



Shire of
Narrogin

MINUTES

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (LEMC)

15 March 2022

The Chief Executive Officer recommends the endorsement of these minutes at the next Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting

Signed:

Date 22 March 2022

These minutes were confirmed at the Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held on 22 March 2022

Signed:

(Presiding Person at the meeting at which minutes were confirmed)

Acknowledgement of Noongar People

The Shire of Narrogin acknowledges the Noongar people as traditional custodians of this land and their continuing connection to land and community. We pay our respect to them, to their culture and to their Elders past and present.

Naatj ngiyan Birdiya Gnarojin kep unna nidja Noongar Moort ngaala maya nidja boodjera baarlap djoowak karlerl koolark. Ngalak niny ngullang karnan balang Bibolman baalap borong koora wer boorda.

Electronic copies of minutes and agendas are available for download from the Shire of Narrogin website www.narrogin.wa.gov.au

Alternative formats are also available upon request, including large print, electronic format (disk or emailed), audio or Braille

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Please note that meetings may be recorded for minute taking purposes.

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LEMC MEETING

15 MARCH 2022

1. OFFICIAL OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

This meeting was held in person and as an electronic meeting using Teams.

In the absence of the Presiding Person, President Leigh Ballard declared the meeting open at 4:38. pm

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES

Committee Members (Voting)

Cr Brian Seale,	Presiding Member (arrived at 4:45)	
Snr Sgt Shannon McGeown	WA Police – OIC Narrogin	
Leigh Ballard	Shire President – Shire of Narrogin (Deputy)	
Aaron Kain	A/DFES – Narrogin Regional Officer	
Greg Durell	DBCA – Parks & Wildlife Services	Teams
Yvette Harrison	Department of Education	Teams
Sara Pellant	WACHS-Wheatbelt	Teams
Joanne Spadaccini	Department of Communities	Teams
Peter Erickson	Narrogin SES – Manager or delegate	Teams
Pip Porter	Narrogin Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades	

Staff

Azhar Awang	Executive Manager Development & Regulatory Services
Wendy Russell	Executive Support Officer

Apologies

Simon Vogel	DFES District Officer - Narrogin
Cr Graeme Broad	
Dale Stewart	Chief Executive Officer
Robert Powell	Senior Environmental Health Officer
Jenny Menasse	WACHS-Wheatbelt
Lucy Gibson	Country Womens Association (Narrogin)
Carla Sanders	CEO Narrogin Cottage Homes/Karinya

Invited Guests/Visitors (Non Voting)

Douglas Cook	Department of Education	Teams
Sandii Stankovic	Narrogin Senior High School	Teams

Cr Brian Seale arrived and took the chair at 4:45.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATION AND COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Pip Porter

Seconded: Cr Brian Seale

That the minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held on 14 December 2021 be confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

10/0

OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATION AND COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Snr Sgt Shannon McGeown

Seconded: Cr Brian Seale

That the minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held on 1 March 2022 be confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

10/0

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING WITHOUT DISCUSSION

Nil

5. MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE DECISIONS

Nil

6. MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE DISCUSSION

6.1 2021 Local Government Emergency Management survey results.

Attachment 1 - 2021 Local Government Emergency Management survey results overview

Attachment 2 - 2021 Local Government Emergency Management Survey Infographic

Attachment 3 - 2021 Local Government Emergency Management

Key findings:

- Strong support for the expansion of the CESM;
- Increased resourcing and funding for training and staffing in emergency management;
- Changes to the current arrangements on managing Bushfire Brigades; and
- Expansion and simplification of the Local Government Grant Scheme.

6.2. Update of Contact Information List

Attachment 1 - LEMC contact list (confidential – sent separately)

Committee members are requested to review the attached contact list and advise the Executive Support Officer of any changes that they are aware of.

Not all committee members received the list so Executive Support Officer to send it out again separately.

6.3 COVID-19 – Agency Reports (updates, issues or concerns)

Snr Sgt Shannon McGeown – WA Police, OIC Narrogin

- There are 27,000 active cases in WA.
- More PPE has arrived including face shields.
- Police have business continuity plans in place and these are updated daily with current information.

Aaron Kain – DEFS

- Business Continuity plans are all in place, each unit is working with the resources they have available to them.

Douglas Cook – Department of Education

- There are currently 15/16 schools across the wheatbelt (in the west), currently experiencing Covid restrictions. York is one of the schools affected.
- This area is about 2 weeks behind Perth so may expect an increase in the next few weeks.
- Students who are close contacts (but not household members) do not have to isolate as long as they have no symptoms and have a negative RAT.
- The goal is not to have to close any schools.
- Principals and teachers may be considered critical workers.

