



MINUTES

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Held

8th February 2023

At

Shire of Dardanup
Administration Centre Eaton
1 Council Drive - EATON

This document is available in alternative formats such as:

~ Large Print

~ Electronic Format [disk or emailed]

Upon request.

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. M T Bennett - Elected Member - Chairperson
- Cr. E Lilly - Elected Member
- Cr. P Perks – Elected Member (Proxy)
- 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 – Department of Transport
- 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

Terms of Reference

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

COUNCIL ROLE

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

DISCLAIMER

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

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

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

SHIRE OF DARDANUP**MINUTES OF THE SHIRE OF DARDANUP LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2023, AT SHIRE OF DARDANUP – EATON ADMINISTRATION CENTRE, COMMENCING AT 10.00AM.****1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENTS OF VISITORS**

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

Acknowledgement of Country

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

Affirmation of Civic Duty and Responsibility

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

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

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

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

Emergency Procedure

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

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES

2.1 Attendance

Cr Michael Bennett	-	Shire President (Chairperson)
Snr Sgt Heath Soutar	-	WA Police (Australind) (Deputy Chairperson)
Cr Patricia Perks	-	Elected Member
Mr Stephen Loiterton	-	Coordinator – Emergency & Ranger Services
Mr John Carter	-	Department Fire & Emergency Services
Mr Andy Smith	-	Western Power
Ms Roma Boucher	-	Department of Communities
Mr Graeme Offer	-	Moore Road Emergency Response Group – <i>Via Teams</i>
Mr Dave Smith	-	Main Roads WA – <i>Via Teams</i>
Mr Steve Collins	-	Water Corporation – <i>Via Teams</i>
Mr Ian Prosser	-	Aqwest – <i>Via Teams</i>

2.2 Observers

Mr André Schönfeldt	-	Chief Executive Officer
Mr Murray Connell	-	Executive Manager Development Services
Mrs Amanda Tuberes	-	PA Director Special Projects & Community
Mrs Michelle Dennis	-	Environmental Health Officer
Mrs Erin Hutchins	-	Department of Fire & Emergency Services

2.3 Apologies

Cr Ellen Lilly	-	Elected Member
Ms Renee Flaxman	-	Department of Communities
Sgt Chris Page	-	WA Police (Capel)
Mr Matt Cooper	-	DBCA – Parks and Wildlife Service
Mr Tim Stevens	-	Dept of Primary Industries & Regional Development
Mr Charles Wilkes	-	St Johns Ambulance WA
Ms Debra Leverington	-	Telstra
Ms Leigh Hall	-	WA Country Health Service
Mr Mick Sheaf	-	Atco Gas
Mr Peter Westgate	-	Department of Transport
Ms Hannah Powell	-	Shire of Dardanup Emergency Management Officer

3 PRESENTATIONS

None.

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting Held 9th November 2022

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

LEM 01-23 MOVED - Mr John Carter SECONDED – Cr P R Perks

THAT the Minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held on 9th November 2022, be confirmed as true and correct subject to no corrections.

CARRIED

5 ANNOUNCEMENTS OF MATTERS FOR WHICH MEETING MAY BE CLOSED

None.

6 QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

None.

7 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Discussion:

Chairperson, Cr. M T Bennett asked the Committee members if there were any Declarations of Interest to be made.

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

8 REPORTS OF OFFICERS

8.1 Title: Update Report from Shire of Dardanup

Reporting Department: *Sustainable Development*
Reporting Officer: *Mr Stephen Loiterton - Coordinator Emergency & Ranger Services*
Legislation: *Local Government Act 1995*
 Emergency Management Act 2005

8.1.1 Staff Changes

The Shire has welcomed two new staff within Emergency and Ranger Services:

- Stephen Loiterton has taken on the Coordinator role, for the next 12 months, while Erin Hutchins explores emergency management from a broader perspective.
- Hannah Powell has taken on the Emergency Management Officer position.

