, and
- assist to monitor progress and document achievements.

The handbook also recommends that strategies in the business plan be reviewed, and progress noted, as a standing agenda item for committee meetings.

The last business plan was developed for 2022-2023 and has not been reviewed recently.

A proposed LEMC Business Plan 2026-2027 has been drafted (see attachment Appendix LEMC 8.1.1), substantially based on the previous plan. Feedback from the committee is sought on this plan. Once feedback has been incorporated, the plan will be put to the November 2025 meeting for endorsement.

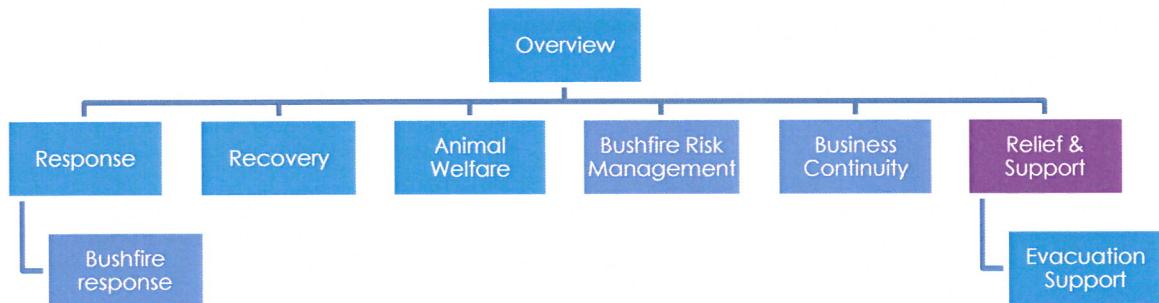
8.1.2 Annual Report

The *State Emergency Management Procedure* (s3.7) requires the Executive Officer to coordinate the development of an annual report for submission to the District Emergency Management Committee.

A report has been prepared to be sent to the District Emergency Management Coordinator for the South West.

8.1.3 Review of Local Emergency Management Arrangements

Several components of the Shire's Local Emergency Management Arrangements are due for review by the end of 2026 (light blue in figure below). The Local Evacuation Support Plan will require review in February 2027, and will need to commence in 2026. Experience from the review of the Bushfire Risk Management Plan and the introduction of the Local Evacuation Support Plan, suggests any one plan may take as much as a year to review.



Given the scale of the task, a project to review the plans has already commenced. This project will change the presentation of the sub-plans to be more action oriented. The intent is to:

- have a single overview document that contains the bulk of reference/background information, including governance, roles & responsibilities, and Dardanup profile, and other contextual material
- have sub-plans that are substantially action oriented check-lists (akin to the Shire's Business Continuity Plan).

Consideration will also be given to a new “Preparedness” plan, that will encompass risk (not just bushfire risk), community resilience, continuous improvement, and other matters. Prevention is largely a Hazard Management Agency responsibility and so a separate “Prevention” plan is perhaps not warranted.

The success of the project will also require input from the Local Emergency Management Committee. Significant community engagement is also a key success factor. The Committee currently lacks representation from: Culturally and Linguistically Diverse community, the aged community, the indigenous community, youth, people living with disability, people of faith, Chamber of Commerce, environmental groups, and any other sectors as may be impacted (negatively or positively) by an emergency. There are already identified gaps in plans that require the contributions of these groups.

A potential complicating factor is the impact of the State Emergency Management Committee’s LEMA Improvement Program. The current advice is to conduct reviews as scheduled.

8.1.4 Mitigation Activity Funding

The Shire of Dardanup has been granted \$242,350 to assist in undertaking 27 bushfire mitigation activities. Mitigation activities include mechanical treatments to reduce fuel levels, the creation of firebreaks and planned burns.

