



## MINUTES

### JOINT LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (LEMC) SHIRES OF CUBALLING AND NARROGIN

17 September 2024

Commencing at 4:30 pm  
Via Teams and in person

The Chief Executive Officer Shire of Narrogin recommends the endorsement of these minutes at the next Meeting of the Committee.

Signed: .....

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. Murray", is written over the dotted line.

Date: 18/09/2024

These minutes were confirmed at the Joint Local Emergency Management Committee (Shires of Cuballing and Narrogin) meeting held on .....

Signed: .....

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

### **Acknowledgement of Noongar People**

The Shires of Cuballing and 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](http://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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# JOINT LEMC MEETING

## 17 September 2024

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### 1. OFFICIAL OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

This meeting is being held in person and also as an electronic meeting using Teams.  
The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 4:33 pm.

### 2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES

#### Committee Members (Voting)

##### NAME ORGANISATION

President Leigh Ballard	Shire President – Shire of Narrogin (Presiding Person)
Deputy President Graeme Broad	Councillor – Shire of Narrogin
Deputy President Robert Harris	Councillor – Shire of Cuballing
Senior Sergeant Ryan Devine	WA Police
Paul Leiper	A/DFES – District Officer (teams)
Jenny Menasse	WA Country Health Service (teams)
Michael Phillips	Department of Communities
Anna Erickson	Primary Industry & Regional Development (teams)
Maria Lee	DBCA – Parks & Wildlife Services
Nicola Faithfull	St John Ambulance
Peter Erickson	Narrogin SES – Manager or delegate
Pip Porter	Narrogin Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Brett Dew	Western Power

#### Staff

Stan Scott	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Cuballing
Azhar Awang	Executive Manager Development & Regulatory Services, Shire of Narrogin
Wendy Russell	Executive Support Officer, Shire of Narrogin
Paula Raworth	Manager Community Services, Shire of Narrogin

#### Invited Guests/Visitors (Non Voting)

Anika Keeling	
Mick Williams	WA Police
Ryan McKenney	St John Ambulance
Fred Steer	Main Roads WA

## Apologies

President Eliza Dowling  
Dale Stewart  
Anthony Mort  
Scott Reeves  
Douglas Cook  
Clare Roser  
Eloisa Goss  
Rodney Thornton

Shire President – Shire of Cuballing  
Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Narrogin  
Cuballing Chief Bush Fire Control Officer  
Narrogin VFRS Unit – Captain or Delegate  
Department of Education  
WA College of Agriculture – Narrogin  
Narrogin Primary School  
Roadwise

### 3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

#### OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr G Broad

Seconded: Pip Porter

That the minutes of the Shire of Narrogin Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held on 18 June 2024 be confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

**CARRIED 12/0**

For: President Ballard, Cr G Broad, Cr R Harris, Snr Sgt R Devine, Mr P Leiper, Ms J Menasse, Ms A Erickson, Ms M Lee, Ms N Faithfull, Mr P Erickson, Mr P Porter, Mr B Dew

Against: Nil

### 4. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING WITHOUT DISCUSSION

Nil

### 5. MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE DISCUSSION

#### 5.1. Agency Reports (updates, issues or concerns)

##### Red Cross Australia

Attachment 1 – Red Cross report August 2024

No representative was able to attend the meeting but the attached report was provided.

##### Pip Porter – Narrogin Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades

- Maintenance is being done of appliances and radios in preparation for the coming season.
- Volunteer lists are being updated and checks made to ensure that all volunteers have completed the basic firefighting course.
- Highbury brigade has started taking first aid training.

- Funding has been applied for to install water tanks on all four corners of the Shire. As more farmers are going cropping dams are being filled in and water sources are becoming more scarce.
- Application for funding for a fire truck for Highbury and more PPE has been declined, this is disappointing as we want to ensure that our volunteers have the right gear and resources in place when they are attending fires.
- Pre-season forum with DFES and other Shires on 10 October.
- Successful mitigation works have been completed and we are confident of doing more with the resources that we have.