Stephen and Hannah will also be filling the Local Recovery Coordinator Role (unless/until the CEO appoints another during an emergency). We are in the process of seeking additional redundancy for the role.

8.1.2 Mitigation Activity Funding

The Shire has been successful in gaining a grant through Round 2 of the 2022-2023 Bushfire Mitigation Activity Fund (MAF) for \$195,370.00 to complete 11 treatments to identified areas at risk of bushfire, through mechanical works and planned burns. The new Bushfire Risk Mitigation Coordinator (BRMC) has commenced work on managing and implementing the program of treatments.

8.1.3 LGIS Enquiry on Legal Standing of Established Brigades

LGIS sought confirmation that the Shire's bushfire brigades have been established in accordance with Local Laws in accordance with the *Bush Fire Act 1954*. The Shire's Local Laws relating to the matter exists and is published on the Shire's website.

8.1.4 Bushfire Response

The Shire provided support for our Bushfire Brigades that responded to fires in Dardanup and also the large fires east of Donnybrook in mid-January.

8.1.5 Bushfire Preparedness

The Shire has completed, in mid-January, the first round of inspection of firebreaks to monitor compliance with the Fire Prevention Order. A second round of inspections has now commenced, and is anticipated to be complete by the first week of February. In general, compliance with the order has been very good.

8.2 Title: Agency Reports – Various

Reporting Department: Various

Reporting Officer: Various

*Legislation: Local Government Act 1995
Emergency Management Act 2005*

(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.

◇ **WA Police**

Senior Sergeant Heath Soutar advised that the Australind station was continuing to deal with staffing shortages and had recently had two officers injured in an incident. Increased population growth in both Dardanup and Harvey continues and their Station is providing support to the community to the best of their ability. There had been no emergency incidents to report.

◇ **Department of Fire & Emergency Services – District Emergency Management Advisor**

Ms Erin Hutchins has provided the following report:

The **State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC)** met on 5 December 2022. [SEMC Communique](#) is provided in Appendix 8.2A.

2023 SEMC MEETING SCHEDULE

- 8 March 2023
- 3 May 2023
- 2 August 2023
- 4 October 2023
- 6 December 2023

STATE CONSULTATION REQUESTS

Draft Western Australian Emergency Management Capability Framework

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) State Capability Team has completed a comprehensive review of the current State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) Emergency Management Capability Framework. The review has been supported by an extensive consultation process with subject matter experts, including representatives from across the emergency management sector. A draft Western Australian Emergency Management Capability Framework has been developed to be contemporary with emergency management best practice and consistent with users' evolving needs.

Please refer to the Consultation Information below for information about the consultation process as well as instructions on how to submit feedback.

Please submit your feedback by COB Friday 3 March 2023.

Draft Local Emergency Management Committee Handbook

The Department of Fire and Emergency Management (DFES) State Emergency Management (EM) Policy branch is conducting this consultation regarding a new resource to assist local government and Local Emergency Management Committee's (LEMCs) to meet their legislative requirements under the Emergency Management Act 2005 (EM Act).

The LEMC Handbook has been developed by the DFES District Emergency Management Advisors to assist the LEMC members, to work towards a standardised approach to the administration and operation of LEMC's across Western Australia (WA). The handbook supports the State EM Procedure section 3.7.

Please refer to the Consultation Information below for information about the consultation process as well as instructions on how to submit feedback.

Please submit your feedback by COB Tuesday 18 April 2023.

Consultation Information

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

On the State Emergency Management Policy Branch [Consultation Homepage](#) you can view all current consultations, including the draft [Western Australian Emergency Management Capability Framework](#) and draft [Local Emergency Management Committee Handbook](#).

On this page you will be able to:

- View information about the consultation process
- Download and view the draft Framework and LEMC Handbook
- Submit your feedback

If you experience any difficulties with accessing Social Pinpoint or have any other questions, please contact us on SEMC.policylegislation@dfes.wa.gov.au. As we continue to trial Social Pinpoint, we would also appreciate your feedback on this platform. You can share your thoughts and experiences in the 'Feedback on the use of Social Pinpoint' at the bottom of the page.