Joanne Spadaccini – Department of Communities

- The department is willing to assist with providing goods to households affected by Covid restrictions.
- They need a list of local volunteers who can assist with this.

Azhar Awang – Executive Manager Development & Regulatory Services (EMDRS)

- The Shire has purchased 1000 RAT kits and has distributed 600 to other smaller Shires.
- RAT kits will be essential for our critical workers which include Rangers, Environmental Health and Safety Officers, Homecare Staff, Refuse Site workers and the Depot Staff.
- The Department of Health supplied 50 Pulse Oximeters to the Shire these have already been distributed to Shire residents, they are supplying a further 100.

Pip Porter – Narrogin Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades

- This will be his last meeting as he will be standing down as the Chief Bushfire Control Officer at the Bushfire Advisory Committee meeting being held on 29 March.

Sara Pellant – WACHS-Wheatbelt

- A marquee is currently being installed at the front of the entrance to the hospital. All visitors will be screened and tested prior to being able to enter the building.
- There are restrictions/limits on the number of visitors allowed.
- There is a reduction in outpatient services and where possible consultations are being conducted via tele health.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

8. DATE TIME & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next LEMC meeting will be Tuesday 22 March at 4:30pm.

9. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business to discuss, the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 5:15.

2021 Local Government Emergency Management Survey

Results Overview for Local Governments

Background

In late 2021, WALGA undertook a survey of Local Governments to ascertain the sentiment of the sector towards their emergency management roles and responsibilities generally, and in relation to managing volunteer Bushfire Brigades in particular.

The 2021 survey aims to build on the feedback received in WALGA's 2019 Emergency Management Survey and will help inform WALGA's policy and advocacy on current and emerging Emergency Management issues.

Key findings

- In total, responses were collected from 104 Local Governments, representing 74.8 per cent of all Local Governments in WA.
- The Survey responses indicate strong support for:
 - the expansion of the Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) Program;
 - increased resourcing and funding for the Sector, particular for training and staffing, community resilience and mitigation activities, and exercising Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMAs);
 - changes to the current arrangements for Local Governments managing Bushfire Brigades, including that Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) take on management of Bushfire Brigades; and
 - expansion and simplification of the Local Government Grant Scheme, with greater Local Government control over expenditure.
- Local Governments identify their main strengths as LEMAs, standing up welfare centres and recovery planning.
- 51 per cent of respondent Local Governments have 0.8 FTE or less staff in emergency management and there are significant concerns regarding staff training levels for emergency management responsibilities.
- 70 per cent of respondent Local Governments consider that CEO and executive team relationships provide the best method to facilitate resource sharing between Local Governments during emergencies.

- More than 50 respondent Local Governments have resource sharing Memorandums of Understanding in place with other Local Governments.
- Local Governments are seeking greater flexibility and clarity of Local Government roles and responsibilities embedded in the State Emergency Management Framework.
- The majority of respondent Local Governments report having positive working relationships with key emergency management stakeholders, including DFES.

How will the results be used?

The results from the 2021 Survey will inform:

- WALGA's ongoing emergency management advocacy on behalf of the Sector, including the need for increased resourcing and funding, an expanded CESM program, improved regional telecommunications, volunteer training and responsibility for management of bush fire brigades.
- WALGA's advocacy on the development of the *Consolidated Emergency Services Act* (expected in mid-late 2022) and the implementation of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020*;
- The LEMA review being undertaken by WALGA and the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) Business Unit in 2022;
- The development of an Emergency Management Discussion Paper to guide consultation with the sector on updated and contemporary policy positions for WALGA State Council; and
- WALGA's planning of sector support and capacity building activities including webinars, training and other resources.

Further information

For more information or to request a presentation of the 2021 Survey results or data tailored for your Local Government, please contact WALGA's Resilient Communities Policy Manager, Susie Moir smoir@walga.asn.au or 9213 2058.