Michael Phillips – Department of Communities arrived at 4:45

Paul Leiper – Department of Fire & Emergency Services (DFES)

Attachment 2 – LEMC District Emergency Management Advisor Report July – Sept 2024

Paul has just commenced in this position and will be acting in this role until December.

- 10 October there will be a pre -season forum, details will be sent out shortly.
- Ground control training and water bomber reload training will be conducted shortly.
- There were some learnings gained from the 'Macco feeds' fire regarding the transfer.
- Desk-top exercise is planned for 30 October 2024 in Brookton to test emergency arrangements.

Nicolla Faithfull – St John Ambulance

- The number of paramedics and volunteers is steady.
- There are some changes happening and Narrogin will be the regional centre for the Southern area.

Stan Scott – Shire of Cuballing

- At the recent WA Fire and Emergency Services Awards Anthony Mort the Cuballing Chief Bush Fire Control Officer received the Murray Lang Bush Fire Service Award, the state's highest individual honour a bush fire service volunteer can receive, for his unwavering bravery and exceptional contribution to community safety.
- The Cuby Groove Fest held last weekend was a success with no major incidents, thanks to the police, St John Ambulance and all others who assisted.
- Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC) meeting tomorrow.
- Mitigation funding has been received and works will proceed.
- The arson attacks early last fire season identified issues with firebreaks, so pre-season checks of firebreaks will be conducted to ensure compliance.

Jenny Menasse – WA Country Health Service (WACHS)

- Working with small hospitals across the region to ensure that staff have emergency preparedness training and regular evacuation drills.

Anna Erickson – Department of Primary Industry & Regional Development

- Preparing for the fire season - training and staffing levels.

Maria Lee – Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions (DBCA)

Attachment 3 – DBCA Report for September 2024 LEMC meeting

- Greg Durell, Regional Manager has retired. Mitchell Davies acting in this role.
- All Wheatbelt staff currently undergoing mandatory pre-season training.
- Further water bomber training to be provided.
- Grain Harvest waterbombers scheduled to be at Narrogin from 15 November.

Peter Erickson – Narrogin SES

- Susan Wettenhall is the Narrogin SES Unit Manager.
- Recent recruitment drive has resulted in 5 new members:
  - 4 have no previous experience but are enthusiastic, 3 have already completed initial training;
  - The other has previous experience and will be a great asset.

Michael Phillips – Department of Communities

Attachment 4 – Department of Communities Emergency Relief and Support LEMC background information – 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2024-2025.

- State-wide audit of evacuation centres has identified some that may no longer be required.
- Bunbury Storms Recovery Program.
- Kimberley Floods Recovery Program.

Paul Leiper left the meeting at 5:10 pm

Azhar Awang – Shire of Narrogin

- Shire mitigation works are ongoing, an extension has been granted till November to allow for an application for a variation to the works to be processed. The variation is to install fencing around Banister Street.
- Grant application for the proposed joint facility for VBFB & SES was unsuccessful.
- Local Government grant for this year is just \$60K, insurance \$20K, service of 2 Fire Units \$29K not much left for PPE or other expenses.

Fred Steer – Main Roads

- Construction work is about to commence on feeder roads into the area.
- Call Main Roads for assistance with Traffic Control support, the earlier you call them the sooner they can assist.

Snr Sgt Ryan Devine – WA Police

- Fully staffed at present
- There will be a new vehicle and 2 staff to accident prevention road accidents.
- Staff are participating in retraining in the 24/25 package for fire incident control.
- Now have starlink access this can provide up to 10 hours of internet access greatly improving communications during searches in remote areas.



### Brett Dew – Western Power

- Currently spraying insulation on poles to reduce the risk of pole fires.
- DFES and Western Power also have starlink.
- Using drones to inspect power lines.