Community Disaster Resilience Strategy for Western Australia

Following consultation on the WA Community Disaster Resilience Strategy Discussion Paper that occurred between 13 October 2021 and 31 March 2022, a draft Strategy has been developed and contains the following:

- Guiding Principles
- Key Objectives and Outcomes
- Initiatives and Opportunities

The draft Strategy is now available for comment and is available for review and download [here](#).

Feedback is invited, with a particular focus on:

- Do the guiding principles capture the core considerations for achieving community disaster resilience?

- Do the key objectives and outcomes represent the right outcomes for a community? Are they practical to guide monitoring and evaluation of projects and activities?
- How likely are you to progress any of the initiatives and opportunities?
- How likely are you to integrate or use the Strategy to guide your organisation's activities?
- Is there anything else you would like to see the Strategy address?

Feedback can be provided via email to resilience@dfes.wa.gov.au

The consultation period will remain open until **3 March 2023**.

2022 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS REPORT

The SEMC approved the 2022 Emergency Preparedness Report (the Report) at its December 2022 meeting. The Report provides a snapshot of WA's preparedness to prevent, respond to, and recover from significant hazardous events, with data collected from 152 organisations with various roles in emergency management. The Report will be submitted to the Minister for Emergency Services before being published on the SEMC website.

The DFES State Capability Team has developed individual emergency management capability summaries for specific local governments (LGs). These summaries have been endorsed through the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC).

The summaries are based on each LG's responses to the 2022 Annual and Preparedness Capability Survey. They provide an overview of the LG's EM capability in 2022, focusing on areas of highest capability and the aspects that may require more attention. The summaries are not public release documents. They are provided to each LG and are hopeful these are a useful resource to support your EM work.

DISTRICT NEWS

The next meeting of the **District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC)** will be held on Tuesday 21 March 2023.

LOCAL NEWS

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

A copy of the Local Emergency Management Arrangements – Status Report is provided in Appendix 8.2B. Please check the due date for the five-yearly LEMA reviews and allow a minimum of six months to complete the LEMA review process.

GRANT PROGRAM UPDATES

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) oversees the distribution of grant funding to support activities that reduce disaster risk and enhance WA's resilience to disasters.

National Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) grant

The National Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) grants program makes more than \$12 million available over five years (2019–2024) to eligible organisations for projects that reduce disaster risk in Western Australia.

The NDRR grant program will make about \$2.5 million available in 2023 for projects that reduce disaster risk in Western Australia. Projects must contribute to achieving the objectives of the [National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework \(NDRRF\)](#) and the [WA Implementation Plan for the NDRRF](#) by reducing risks associated with at least one natural hazard. To be eligible, projects must reduce disaster risk and improve community resilience, rather than contributing to disaster relief, response, or recovery activities.

Organisations that are eligible to apply for NDRR grants are:

- local governments
- state government agencies
- government trading entities
- incorporated organisations
- not-for-profit organisations.

Projects with localised outcomes may apply for between \$10,000 and \$250,000 grant funding; there is no cap on funding for projects with State or sector-wide significance. Applicants must contribute at least 50 per cent of the total project cost in cash or in-kind.

Applications for the next round of the NDRR grant program will open on 24 April 2023 and close on 29 May 2023. Assessments will take place in July 2023 with an anticipated announcement date in September 2023.

All West Australians Reducing Emergencies (AWARE) program

AWARE is an initiative of the Western Australian Government that invests in building capacity and preparedness activities at a local level, through a competitive grant. Only local governments are eligible to apply for an AWARE grant.

The 2023 AWARE grant round will distribute a total of \$200,000 for projects to:

- further the emergency risk management process
- facilitate capability-based exercises
- assist in reviewing Local Emergency Management Arrangements
- deliver emergency management training
- host or facilitate emergency management events or forums.

Projects may apply for between \$2,500 and \$30,000 grant funding. Local level risk assessment projects can request a maximum of \$4,000. Applicants must contribute 25 per cent of the total project cost in cash or in-kind. A local government may submit multiple projects for funding.