Table of Approved Treatments

25974 Mechanical works	Gavins Gully, West Dardanup	Completed
25975 Mechanical works	Maquire Place, Dardanup West	Completed
27010 Planned burn	Marri Reserve, Tulip Grove Eaton	Completed
27011 Chemical works	Marri Reserve, Millard St, Eaton	Completed
27012 Mechanical works	Reserve, Hale Street, Eaton	Completed
27013 Mechanical works	Reserve, Charterhouse Street, Eaton	Completed
27014 Mechanical works	Reserve, Charterhouse Street, Eaton	Completed
27027 Fire access way	Millar Creek Reserve, Hazelgrove Cr, Millbridge	Rolled over
27037 Mechanical Works	Millars Creek Reserve, Primrose Vista, Millbridge	Completed
27038 Mechanical works	Eaton Foreshore Reserve, Pratt Rd, Eaton	Completed
27039 Mechanical works	Reserve, Charolais Mews, Eaton	Rolled over

27040 Mechanical works	Reserve, Charolais Mews, Eaton	Completed
27041 Mechanical works	Reserve, Bailey Loop, West Dardanup	Completed
27042 Chemical works	Verges, Fire Access Way, The Dress Circle, Henty	Completed
27058 Fire access way	Reserve, Bailey Loop, West Dardanup	Completed
27059 Fire access way	Reserve, Bailey Loop, West Dardanup	Completed
27060 Fire access way	Reserve, Vera Place, West Dardanup	Completed
27061 Mechanical Works	Reserve, Dardanup Rd, West Dardanup	Completed
27062 Fire access way	Reserve, Dardanup Rd, West Dardanup	Completed
27063 Fire access way	Leicester Reserve, Collie River, Eaton	Completed
27069 Planned burn	Wellington Pine Plantation, King Tree Road Wellington Mills	Completed
27070 Planned burn	Wellington Mills Road Wellington Mills	Completed
27071 Planned burn	Wellington Mills Road Wellington Mills	Completed
27085 Planned burn	Fire Access Way, Padbury Road West Dardanup	Completed
27340 Planned burn	Joshua Creek Rd Crooked Brook	Rolled-over
27816 Access gate	Cormo Court, Eaton	Completed
37359 Planned burn	Gnomesville, Wellington Mill	Completed

The Coordinator Bushfire Risk Management is currently working on an application for funding for a 3-year MAF grant.

Discussion & Note:

- *The Chief Executive Officer, Mr André Schönfeldt requested that Submissions / Feedback be sent to Mr Stephen Loiterton by 31st October 2025 for the next LEMC Meeting in November 2025.*

8.2 Title: Agency Reports

Reporting Department	Various Agencies – Listed Below
Reporting Officer	<i>Refer to Individual Report</i>
Legislation	<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.

8.2.1 WA Police – Snr Sgt Heath Soutar (Australind) & Sgt Chris Page (Capel)

8.2.2 Department of Fire & Emergency Services – District Emergency Management Advisor – Mrs Erin Hutchins

Mrs Erin Hutchins has provided the following report:

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT 1st Quarter 2025-2026

DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISOR UPDATE

STATE NEWS

The last meeting of the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) was held on the 7th August 2025. SEMC Communiques can be found [here](#).

2025 SEMC MEETING SCHEDULE

- 9th October 2025
- 4th December 2025

STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Comprehensive Review Schedule

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

- State Hazard Plan – HAZMAT Annex B Space Re-entry Debris (SPRED)
- WA Community Evacuation in Emergencies Guideline
- State Hazard Plan – Cyber Security Incident
- Local Recovery Guideline State Support Plan – Freight and Supply Chain
- Impact Statement Guideline and Template

You can view all current and past consultations on the Engage WA EM consultation homepage

WALGA LEMA IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Recommendations Paper

The WALGA LEMA Improvement Project Paper presents the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) improvement recommendations to the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) and Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) to inform the processes, structure and content of a new LEMA model.

This recommendations paper has been noted by SEMC. The recommendations in this report have been shaped by the Local Government LEMA Working Group.

While the LEMA pilot currently underway aims to address some of these recommendations, it will not cover all of them, as certain recommendations fall outside the scope of the pilot and require policy updates to the State EM Framework.

Other Updates

- SEMC have endorsed DFES to proceed with the development and testing of a LEMA Development Framework, aiming for a more scalable approach to LEMA development and review. This delivers on WALGA's 2023 recommendation to establish a maturity assessment model.
- SEMC has also agreed to trial a new approach to local government emergency management risk planning.
- Both of these projects are policy projects requiring change to the Emergency Management Framework, and will involve extended consultation with local governments and broader EM sectors, including relevant subcommittees of SEMC.
- Local governments involved in the pilot program hosted Community Risk Workshops to trial possible new methodologies for local risk.
- The expected outcome is a documented set of locally valued assets and liabilities, consequence statements, and recommended treatment options, prioritising locally owned risks using local knowledge and resources.
- Work continues on the Statement of Policy, which is an online resource that collates and describes all local government responsibilities that are contained within the emergency management framework.
- Early drafts of the Statement of Policy have been shared with pilot participants and the LEMA Working Group for review and feedback.
- Additional work includes developing consistent language and terminology across all LEMA IP products and ensuring no guidance or information in existing SEMC documents is lost during the development of new resources.
- Keep up to date by visiting the SEMC website or the WALGA website. For more details, contact Catherine Feeney at WALGA