Attachments

2021 Local Government Emergency Management Survey Infographic
2021 Local Government Emergency Management

3 March 2022



WALGA

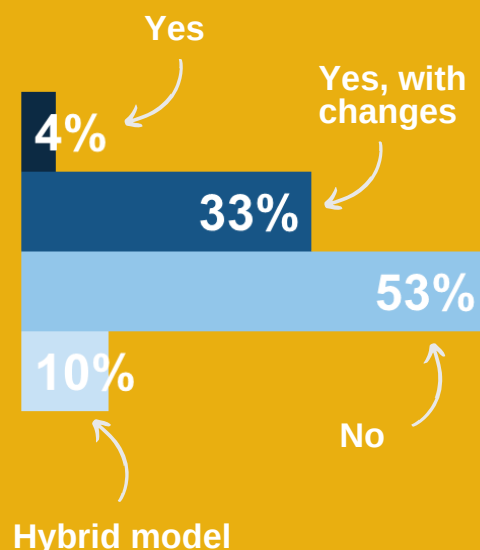
WORKING FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

2021 Local Government Emergency Management Survey Results

WALGA's 2021 Local Government Emergency Management Survey demonstrates the breadth of Local Governments' emergency management activities and the positive relationships between the Sector and other emergency management stakeholders. It also highlights the need for additional resources and funding to enable Local Governments to more effectively discharge their emergency management responsibilities and the Sector's desire for change in the management arrangements for volunteer bush fire brigades.

Q. Do you think it is appropriate for Local Governments to manage Bushfire Brigades?*

*of respondents with Bushfire Brigades



104 of 139
Local Governments responded

69 with Bushfire Brigades
46 with Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM)



Four out of five have a well functioning Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC)

73%

CEO and Executive relationships enable resource sharing in an emergency

- Require grant funding for:
- Staff and training
 - Community Resilience
 - Mitigation
 - Exercising



- Strengths include:
- LEMAs
 - Standing up Welfare Centres
 - Recovery Planning



Half of the respondents have 0.8 FTE or less emergency management staff

- Simplification
- Flexibility
- State responsibility
- Increased funding of the Emergency Management Framework

90%

agreed that the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements WA process is complex



92%

have a positive working relationship with DFES

Respondents are seeking an expansion of the CESM program



Respondents rely on DFES regional offices and CESMs to train Bushfire Brigades



2021 Local Government Emergency Management Survey Overview

March 2022

Local Government in WA



139 Councils
1212 Elected Members
22,000 Employees

\$4.3 billion expenditure
\$49 billion assets
88% of public roads



Bushfire Brigades (BFBs) in WA



111 Local Governments Manage BFBs

536 BFBs

+20,000 BFB Volunteers





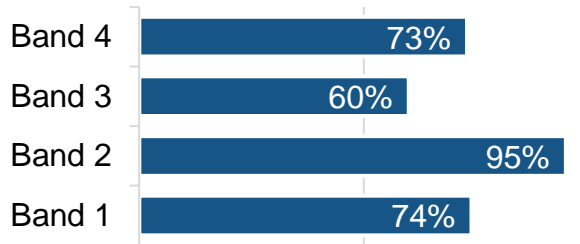
Summary

- The Survey responses indicate strong support for the following:
 - the expansion of the CESM Program
 - Increased resourcing and funding, particular for training and staffing, community resilience and mitigation activities, and exercising LEMAs
 - Changes to the current arrangements for Local Governments managing Bushfire Brigades
 - Expansion of the LGGS with greater Local Government control over expenditure
- Local Governments identify strengths in LEMAs, standing up welfare centres and recovery planning
- Local Governments identify a weakness in staff training levels for EM responsibilities
- More than 50 Local Governments have resource sharing MOUs in place with other Local Governments

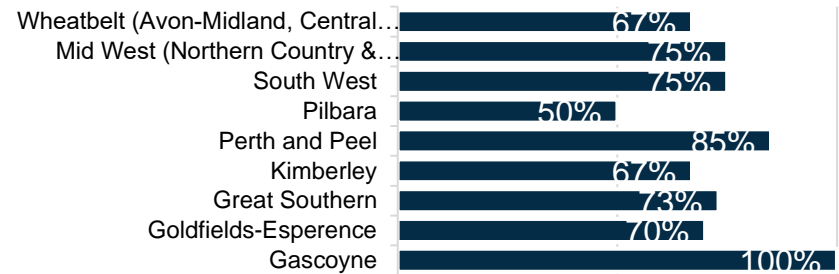
Survey Respondents

- The Survey was open from October to December 2021
- Responses from **104 Local Governments** (75% of the sector)
- 69 Local Governments with Bushfire Brigades (Q 43 to 80 are exclusive to these LGs)
 - Averaging approximately 170 volunteers per LG
 - And 46 of these have CESMS

