



Local Emergency Management Committee

Minutes | 8th September 2022

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SHIRE OF QUAIRADING

Local Emergency Management Committee

The minutes from the Local Emergency Management Committee meeting held 8th September 2022.

ITEM 1 OPENING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting and declared the meeting open at 4.30pm.

“Before we start our meeting, I would like to acknowledge that we are meeting on Noongar/Ballardong land and we pay respect to the original custodians...past, present and future and welcome you all here today for this meeting”.

ITEM 2 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

2.1 Attendance

Cr Peter Smith	Shire President/Chairperson
Cr Trevor Stacey	Deputy Shire President
Nicole Gibbs	Chief Executive Officer
Yvette Grigg	DFES – District Emergency Management Advisor
Diana Ellison	HSM Quairading Hospital
Sgt Annette Herod	OIC Quairading Police
Sharon Cutts	Quairading CO-OP Manager
Joanne Reimers	Department of Communities
Ashley Blake	Quairading Central BFB and Quairading VFRS
Nigel Gelmi	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Saskia Korzonek	Volunteer Fire & Rescue Services
Kelsie Squiers	Quairading District High School Principal
Yvonne Emmanuel	St John Ambulance – Quairading
Gerard Monks	St John Ambulance – Quairading
Sarah Caporn	Executive Manager, Works & Services, Shire of Quairading

2.2 Observers

Nil.

2.3 Apologies

Simon Bell	Community Emergency Services Manager
Britt Hadlow	Executive Officer
Justin Corrigan	Department of Fire & Emergency Services
Pauline Wray	Quairading District High School Principal
Trevor Sandercock	St John Ambulance – Quairading
Brett Ingles	Quairading Police
Jo Spadaccini	Department of Communities
Drew Richardson	St John Ambulance

ITEM 3 DEPUTATIONS / PRESENTATIONS / SUBMISSIONS

Nil.

ITEM 4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 Confirmation of Minutes – 10th March 2022

Recommendation

MOVED Cr Stacey **SECONDED** Ms Korzonek

That the minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee meeting held on 09 June 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

4.2 Business Arising

ITEM 5 CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 Inward

No inward correspondence has been received.

5.2 Outward

There has been no outgoing correspondence.

ITEM 6 STANDING ITEMS

6.1 Update of Contacts

A contact list was emailed to everyone and a hard copy was passed around the meeting for members to update their contact information.

6.2 Training Dates/Exercises

Emergency Management Exercise – Shackleton Complex

Ms Grigg spoke to the exercise held in the Avon area in Northam on Thursday 1st September 2022. This was a joint exercise inclusive of the local governments of:

- Beverley
- Cunderdin
- Goomalling
- Northam
- Quairading
- Tammin
- Toodyay
- York

There were 55 participants on the day, including CEOs, Shire Presidents and DEMC representatives.

Ms Grigg is working on clusters of local governments that will work together to share resourcing and plans to build more resilient communities. The first cluster will be mainly the towns in the Wheatbelt listed above with a focus on the Shackleton complex and focusing on community preparation pre-fire (or other community emergency).

Areas such as evacuation communication strategies and recovery were the focus of the exercise, rather than the response to an emergency.

Prior to the training Ms Grigg presented on climate change and how this is effecting emergency situations such as fires and cyclones.

Ms Grigg has prepared a report which is in draft form and which will be disseminated once complete.

Cr Stacey stated that the training was important and informative.

LEMC Meeting Training

It had previously been suggested that during the LEMC meeting small desktop/theory exercises could be run, inclusive of a “hot debrief” following. This would take no more than one hour for the exercise and would be based on section of the LEMA for example:

- Communications
- Evacuation
- Incident support groups
- Initial actions
- Recovery – general
- Welfare Centres

Ms Grigg advised that there are existing modules which could be used and that Mr Corrigan may be receptive to facilitating the training. It was agreed that the Communications module would be run at the December LEMC Meeting.

The Shire of Quairading risk register is also due for review inclusive of holding risk workshops as the last workshops that were held were as follows:

- Bushfire – 3rd September 2015
- Earthquake – 10th December 2015
- Storm – 16th June 2016
- Flood – 1st June 2017

A list of hazards was attached to the agenda for discussion on what the primary hazards are for the Shire of Quairading that should be workshopped.

The list can be found here: <https://semc.wa.gov.au/state-risk-project/hazards>, or Attachment (i).

Ms Grigg said that risk responses were currently being reviewed internally by DFES. Once complete the information would be made available to local governments. However, as there is not an ETA on when the documents will be completed, it may be appropriate for Quairading to review the risks with Ms Griggs facilitating the session. Ms Gibbs was receptive to the proposal, raising concern that the bushfire risks had not been reviewed since 2015.