OTHER NEWS

As part of the 2025-26 State Budget announced on 19 June 2025, DFES will receive new funding of \$55.9 million over four years to:

- Build a new Career Fire and Rescue station in Yanchep to service Perth's rapidly growing northern coastal area, as well as employ and train 40 firefighters to meet the State's growing emergency management needs.
- Provide a grant to the City of Wanneroo for the construction of the Wanneroo Emergency Management Complex to enhance community safety.
- Finalise planning of the new State Emergency Management Training Centre to enhance our capacity to train emergency personnel.
- Provide a grant to the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup to replace the Argyle Irishtown Bush Fire Brigade facility to support local preparedness and response efforts.
- Replace the Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services station in Bullsbrook to service local communities.
- Establish a State Bushfire Mitigation branch, supported by a dedicated Aboriginal Ranger Program and equipped with mitigation machinery and appliances.
- Expand the Community Services Manager program with six positions embedded across regional WA.

- In addition to the above, DFES secured permanent funding for aerial suppression to protect grain harvests during the high threat bushfire season.
- As part of the Government's commitment to support local communities, DFES will also receive funding for several one-off grants to volunteer brigades, groups and units for small asset replacement.
- DFES will also continue to receive the funding it needs to maintain its critical programs—administering disaster recovery funding to help communities affected by floods, cyclones and bushfires, investing in emergency services vehicles to boost frontline efforts and supplying the essential plant and equipment that supports our dedicated volunteers and staff.
- For further information on the DFES budget, download a copy of the 2025-26 State Budget poster.

DISTRICT NEWS

The next District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC) will be held on Tuesday 21st October 2025 in the Shire of Donnybrook.

EVENTS

The first 2025 State Recovery Roadshow hosted by DFES State Recovery, will be also taking place on 21st October 2025. This important event is part of their ongoing commitment to strengthening stakeholder relationships and enhancing engagement across Western Australia.

The 2025 State Recovery Roadshow will offer a comprehensive and interactive program designed to inform, connect, and empower recovery stakeholders.

Key highlights include:

- Understanding DFES State Recovery's Role

Explore the critical functions of DFES State Recovery and the support available to communities and local governments before, during, and after disasters.

- Insights from Recent Recoveries

Learn from recent recovery efforts, highlighting lessons learned and ongoing challenges.

- Updates from State Recovery Portfolios

Hear directly from the team's leading the three core portfolios—Recovery Funding, Strategy and Policy, and Recovery Operations—as they share updates on current initiatives and future directions.

- Interactive Q&A and Open Discussion

Engage in dedicated time for questions, feedback, and open dialogue to ensure your voice is heard and your insights contribute to shaping future recovery efforts.

DEMC representatives as well as other relevant agencies and personnel involved or with an interest in recovery are also be invited to attend.

REGISTRATION

Date: Tuesday 21st October 2025

Time: 10.30am

Location: VC Mitchell Park – 10A Marmion Street, DONNYBROOK

Please RSVP using this link by CoB Monday 13th October 2025.

If you prefer to join online, please indicate this in your registration, and a secure access link will be provided prior to the event.

SUPERINTENDENT UPDATE

REGIONAL NEWS

As I complete my first my six-month period within my role in the South West Region, I thank everyone from a range of business areas within all Local Governments with welcoming me and working together so seamlessly, with my team in a range of PPRR activities and strategic matters.

DFES South West has transitioned well into the winter period and it has been great to see some strong rainfall totals throughout the region, hopefully filling up our dams and reservoirs!!

Please see the below information and updates.