Local governments are encouraged to collaborate and submit joint applications.

Applications for next round of the AWARE grant program will open on 16 August and close on 20 September 2023. Assessments will take place in October 2023 with an anticipated announcement date in January 2024.

The SEMC endorsed a two-year schedule for both grant programs. See below for the 2024-2025 grant program dates;

Year	2024-25	
Program	NDRR	AWARE
Round Open	25 April 2024	16 August 2024
Round Close	29 May 2024	20 September 2024
Assessment	3 July 2024	25 October 2024
Anticipated announcement	September 2024	January 2025

Information on funding opportunities can be found [here](#).

Please contact semc.grants@dfes.wa.gov.au for further information on the grant programs.

Discussion:

Mr André Schönfeldt advised that after discussions with other Local Governments in the area, a joint submission would be made on behalf of six Local Governments under the Bunbury Geographie Region to DFES in relation to the Disaster Readiness Fund.

Mr Stephen Loiterton advised that the Shire's AWARE submission for running an internal welfare plan exercise was progressing.

◇ Department of Fire & Emergency Services – John Carter

John Carter provided the below verbal report:

Bushfire Season 2022/23

It has been an active bushfire season with a number of small to medium bush across the South West Region. A significant lightning event on the night of Monday 9th January caused over 35 fires in the South West Region. A rapid response by all brigades/groups/units (BGUs) and agencies ensured that the impacts of the fires was kept to a minimum with no reported losses as a result. The lightning event caused a number of fires in adjoining DFES regions which BGUs supported over a number of days. Thank-you to all the volunteers and agencies for their response so far, over the bushfire season.

Kimberley Flood

Ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie crossed into Western Australia from the Northern Territory on 28 December 2022, as a slow moving tropical low. The low slowly tracked west across the Kimberley region resulting in significant rainfall and major flooding across the region. Several towns and communities, the road network and other infrastructure and local industry have been severely impacted. Thank you to those volunteers and agencies who have assisted in this protracted response and recovery operation which is likely to extend into several months.

Climate Outlook (issued 2 February 2023)

- For February to April, much of the country has close to equal chances of above and below median rainfall, but with a chance (60 to 70%) of below median rainfall on the west coast and some parts of inland Australia. Above median rainfall is moderately likely (60 to 70% chance) for Tasmania, the eastern Top End, and northern Cape York Peninsula.
- February to April maximum temperatures are likely to very likely (60% to greater than 80% chance) to be warmer than median for large parts of Western Australia, southern Queensland, and Tasmania, and moderately likely (60 to 70% chance) for parts of the northern and southern coasts and central Australia. There is a chance of below median maximum temperatures (65 to 75% chance) for areas of coastal New South Wales and eastern Victoria.
- February to April minimum temperatures are likely to very likely (greater than 70% chance) to be warmer than median across most of the country, but chances are close to average for areas of inland southern mainland Australia.

DFES Staffing Changes

There have been a number of staff changes in the DFES South West Office:

- District Emergency Management Advisor – Erin Hutchins has been seconded to the role for 12 months while Vik Cheema has taken up an opportunity to work with the Australian Defence Force in Townsville, Queensland.
- Community Preparedness Advisor – Haley Hibbitt has been permanently appointed to the CPA role following Sandi Cheema’s resignation last year.
- District Officer Wellington – Garry McAneny has been seconded to the role for 12 months while Brett Finlay is seconded to the Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development.
- Volunteer Management Support Officer – Leticia Craig has been seconded to assist Michelle Wells in the VMSO role.

WA Tsunami Inundation Modelling Project

DFES together with Geoscience Australia has commenced Stage 2 of the WA Tsunami Inundation Modelling Project. In 2023 modelling will be completed for the area Bunbury to Busselton with the end product being a series of inundation maps for each local government area. DFES will work with the LGs during the production of these maps.

