



Shire of
Narrogin

MINUTES

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (LEMC)

20 September 2022

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

Signed:

Date 29 September 2022

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

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.

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

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4. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING WITHOUT DISCUSSION

Nil

5. MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE DECISIONS

Nil

6. MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE DISCUSSION

6.1 Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Review – Local Government Workshop

Wendy Russell, Executive Support Officer, Development and Regulatory Services (ESO) provided an overview of the information discussed at the LEMA review workshop. Items discussed included:

- Purpose of a LEMA;
- Are the current LEMA documents practical?
- Complexity of the State Emergency Management Framework and the role and responsibilities of the Local Government are not clear;
- LEMC's not being actively engaged with the LEMA;

6.2. Factsheet for Health representation on LEMC – Heatwave Hazard

Attachment 1 - Factsheet from the Department of Health

For information and discussion.

6.3. Update of Contact Information List

Attachment 2 - 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.

Those present provided some updated information for the contact list.

6.4 Agency Reports (updates, issues or concerns)

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

- Mentioned the Local Emergency Management Committee, Member Report Talking Points document that was sent out with the agenda, and recommended that representatives use this as a guide for their reports to this committee.

Snr Sgt Shannon McGeown WA Police – Narrogin

- Staff have been undertaking refresher Land Search Training;
- The police in partnership with DFES and SES will be participating in an exercise on 17-18 September and will present a summary to the next LEMC meeting.

Sara Pellant WACHS-Wheatbelt

- The Covid testing marque has gone from the front of the hospital.
- Covid testing remains part of business as usual.

Michele Duxbury Department of Communities

Attachment 3 – Department of Communities report July – September 2022

- Michele is the new District Emergency Services Officer for the Great Southern. Her contact details are 0467 963 661 and michele.duxbury@communities.wa.gov.au.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

8. DATE TIME & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled quarterly LEMC meeting is 13 December 2022.

9. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business to discuss, the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 5:10 pm.



Factsheet for Health representation on LEMC – Heatwave Hazard

Understanding the upcoming changes to the State Hazard Plan for Heatwave

More is now known about heatwaves and the risk to the public since Heatwave was first recognised as a hazard under State emergency management legislation in 2012. During this time, better ways of forecasting severe weather events has been identified. Nationally recognised forecasting methodology and warnings are being adopted amongst the states and territories. Accordingly, the Western Australian Department of Health is preparing to align the State Hazard Plan Heatwave to the contemporary forecasting and warning system.

State Hazard Plans for hazards describe the actions the Hazard Management Agency (HMA) will follow to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from a hazard. The State Hazard Plans define the roles and responsibilities of agencies and organisations that support the HMA. State Hazard Plans and hazards to Western Australia are supported by legislation defined in the *Emergency Management Act (2005)* and *Emergency Management Regulations (2006)*.

This factsheet provides key points to Health representatives the participate in Local or District Emergency Management Committees, describing the changes to heatwave forecasting process, messaging the public will receive and Incident Management structure.

Current Heatwave process

The existing methodology uses the 3 Day Average Temperature (3DAT) calculation method, which consists of a three day forward looking average of minimum and maximum temperatures. When the 3DAT is forecast to exceed 32° Celsius at the Perth weather reporting station, the triggers for Heatwave response actions commence. The 3DAT has limitations, particularly in that this calculation does not support localities north of the metropolitan area.

3DAT monitoring is facilitated by manually transposing the seven-day maxima and minimum temperatures forecast at the Perth monitoring station, along with the previous day's observations, onto an excel spreadsheet. Mathematical functions on the spreadsheet detail when triggers to act are met.

Proposed Heatwave process

The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) utilise an Excess Heat Factor (EHF) calculation that is more robust than 3DAT. The EHF can be readily applied to targeted locations or districts to forecast extreme heat. Heatwaves, utilising the EHF method are calculated using the forecast maximum and minimum temperatures over the next three days. This information is compared to actual temperatures over the previous 30 days, and the long-term climate record for what should be

considered hot at the location at that time. Studies have concluded EHF as a more suitable calculation of heatwave.

Australian Warning System (AWS)

The Australian Warning System (AWS) is a national approach to information and warnings for all natural hazards such as bushfire, flood, storm, tropical cyclone and extreme heat.

The AWS has been developed based on community research and input from Australia's emergency services and hazard agencies. The goal of the AWS is to deliver a more consistent approach to emergency warnings, no matter where you are in the country. It uses a nationally consistent set of hazard icons to show incidents on websites and apps, supported by calls to action by the public.

There are three warning levels in the AWS:

1. **Advice:** an incident has started. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes.
2. **Watch and Act:** there is a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family.
3. **Emergency Warning:** an Emergency Warning is the highest level of warning. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay now puts your life at risk.

Heatwave messaging will be realigned to reflect the AWS with heatwave warnings to be released on [EmergencyWA.wa.gov.au](https://www.emergency.wa.gov.au)

Opportunities

These changes present a raft of opportunities to better manage a heatwave hazard. A benefit for the WA community will be a State Hazard Plan that transitions to apply the full population of the state.

The new plan can leverage off the significant heatwave resources provided by the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM). The Bureau's heatwave forecasting covers towns and cities all over Australia. As with other natural hazards such as bushfire or cyclone, the Bureau provide the forecasting capability and the HMA provides the Command, Control and Coordination for the hazard. New Heatwave plans will align with this role delineation.