- The new Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon Paul Papalia MLA, released some key election commitments, that have been positive for several one-off grants to volunteer brigades, groups and units, but there are no major projects for the South West to note.
- Storm Preparedness activities are well under way. DFES is always looking for opportunities to improve the Communities preparedness actions in a range of forums, and I thank those LG's who have been a part of and supported to date.
- The final report from the Bunbury Storms/Tornado will soon to be completed, and I hope to share applicable lessons learnt with key stakeholders for the betterment of our severe weather planning and response.
- As previously reported, a range of deliberate and suspicious bushfires were reported last season, and a range of enquiries have been followed up by WA Police and investigated, so hopefully some outcomes will improve issues into summer.
- I met with the South West Development Commission, with an intent to further build relationships and strong communications holistically across the South West. Awareness and understanding for all stakeholders of new key infrastructure projects, including large alternative energy systems, supports appropriate planning for our emergency management activities.

Thank you – Superintendent Matt Folini

DISTRICT OFFICER UPDATE

OPERATIONAL NEWS

Operations

Jeremy Willis has been appointed as Area Officer Forrest. Jeremy will be managing the Brunswick, Collie, Harvey, Waroona and Pinjarra Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services. Jeremy comes with 30+ years of firefighting experience. He was an Area Officer in the Goldfields Midlands Region for 6 years and has more recently been working in the DFES State Operations Centre.

State Emergency Service Assistance (Call 132 500)

SES volunteers will:

- Undertake temporary repairs to make the area safe and help reduce the risk of further damage, if possible and safe to do so.
- Will assist if a large tree has fallen on a house or driveway.

SES volunteers will not:

- Fix storm damage. Owner/Occupiers will need to contact a qualified tradesperson and/or your insurance company.
- Fix fallen or damaged powerlines or power poles – contact Western Power on 13 13 51.
- Remove any green waste. Contact your Local Government.
- Fix damaged fences.

Weather Outlook – Winter (June-August) 2025 Long-Range Forecast

- Rainfall is likely to be in the typical range for much of western WA

- Warmer than average days are very likely across most of Australia, with an increased chance of unusually high daytime temperatures, particularly across the north, east and far south of Australia
- Warmer than average nights are very likely across Australia, with an increased chance of unusually high overnight temperatures, particularly across northern, southern and much of eastern Australia.
- The longer-term outlook for August to October 2025 is suggesting rainfall is LIKELY to be around average for most of the State.

Compiled by:

District Emergency Management Advisor – South West

Department of Fire and Emergency Services

As at 29th July 2025.

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

LEMC & DEMC report – 1st Quarter 2025/2026

DPIRD's On-Call Coordinator Duty Phone

If needing to activate the State Support Plan: Animal Welfare in Emergencies or require assistance in the DPIRD support role of another Hazard Management Agency's incident, the contact number is **08 9368 3132**.

DPIRD's role in emergency management

- DPIRD is the Hazard Management Agency (HMA) for animal and plant pests and disease incursions. Refer to the [State Hazard Plan: Animal and Plant Biosecurity](#) for information on DPIRD's legislated roles and responsibilities.
- DPIRD is the executor of the State Support Plan for Animal Welfare in Emergencies. This includes livestock, horses, and companion animals. Refer to the [State Support Plan: Animal Welfare in Emergencies](#) for information on DPIRD's legislated roles and responsibilities.
- DPIRD may from time to time provide support to other agencies where requested. This includes administering some components of the [Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements WA](#).

Emergency Management Directorate Learning & Development

DPIRD EM Preparedness Team are working through the emergency management training program for the 2025/2026 calendar year.

Following SEMC endorsement (March 2025) of the revised State Support Plan of Animal Welfare in Emergencies (SSP-AWiE) – DPIRD has commenced planning an exercise to test the SSP-AWiE arrangements in accordance with State Emergency Management Policy. The Exercise will be a Desktop format and will be held in Oct 2025.

Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) Preparedness

DPIRD has recently conducted a number of internal workshops focused on EAD preparedness across the preparedness, response and recovery phases to build awareness and capacity.

New Director

DPIRD's Emergency Management Directorate (EMD) has a new Director, Scott Beaton. Scott was DPIRD's Director of Work, Health, Safety & Wellbeing and has a background and experience in emergency management.

Current Vacancies

The EM Directorate has gone through a significant restructure. DPRD is currently advertising two new positions being Assistant Director, Emergency Preparedness and Assistant Director, Emergency Coordination.

Additionally, DPIRD will be advertising shortly a Learning and Development Coordinator position which has recently become vacant due to a resignation.