Respondents By LG Band

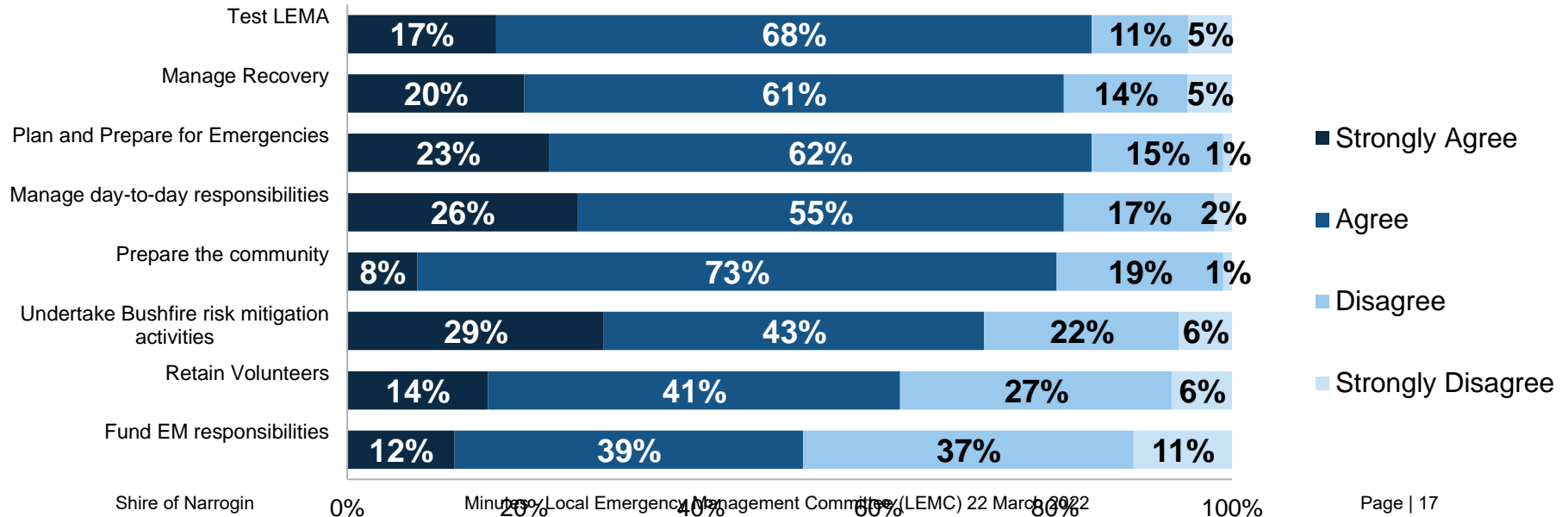


Respondents By Region





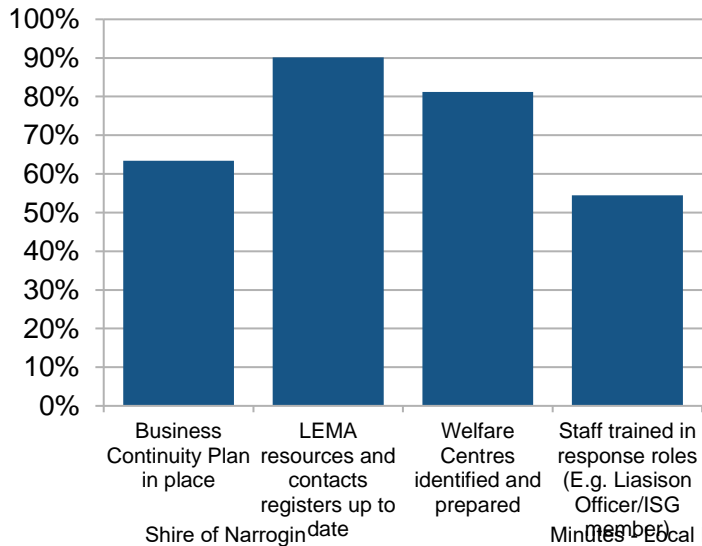
My Local Government has capacity to...