◇ Department of Communities

Ms Roma Boucher attended on behalf of Ms Renee Flaxman who has been deployed to the Kimberley. Further to the report that Renee provided, Roma provided a verbal update on the relief effort in the Kimberley:

- Kimberley Floods - The Department of Communities (Communities) is providing emergency welfare services to residents impacted by the Kimberley floods. As of 1 February 2023:
 - Communities is operating three Flood Help Centres (Broome, Fitzroy Crossing and Derby).

- 136 people are in Communities' supported emergency accommodation in Broome and Derby.
 - Since opening the Disaster Relief Hotline on the 11 January 2023 until COB 1 February 2023, Communities has responded to a total of 773 calls.
 - 189 people have been repatriated.
 - 288 people have been assisted to relocate to alternative safe locations.
 - 750 properties spanning 17 remote communities and the Fitzroy Crossing town have had electrical safety assessments completed (or currently underway).
 - Communities is providing rent relief to public housing tenants in Fitzroy Crossing and tenants in impacted remote Aboriginal communities following the floods.
 - Communities is planning medium to long term accommodation options for people whose homes are uninhabitable due to the floods.
- Medium to Long term Accommodation – The SEMC has asked Communities to lead a cross-agency working group to prepare an issues paper about Government responsibilities for medium and long-term accommodation following an emergency.

Ms Renee Flaxman provided the following report:

- On the 2nd January the Department of Communities set up an evacuation centre at Fitzroy Crossing Recreation Centre to assist impacted residents where over 100 community members were provided with immediate supports, including accommodation, food, and personal requisites such as clothing and access to support services. As of 24th January we've supported the relocation of 199 people from Fitzroy Crossing.
- To further strengthen our support for community residents a Community Information Centre in Broome, a Flood Help Centre in Derby, and a Disaster Response Hotline were also opened, receiving over 400 calls since 11th January. We currently have over 85 staff directly supporting the operational response in the Kimberley.
- On the 4th January the Department of Communities was activated to stand up an evacuation Centre at the Recreation Centre in Donnybrook for the Thompson Brook Bushfire. This was followed on the 10th January by a second activation with the Donnybrook Complex Fires, with the Recreation Centre again stood up as well as a second Centre being opened at the Boyup Brook Hall in Boyup Brook. A third activation was triggered on the 14th of January with the Noggerup Fire in Donnybrook, where the Recreation Centre was again opened as an evacuation centre.

The new Emergency Services DESO vehicle and kit, was put to use for the first time during these activation and worked extremely well. It allowed the DESO to travel directly to the Centre with enough equipment to set up, allowing staff time to gather extra equipment, trailer etc before heading to the centre to assist. New trailer was deployed to Boyup Brook to provide equipment there if needed, and extra equipment was ready to be sent from our Bunbury shed if needed.

The coming months will see further training being provided to new staff and those that need refresher training. Shire staff and other stakeholders wishing to participate in training are welcome and encouraged.

◇ Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Mr Tim Stevens provided the following report:

Tim advised that as the DPIRD LEMC Representative for the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup, and the DPIRD Local First Response Team (FRT) have been providing support with regards to animal welfare to both the Shire of Donnybrook and DFES/DBCA as the HMA's for the Donnybrook complex fire response.

1. Declared incidents – DPIRD is managing:

- Six (6) plant pest/disease level 1 and 2 Incidents.
- Nil animal pest/disease incidents.

Polyphagous shot-hole borer

Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB) *Euwallacea fornicatus* is a beetle native to Southeast Asia. The beetle attacks a wide range of plants by tunnelling into trunks, stems and branches.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development has been responding to the confirmed detections of an exotic beetle Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer in the Perth metropolitan area. Response activities include:

- Conducting surveillance to determine the distribution of PSHB.
- Containing the pest to prevent further spread to non-infested regions within Western Australia.
- Providing advice and information to residents, industry and other stakeholders.
- Ensuring that all response activities are conducted safely, consistently and efficiently.