6.3 Local Emergency Management Arrangements

The Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) for the Shire of Quairading has been the subject of a major review in 2022. The final document has more detailed information than the previous document, though it is easier to follow due to being divided into sections.

Cr Smith suggested inserted ‘power outages’ into the document as a hazard due to the continuous outages across the Wheatbelt and, more recently, the five out of nine day black out across the Shire of Quairading (August 2022). There was unanimous agreement.

Cr Smith asked for comment, suggested amendments and/or discussion on the LEMA document.

Ms Ellison spoke to the recent power outages across the Shire of Quairading and said she was representing the views of the Western Australian Country Health Services (WACHS). As a result of the outages, both the hospital and the aged care facility suffered with medical equipment not working and no communications (no phones, no faxes, no email and no Internet). Of the highest concern, Ms Ellison was unable to contact the RFDS or St Johns.

Mr Blake spoke on behalf of the VFRS, stating the VFRS had no communications and could not even open the electronic roller door to get the fore appliance out of the shed. The result was no response or decreased response times.

ITEM 7 AGENCY UPDATES

Cr Smith put forward the following motion:

“That the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) be adopted by the LEMC, subject to the insertion of ‘power outages’ as a hazard.”

MOVED Mr Gelmi SECONDED Ms Korzonek

The motion was carried unanimously.

7.1 WA Police

Srg Annette Herrod

Srg Herrod said that coming into harvest, there would be a Police focus on heavy road haulage and associated compliance issues. There were no major incidents to report since the June 2022 LEMC Meeting.

7.2 St John Ambulance

Gerard Monks

Mr Monks advised that COVID continued to provide challenges in terms of the recruitment and movement of staff.

7.3 Fire and Emergency Services

Yvette Grigg

Ms Grigg advised that the endorsed DEMC Strategy enabled agencies to assist LEMC to streamline and improve training (e.g. through joint activities). The LEMC Guidelines were in final draft form and would be disseminated once complete.

7.4 Quairading Volunteer Fire & Rescue

Saskia Korzonek

The VFRS have a good group of volunteers at the moment. Though they could always do with more, the group they have is turning up for meetings and trainings which is good to see. The team is running well at the moment.

7.5 Quairading CO-OP

Sharon Cutts

Ms Cutts advised that the new CRISP satellite phones were being used during blackouts.

7.6 Department of Communities

Joanne Reimers

Ms Reimers said the Department was preparing the Local Emergency Welfare Plan and that this would be complete in the foreseeable future.

7.7 Department of Education

Kelsie Squiers

Ms Squiers said that during the power outages, the school reverted back to “talk and chalk.” The school would manage no matter what challenges were put in front of them.

7.8 Department of Health

Diana Ellison

Ms Ellison advised that some onerous COVID-related processes had been relaxed, with the exception of aged care.

Telstra provided a disgraceful service with continual outages. All phones at the hospital were on data lines and the hospital was often left without communications.

RATS tests were available from the hospital if required.

Staffing continued to be a major issue with two thirds of staff at the hospital being agency staff.

7.9 Local Government (inc. Bush Fire Brigades)

Cr Peter Smith

Mr Smith advised attendees that the Shire had been, and continued to be, engaged in a political and media strategy in an attempt to have the State Government provide a microgrid to Quairading to resolve the continuous power outage issue. To date, the campaign was consider to be successful.

Nigel Gelmi

Ms Gelmi advised that the Midland Volunteers Leaders Forum had been interesting, with a useful range of subjects.

ITEM 9 URGENT BUSINESS

Yvette Grigg

Ms Grigg advised members that on the 13 October 2022 a Wheatbelt and Great Southern forum would be held in Quairading by the respective DEMAs. The Shackleton fires had highlighted boundary issues between Bruce Rock and Corrigin. This boundary was recognised and used by Main Roads, Western Power, Police and DEFES and had caused issues during the fires which needed to be resolved. The forum would also include a focus on the impact of climate change, resilience and communications. Seven local governments would attend.

ITEM 10 NEXT MEETING DATES

Quarterly Meetings – 4.30pm Commencement

Quarterly Meetings accepted by the committee at the December 2021 meeting;

1st December 2022

ITEM 11 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Chairperson closed the Meeting at 5.11 pm.

The Chairperson thanked everyone for attending the meeting and said that it is important to make the LEMC is a strong functioning committee so in the event of an emergency the LEMC is properly prepared for our community.