Minutes Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) 22 March 2022

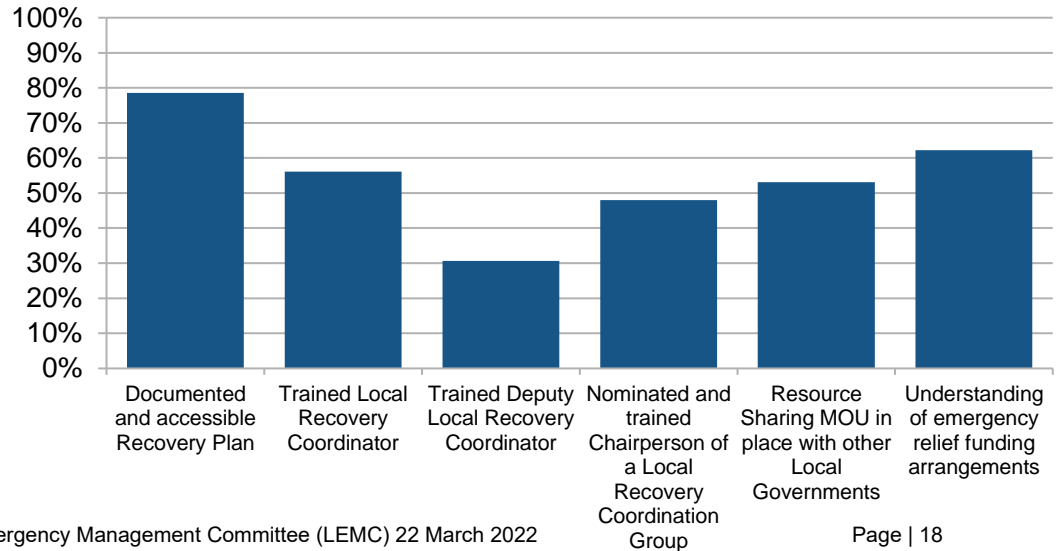
Local Government Strengths

Response



Q11 Respondents: 101

Recovery

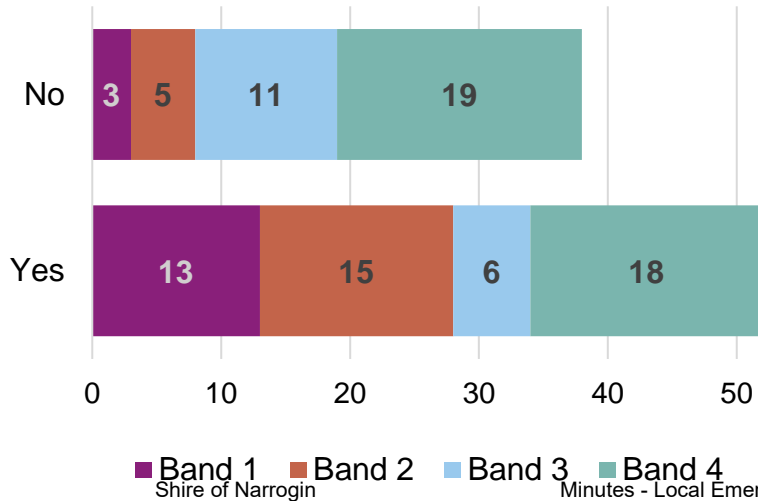


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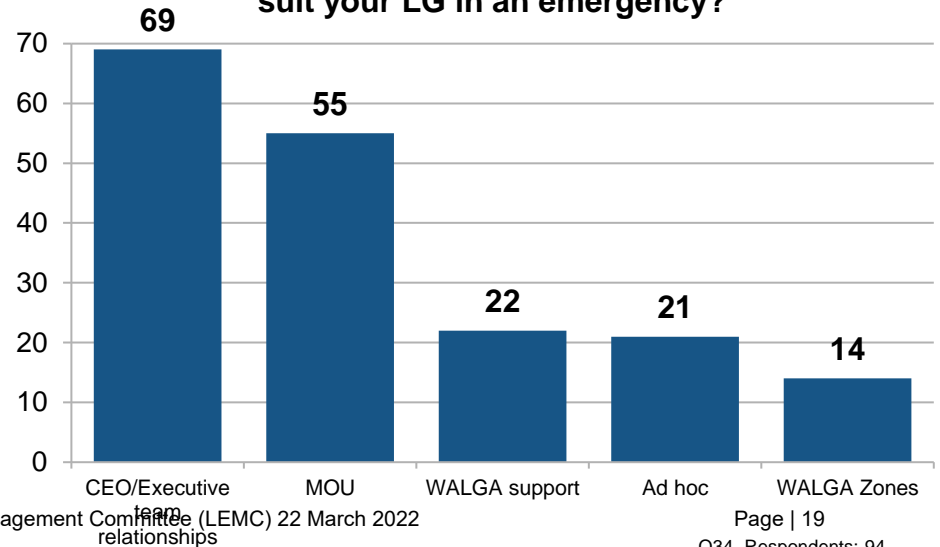
Q12 Respondents: 98