Link to information about [Polyphagous shot-hole borer | Agriculture and Food](#)

Varroa Mite – DPIRD has been providing support to the NSW Department of Primary Industries which is managing an incursion of Varroa Mite in NSW. Varroa mites (*Varroa jacobsoni* and *V. destructor*) are the most serious pest of honey bees worldwide.

Link to information about [Varroa Mite \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

2. State alerts and investigations

DPIRD is investigating a further three (3) pests and diseases.

3. National alerts & investigations

DPIRD and other state jurisdictions continue to monitor reported outbreaks of:

- **African Swine Fever** – FAO situation update in Asia and Pacific dated 27 October 2022 advised ASF reported countries since August 2018: China, Mongolia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, The Philippines, Republic of Korea, Timor-Leste, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, India, Malaysia, Bhutan, Thailand, Nepal.

Link to information about African Swine Fever: <https://www.fao.org/animal-health/situation-updates/asf-in-asia-pacific/en>

- **Lumpy Skin Disease** – Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand and Malaysia
- **Foot and Mouth Disease** – Indonesia

Information regarding Foot and Mouth Disease revention is available on the WA government website: [Foot-and-mouth disease advice for Western Australians \(www.wa.gov.au\)](#)

Information is also available on the DPIRD website:

[Foot-and-mouth disease: prevention and preparedness | Agriculture and Food](#)

Avian Influenza High Pathogenicity

Avian influenza (AI) is a highly contagious viral disease that affects both domestic and wild birds. AI viruses have also been isolated, although less frequently, from mammalian species, including humans. This complex disease is caused by viruses divided into multiple subtypes (i.e. H5N1, H5N3, H5N8 etc.) whose genetic characteristics rapidly evolve.

The disease occurs worldwide but different subtypes are more prevalent in certain regions than others.

<https://www.woah.org/en/disease/avian-influenza/#ui-id-2>

NB: There are currently no known incidences of these diseases in Australia.

4. Kimberley Flooding – January 2023

DPIRD is providing support in the response to, and recovery from, flooding in the west Kimberley.

Response:

As at the date of this report, DPIRD has:

- activated the State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies (link to State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies [State Support Plan Animal Welfare in Emergencies | Western Australian Government \(www.wa.gov.au\)](#)).
- been coordinating the response to animal welfare issues including the feeding of livestock.
- liaison officers on the Kimberley Operational Support Group (OASG) and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services State Operations Centre (DFES SOC).

Recovery:

DPIRD:

- has a representative on the State Recovery Coordination Group (SRCG).
- will provide an officer to the Local Recovery Coordination Group (LRCG) and relevant subcommittees, as required.
- will facilitate available grants to primary producers in accordance with the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements WA (DRFAWA).

DRFAWA:

Assistance measures for primary producers include reimbursement grants for Category B:

- Professional advice
- Freight subsidy
- Fencing (for livestock producers only)
- Expression of Interest for interest subsidy on a new loan to recover

Link to further information regarding available funding and relevant conditions:

<https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/emergency-response/disaster-recovery-funding-arrangements>

5. Severe Tropical Cyclone Seroja (Recovery)

DPIRD, through its Rural Business Development Unit, is managing Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements WA assistance to primary producers impacted by TC Seroja.

DRFAWA Category B and C assistance:

To 31 December 2022, the Department has approved:

- 23 applications for Category B assistance totalling \$357,688.44
- 102 applications for Category C assistance totalling \$2,163,798.55

6. Southwest Land Division Fires:

DPIRD District Recovery Coordinator, Rob Cossart, continues to work with the Corrigin and Narrogin Local Governments and communities recovering from the bushfires which occurred in early February 2022.

On 13 October 2022, DPIRD Executive Director Biosecurity, Dr Mia Carbon, presented at Recovery Meetings in Corrigin and Wickepin about the department's role in emergency management, including its role in coordinating animal welfare in emergencies under the State Support Plan.

Natural Hazards High Season on call officers

DPIRD has staff on call during the Natural Hazard High Season – 1 November to 31 March annually.