Incident Management

Incident Management for Heatwaves will continue to follow the State Emergency Plan. Where there will be a difference from heatwaves prior seasons will be when the heatwave affects regional areas. In localities outside the metropolitan area, a regional Incident Controller (IC) will be appointed and supported by an Incident Support Group (ISG) from that region. The membership of the ISG will be regional agency representation of agencies that have roles and responsibilities under SHP heatwave. While representation may vary slightly between regions, broadly it will be the agencies that make up a Local/Regional Emergency Management Committee. This structure is no different than what occurs for other natural hazards such as bushfire or cyclone.

The same representation is a little more challenging to replicate in the metropolitan area due to the large number of Local Government (LG) that span multiple Health Service Providers. In the case of heatwaves affecting the metropolitan area, the Department of Health as Controlling Agency will appoint an IC and provide the public health advice. The metropolitan LGs will be provided opportunity to observe the ISG.

Communications Strategy

Messaging is the key strategy in minimising the effects of a heatwave. The cornerstone of messaging consistently should be:

- Ensure you have a local plan for heatwave.
- Stay hydrated.
- Remain out of the sun, particularly from the middle of the day and into the afternoon.
- Keep cool, be this by staying in a cool location or moving to a cool location.
- Check on others.

Many people in Western Australia are generally acclimatised to living in hot weather and are resilient to hot conditions. This is particularly so in the north and inland locations of the state. People may be complacent about extreme heat and don't see themselves as affected or vulnerable. Furthermore, the cumulative effect on health from heat exposure increases, particularly when there is no ability to compensate from a heat event.

Communication will occur through a tiered approach:

- to agencies with roles and responsibilities under the SHP – heatwave
- to agencies and organisations that provide care and support to vulnerable populations
- to the general public.

The Department of Health recognises the large community reach that collectively the emergency management agencies have. Our request is to promulgate heatwave response messaging. Agencies and event organisers should refer back to the Department of Health's messaging rather than creating their own heatwave content.

Summary or talking points

- Health is adopting a more robust measurement of heatwave that will forecast the risk for whole of WA.
- Heatwave warnings will follow the Australian Warning System: Advice, Watch & Act, and Emergency Warning, and will be published on EmergencyWA
- Incident Management for Heatwave in regional areas will be run by a local IC (from the affected region).
- Agencies should refer to Health's heatwave messaging rather than creating their own content.
- Heatwave monitoring operates 1 Nov – 31 March.

Next steps

The State Hazard Plan – Heatwave is undergoing a major revision to support these changes and requires a consultative review as per State EM guidelines. Assuming smooth passage of the changes, the processes that support SHP Heatwave will go live on 1 November 2022 in time for the high threat season.

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.

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**LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
REPORTING**

Agency:

**Department of Communities
(Communities)**

Date: From – July 2022 to September 2022 inclusive

INCIDENTS:

Date	Type of Incident	Location of Incident	Other Agencies Involved	Comments/Outcomes
Continual	Health – Pandemic	Great Southern	HMA – Health	Close Out Stages

EXERCISES AND TRAINING:

Please see notes below.

Date:	Title	Objectives	Comments/Outcomes

Additional Comments/Suggestions:

- Department of Communities staff from the All-Hazards Unit have completed four deployments to NSW Flood Recovery affected areas between May and June. Staff were placed throughout the region. I was placed in Lismore and was stationed at the Lismore Recovery Centre as the Manager. As well as recovery centre functions, staff completed outreach work in the community specifically to remind the community to apply for the grants available to them, logistics predominantly around donations, and welfare boxes.
- New District Emergency Services Officer for the Great Southern, Michele Duxbury commenced on the 1 Sept 2022. Is working remotely, transition into the region towards the end of Oct 22. Mobile number is 0467 963 661. (no change to contact number).
- Regular training sessions, predominantly for Communities staff is being facilitated over the ensuing months so staff are prepared and ready to respond for the high threat season. The reason for the focus on Communities staff is because of the inability to provide training the last 2 - 3 years due to the COVID pandemic restrictions.
- Local Emergency Management Plans (LEMP's) are always being reviewed, if you see any information that is not current, please advise michele.duxbury@communities.wa.gov.au
- Communities Great Sothern's boundary for Emergency Welfare response has changed to incorporate the upper Great Southern. The Wheatbelt has been managing this previously. Alignment with Great Southern Police district with the exception of Walpole and Ravensthorpe who remain a response from either the Southwest or Esperance. Communities Great Southern will work with colleagues in neighbouring regions to provide an emergency response depending on the event, the day to day operations will site with the District Emergency Services Officer in the Great Southern. A rough outline of the new Great Southern region is Brookton across to Lake Grace is the line north , West Arthur to Denmark in the west, Denmark to Bremer Bay to the south and Jerramungup to Lake Grace in the east.
- Training: Please advise if you would like training conducted for local government staff, this can be an introduction to opening an evacuation centre, to cover the first couple of hours as Communities staff are on route. Happy to work with Shires to ensure little impacts to normal operations. Aim is July-Aug to ensure completed. Please e-mail

michele.duxbury@communities.wa.gov.au to request training. Happy to discuss at any time.

- Recovery: Communities is working with service providers in the recovery space to set up workshops and regular meetings to focus on recovery. Post activations of this year it has identified a need with in the Great Southern to increase stakeholder relationships and plan for recovery throughout the year. This has resulted in a need to have a wider inclusion of the recovery element into the DEMP framework. Work progresses with some more formal presentation to the DEMC to occur, further updates to continue.