Resource Sharing during Emergencies

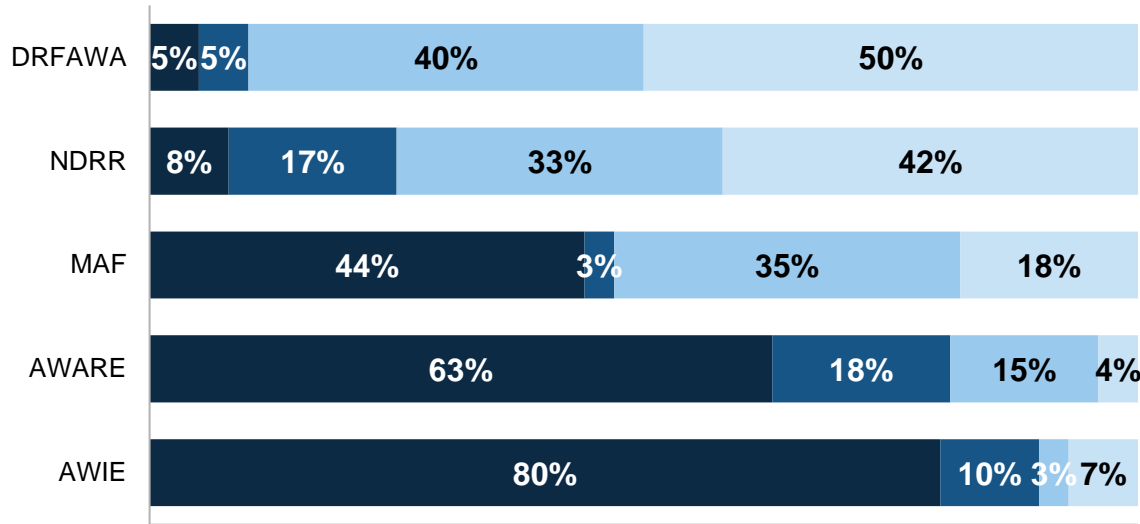
MOU Agreements between LGs



What method for resource sharing would best suit your LG in an emergency?



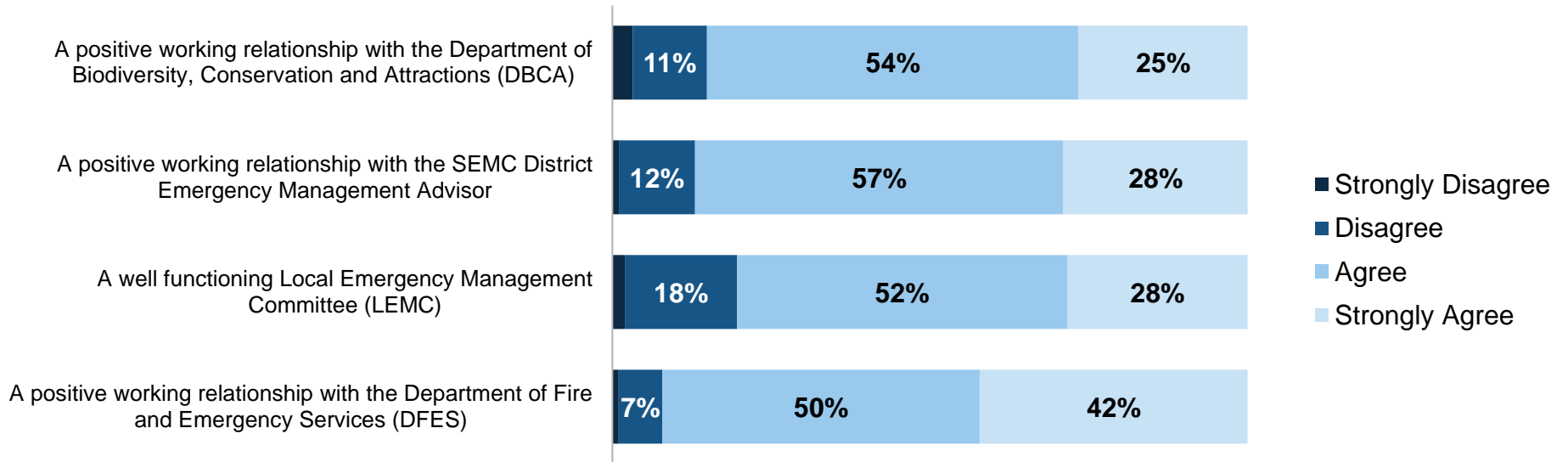
LG Experience of Process and Support with EM Grants



- Simple Process with Adequate Support
- Simple Process with Inadequate Support
- Complex Process with Adequate Support
- Complex Process with Inadequate Support