Incident and Emergency Management Branch On Call Coordinator

Incident and Emergency Management Branch staff members fulfil the role of On Call Coordinator from 1 November to 31 March annually.

The IEMB On Call Coordinator supports local DPIRD staff

- by monitoring weather conditions and incidents and emergencies across the state.
- in their role on an Incident Support Group or Operational Area Support Group.
- who undertake a role on a First Response Team.

Regionally-based on call officers – 24 December 2022 to 16 January 2023

Regionally-based officers fulfil an on call role by:

- monitoring regional weather conditions and incidents and emergencies in their region
- participating on an Incident Support Group or Operational Area Support Group

DPIRD on call operates:

Monday to Sunday – **7 am to 8 pm**

Training – internal

DPIRD has developed new online emergency management training for staff:

- Animal Welfare in Emergencies.
- Overview of the WA Impact Statement and Recovery Arrangements.

DPIRD's role in emergency management

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development plays an important role in emergency management in Western Australia.

- Hazard Management Agency (HMA) for animal and plant biosecurity with responsibilities across prevention/mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. Link to State Hazard

Plan – Animal and Plant Biosecurity: [State Hazard Plan Animal and Plant Biosecurity \(www.wa.gov.au\)](http://www.wa.gov.au).

- Provision of support to other HMAs by:
 - coordinating animal welfare for other hazard emergencies including bushfires, cyclones and floods;
 - contributing to the Controlling Agency’s impact statement in relation to impacts to primary industries (where an impact statement is required)
 - managing eligible assistance for primary producers under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements WA and providing advice to primary producers in relation to this funding.

Animal Welfare in Emergencies

Local governments are encouraged to develop a plan for animal welfare in emergencies (PAWE) which forms part of the local emergency management arrangements (LEMA).

For tools and resources to assist local governments to develop a local PAWE [click here](#) and for assistance in completing the PAWE template, speak to your LEMC or DEMC representative/s.

Discussion:

Mrs Michelle Dennis, Shire of Dardanup Environmental Health & COVID Officer, raised a query in relation to the DPIRD report and the lack of information regarding the Japanese Encephalitis Virus. Attempts have been made to receive an update on the current situation from DPIRD, however, information has not been forthcoming. It was requested that the LEMC seek an update from DPIRD.

The Chairperson, M T Bennett put forward a motion that the LEMC writes to DPIRD:

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEM 02-23 MOVED - Cr M T Bennett SECONDED – Cr P R Perks

THAT the Shire of Dardanup Local Emergency Management Committee write to the Department of Primary Industries & Regional Development seeking an update on the Japanese Encephalitis Virus and provide the update back to the Local Emergency Management Committee.

CARRIED

◇ Main Roads WA

Mr Dave Smith advised that the documented process for handing roads back to Main Roads after an incident (eg fire) was updated in December 2022. The revised document is available on the SEMC website.

He also noted that some residents during the recent Donnybrook area fire emergencies were more aggressive and less compliant at adhering to control points.

◇ **Water Corporation**

Mr Steve Collins advised there was nothing to report, just an increase in water requirements, which is typical for this time of year.

◇ **Western Power**

Mr Andy Smith advised there was nothing to report. They are dealing with the usual network struggles with the heat. He noted that he thought restoration went well after the Donnybrook fires and was seeking any further feedback from DFES.

Discussion:

Mr John Carter advised that there should be a post incident review held regarding the Donnybrook fire, where any feedback would be provided.

◇ **Aqwest**

Mr Ian Prosser had nothing to report.

◇ **Moore Road Emergency Response Group**

Mr Graeme Offer advised that due to current workloads, they have had to push back their planned Emergency Exercise from March to May.

Discussion:

Senior Sergeant Heath Soutar advised that Sergeant Chris Page from the Capel Police Station sends his apologies for not attending the meeting and there was nothing to report from Capel.

9 MATTERS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

None.

10 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Chairperson advises that the next date of the Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting will be Wednesday 10 May 2023 at 10.00 am at the Shire of Dardanup – Administration Centre Eaton.

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 10.29 am.