National alerts and investigations

Avian Influenza

CURRENT STATUS in WA: Absent – no known detections

Responses to outbreaks of H7 high pathogenic avian influenza are currently underway in Victoria, New South Wales, and the ACT. Note that this is not the H5 strain currently causing concern globally. DPIRD is monitoring the situation and undertaking preparedness activities. Also, DPIRD is providing personnel and resources to support jurisdictions with confirmed outbreaks. Poultry producers and owners are encouraged to view our [avian influenza page](#) for information on preparedness and detection.

Tomato brown rugose fruit virus

CURRENT STATUS IN WA: Absent – no known detections

A highly contagious plant virus affecting tomatoes, capsicums, and chillies. It has been detected in South Australia in August 2024. It presents a significant risk to growers and the industry if established. No known detections in Western Australia currently. Industry and backyard growers are encouraged to recognise and report signs and symptoms of the virus if found. Information is available on our [tomato brown rugose fruit virus page](#).

Animal Welfare in Emergencies

DPIRD is the executor of the State Support Plan for Animal Welfare in Emergencies (AWiE). Please note the following important notices regarding AWiE for district and local representatives:

- Please refer to DPIRD's [animal welfare](#) section of our website for resources, support, and

contacts. Local governments can reach out to our Incident and Emergency Management Branch if they require advice and support for the development of their PAWE (contact emergencymanagement@dpird.wa.gov.au).

- DPIRD's Incident and Emergency Management Branch is undertaking preparedness and response activities where activated under the [State Support Plan - Animal Welfare in Emergencies](#).
- DPIRD is working with the SEMC to finalise responses to feedback on the proposed improvements to the [State Support Plan - Animal Welfare in Emergencies](#). The review is scheduled to be finalised in late 2025.

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.

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DPIRD EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW

Emergency Coordination Overview								
Reporting Period:	1 st Quarter 25-26							
Emergency Activations and Declarations								
Emergency Declarations	Nil							
Incident Coordination Overview								
Animal and Plant Based Biosecurity ¹								
Incident Title	Location		Date	Incident Level ²				
African Black Sugar Ant	Perth Metro		Since Jan 2020	Level 1				
Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer	Perth Metro		Since Sep 2021	Level 2				
Carpet Sea Squirt	Perth Metro		Since Jan 2023	Level 1				
Red Dwarf Honeybee	Pilbara Region		Since Jul 2023	Level 2				
Queensland Fruit Fly	Perth Metro		Since Nov 2024	Level 2				
Starling	Great Southern		Since Nov 2024	Level 1				
Support to Animal Welfare in Emergencies ³								
Incident Title	Region	Date	HMA	Details				
Nil								
Support to Natural Hazards								
Incident Title	Region	Date	HMA	Details				

DPIRD Emergency Coordinator Comments and Outlook

- DPIRD continues to manage three level 2 incidents. The Browsing Ant incident that was being managed has now achieved eradication.
- DPIRD Biosecurity and Emergency Management is monitoring the developing situation in Victoria related to High Pathogen Avian Influenza Outbreaks.

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

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

8.2.4 Department of Communities – Ms Renee Flaxman**Emergency Relief and Support****LEMC REPORT FOR DISTRIBUTION****1st Quarter 2025 - 2026****Local ERS contacts**

Activation via Communities Emergency Operations Coordinator
M: 0418 943 835 and Email: emergencyservices@communities.wa.gov.au

Regional Manager:	Mark Schorer
Regional Coordinator:	Renee Flaxman
Regional Officer:	Jo Spadaccini
Local Government:	Shire of Nannup

Preparedness

Ongoing risk monitoring and preparedness activities to support event activation processes including:

- Continued review and updating of local support services, i.e. accommodation providers, well-being- and other support services, that can be called on to support the needs of those people impacted by an emergency
- Recommencement of ERS Evacuation Centre training regionally and cross- regionally. LEMC members are asked to identify staff or partners that may benefit from this training.
- Review and update of emergency equipment, such as 'Go bags' holding air mattress, disposable pillow, -sheet/blanket and towel, as well as hygiene packs. have been trialled. These are expected to be added to all kits before the next Hight Threat Season.
- 24hr MRE (Meals Ready to Eat) are currently being reviewed.
- The Local Emergency Response and Support Plan LERSP details the operational management and coordination of ERS under the Western Australian (WA) Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMAs). The updated and revised LERSP to be tabled for endorsement.
- Continued monitoring of high risk weather conditions and the impact on availability of accommodation providers.