Stakeholder Relationships and Support



Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) Program



46 Respondents have a CESM

29 Respondents share a CESM with one or more other Local Governments

Reasons why your Local Government doesn't have a CESM

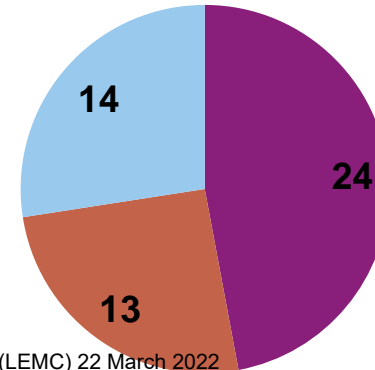
- Funding limitations for small Shires
- No funding available from DFES
- Previous negative experiences
- Limited perception of need

Shire of Narrogin

Minutes - Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) 22 March 2022
Q17 Respondents: 54

If your Local Government currently does NOT engage a CESM, would you like access to a CESM?

■ Yes ■ No ■ Unsure



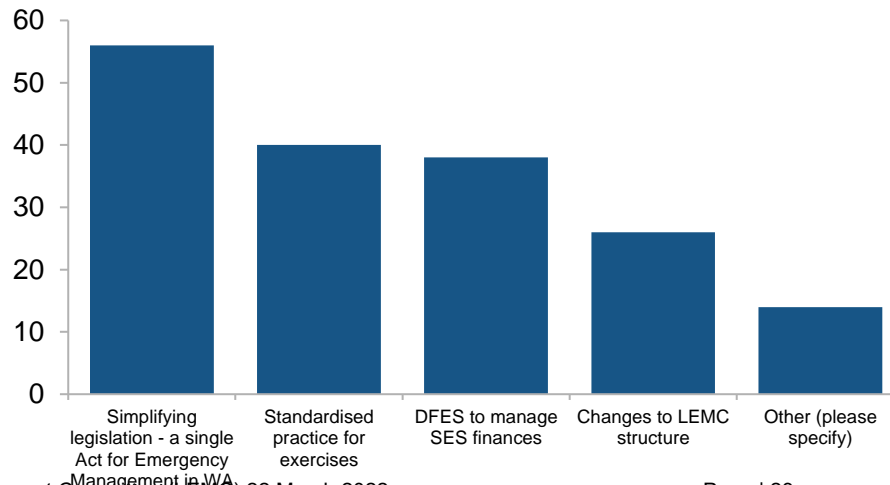
State Emergency Management Framework



Key changes LG's would like to see to the Framework:

- Simplified arrangements
- More flexibility with LEMCs i.e. frequency of meetings
- DFES to take further responsibility as the State agency
- Increased funding to support LG's responsibilities
- Better communication of changes/updates
- Greater recognition of difference in LG sizes and capacities
- Review of management and onus of risk assessments

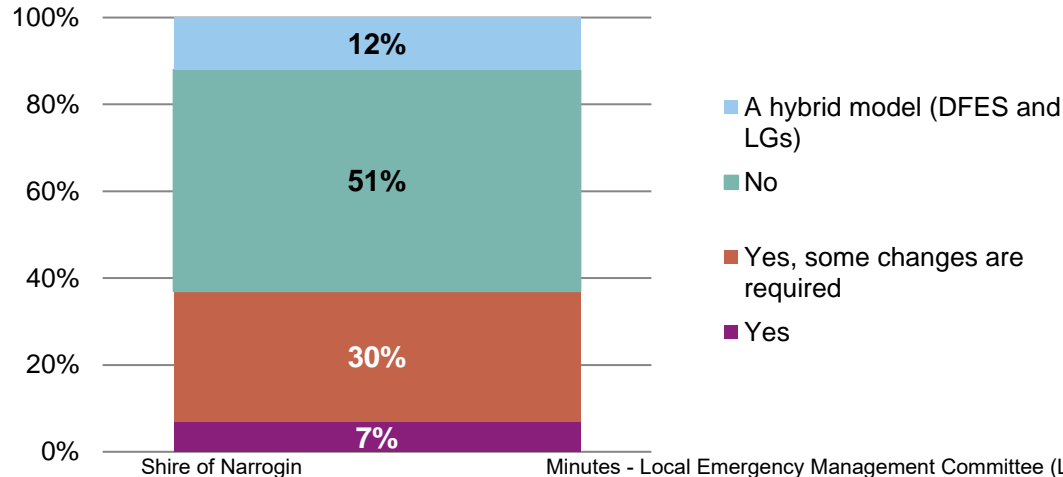
Changes you would like to make to the Framework (2019 Survey)



Responsibility for Bushfire Brigades

Do you think it is appropriate for LG's to manage BFBs?

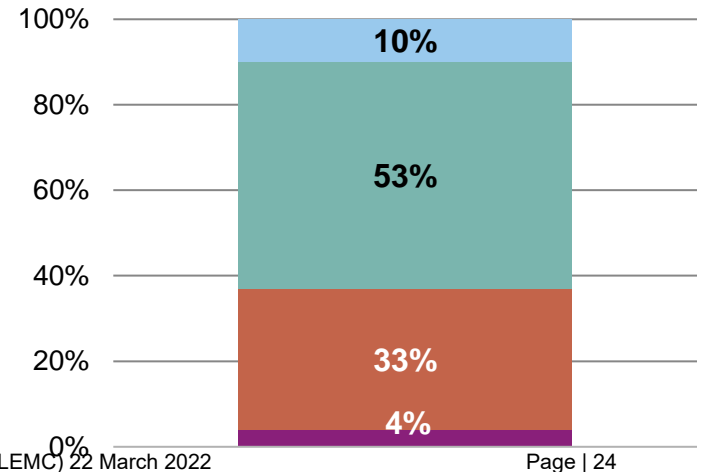
All Respondents



Q41 Respondents: 92

Do you think it is appropriate for LG's to manage BFBs?

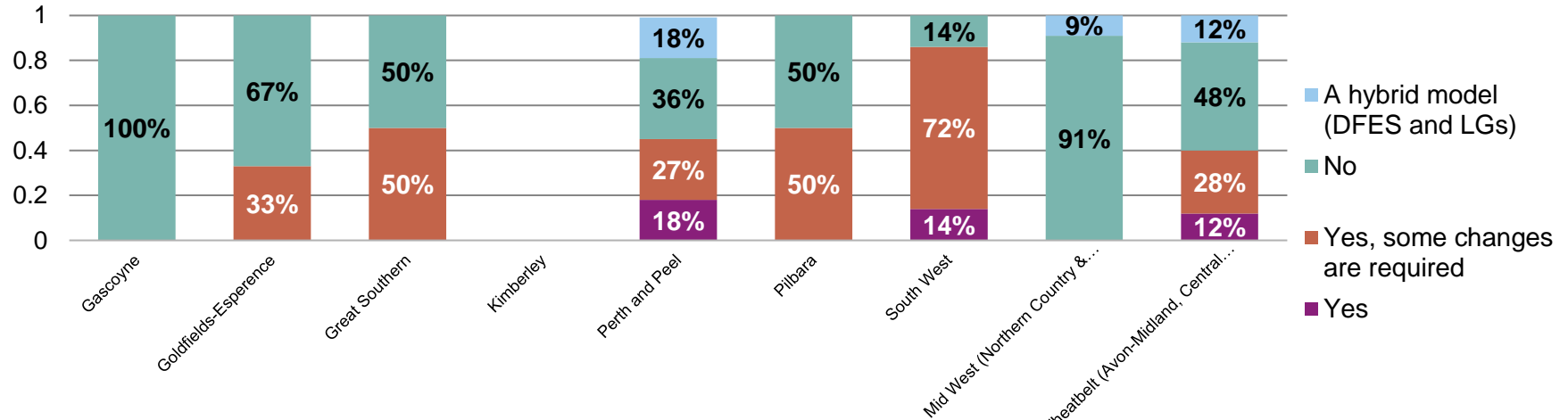
Respondents with BFBs



Q41 Respondents: 69

Responsibility for Bushfire Brigades

Do you think it is appropriate for LG's to manage BFBs?
Respondents with BFBs, by WALGA Zone



Brigade Support

Additional LGGS Funding you would like to receive to support WHS obligations:

- Training volunteers
- Expanded to include more PPC and PPE
- Specialised Support (i.e. staffing)
 - WHS/Human resources
 - Volunteer management (incl. record management)
 - Preparing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
- Undertake BFB risk assessments
- Funding to equip farmer response

How can DFES support your LG in managing BFBs?

- Take responsibility of BFBs
- Provide greater funding and resources
- Improve interoperability and practices between regional and metro offices
- Provide practical and accessible training

The Future of Emergency Services

Priorities for the Consolidated Emergency Services Act:

- SES funding arrangements
- Process for LGs to control lighting of camping and cooking fires
- Process for HVMB
- Flexibility to amend prohibited and restricted burning periods
- Local Government responsibility of BFBs
- Process for Total Fire Bans
- Process for LGs to hand control of fires to DBCA and DFES
- The powers and duties of BFCO

What changes would you like to see for the future management of BFBs?

- Management of BFBs by DFES
- Increased Agency interoperability and collaboration
- Reduced Red Tape
- Increased resources (training, funding and resources)
- Transparent and independent LGGS process