Local ERS contacts

- Evacuation Centre Audits:
 - Reviews requesting updates to information e.g. upgrades, repairs and maintenance, improvements to facilities and equipment, change of contact details currently in process.

Exercising and training:

- Upgrade and revamp of Evacuation Centre Training package currently in process, with a view to customise modules toward specific target audiences and cohorts (staff, LGA, LEMC), and events.

Response

Register. Find. Reunite.

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has drafted a paper (the Paper) for the June 2025 Australia New Zealand Emergency Management Committee (ANZEMC) meeting that outlines the final recommendations of the **Register.Find.Reunite. (RFR)** Time Limited Working Group.

- The Paper identifies that the RFR Time Limited Working Group was unable to agree on a single national capability to address registration and reunification requirements.
- The RFR Time Limited Working Group agreed that NSW, QLD, VIC, NT and WA will continue to fund RFR while they individually scope alternative capabilities and to amend State arrangements where RFR is listed.
- While Communities is supportive of funding of RFR beyond 2024-25, Communities is taking proactive steps in response to the RFR Time Limited Working Group recommendation to move away from RFR as a national solution.
- Communities will commence a project to assess current RFR capability and explore alternative solutions that may assist the Department to meet its Registration and Reunification' functional responsibilities under the State Support Plan – Emergency Relief and Support.
- It is anticipated that any new capability may require additional funding beyond the current financial commitment for RFR, particularly in the absence of national cost- sharing under the existing arrangements.

Long Term Accommodation

- In 2015 the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) identified a policy gap regarding medium to long-term emergency accommodation.
- The State Support Plan – Emergency Relief and Support outlines communities' responsibility for emergency accommodation which internal policy defines as 21 days.
- State and local government agencies have coordinated medium to long-term accommodation solutions for impacted residents following the Wooroloo Bushfire

Local ERS contacts

(2021), Tropical Cyclone Seroja (2021) and the Kimberley Floods (2023), however the State Emergency Management Framework does not prescribe a responsible agency for medium to long-term emergency accommodation.

- In 2024, Communities (Emergency Relief and Support) and DFES Recovery coordinated a multi-agency working group to improve the State's capability and preparedness in providing post-disaster accommodation which has involved three sub- projects.
- Communities is coordinating a sub-project to progress and define a state policy position for medium to long-term temporary accommodation.
- Communities has engaged Nous Group to prepare a policy proposition for the State.

Recovery

National Review of Recovery Handbook and Principles

- The Social Recovery reference group is currently reviewing the National Principles of Disaster Recovery.
- The National Principles for Disaster Recovery create a set of fundamental underlying truths that form the foundation of our knowledge and values and guide actions and practice.
- The principles review will complement the Australia Institute for Disaster Resilience review of the Community Recovery Handbook.
- ERS welcomes the review and has registered interest to support both reviews and circulate information with their partners and colleagues to support a comprehensive guide .

OFFICER RECOMMENDED RESOLUTION

LEMC 06-25 MOVED - Cr Tyrrell Gardiner SECONDED - Mr Stephen Loiterton

THAT the Local Emergency Management Committee recommends that Council accepts the Local Emergency Relief and Support Plan for the South West Region (Appendix LEMC 8.1.2).

CARRIED

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

8.2.6 WA Country Health Service – Mr. Glenn Gatesl

8.2.7 Main Roads WA – Mr Bruce Hancock

Discussion:

Mr Bruce Hancock said that Local Governments requested maps, Bruce provided maps for everyone and will send an electronic document to everyone too.

8.2.8 Department of Transport – Mr Peter Westgate

8.2.9 Water Corporation – Mr Steve Collins

8.2.10 Western Power – Mr Scott Fitzgerald

8.2.11 Aqwest – Mr Andrew Cove

8.2.12 St John Ambulance WA – Mr Chris Smith

8.2.13 Telstra – Ms Debra Leverington

8.2.14 Atco Gas – Mr Mick Sheaf

8.2.15 Moore Road Emergency Response Group – Mr Graeme Offer

8.2.16 Harvey Water – Mr Cameron Norris

None.

10 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Chairperson advises that the next date of the Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting will be advised.

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 10:11am.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

"As the person presiding at the meeting at which these Minutes were confirmed on 13 August 2025, I certify that these Minutes have been confirmed as a true and accurate recording of proceedings".

Signature:



Email:

Lynell.gordon@darclandp.wa.gov.au