### **5.2. Removal of Narrogin High School as a Primary Evacuation Centre**

Department of Communities prefer not to have schools as evacuation centres as if an event occurs during the school term the facilities are not available.

Michael also advised that the Cuballing CWA Hall and the Cuballing Agricultural Hall have been identified as not suitable as evacuation centres as they have no shower facilities.

Anika Keeling will remove these facilities from the new LEMA.

### **5.3. Update of Contact Information List**

Attachment 5 – Updated 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.

## **6. GENERAL BUSINESS**

- Mr Awang mentioned the review of the State Hazard Plan - Human Biosecurity recently undertaken by the Department of Health. The DFES State Emergency Management Policy Branch is now seeking broad stakeholder feedback on the proposed amendments and welcomes other questions or comments you have in relation to this Plan. Below is information and links to respond.

### **Consultation Information**

#### **State Hazard Plan - Human Biosecurity**

The DFES State EM Policy Branch is conducting consultation via [Engage WA Emergency Management](#).

On this page you will be able to:

- View information about the consultation process, including a summary of amendments.
- Download and view the draft Plan.
- Submit your feedback.
- View current consultation projects including [State Hazard Plan - Human Biosecurity](#)

**Please submit your feedback by COB 8 November 2024.**

- Anika Keeling, the consultant working with the Shires of Cuballing and Narrogin on the development of the joint LEMA mentioned that a review of the risk and resources registers will need to be completed.

**7. DATE TIME & VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting of the LEMC is to be held at the Shire of Cuballing on Tuesday, 10 December 2024.

**8. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

There being no further business to discuss, the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 5:25 pm.

**Local Emergency Management Committee ARC Report  
UPDATE August 2024**
**1. RECENT RESPONSE ACTIVITY**

- Red Cross was activated from 12 May to 11 June to provide Psychological First Aid and Register.Find.Reunite. for community members impacted by a series of weather events that occurred in Bunbury. This work included preliminary outreach for community members directly impacted by the event.

**2. RECOVERY**

- Red Cross has been providing support to the Recovery Team and community impacted by the May Bunbury weather events. Recovery support has included maintaining a presence in the City of Bunbury Recovery Hubs, participation in relevant Recovery Committees and provision of training for the Recovery Team.
- Red Cross has completed outreach for the Mariginiup Bushfire Recovery Team in Wanneroo. The Outreach took place over February, March and April involving 26 personnel (volunteers and staff). The final report outlining community sentiment data and recommendations was submitted in May.
- Two volunteers and one staff member supported the Department of Communities in providing Psychological First Aid for community members impacted by a shooting incident in Mogumber in April.

**2. PREPAREDNESS**

- Red Cross attended the City of Karratha Evacuation Centre Exercise in May. While in Karratha staff and volunteers also delivered Storytime with Birdie at a number of local libraries, four Pillowcase sessions at Tambray Primary School and Supporting the Supporters and Recovery Basics with staff from the City. Red Cross conducted a follow-up visit in June to complete Pillowcase and Storytime with Birdie sessions for all children up to year six at Tambray Primary School.
- Red Cross has been working with DFES to deliver All Hazards Preparedness Sessions for the Adult Migrant English Program classes at South Metro TAFE. A total of four sessions were held in May, across the TAFE campuses, as part of this series.
- Over April and May, Red Cross worked with the Shire of Mundaring and Bushfire Ready Groups to deliver seven Disastrous Dinners in the Shire. The Dinners are based on our EmergencyRedi program and provide psychosocial preparedness sessions within a social environment. The sessions, which were very well received held with the Shire were a pilot of the program for the Australian Red Cross nationally. As a result of this effort Red Cross is now rolling the program out to communities across Australia.
- In partnership with DFES Operations Red Cross undertook a series of sessions in the DFES Midlands and Goldfields regions. This work included:
  - Delivery of Storytime with Birdie, Pillowcase and YouthRedi programs to the entire student body at Quairading District School.
  - Delivery of Supporting the Supporter and Prepare to Respond training sessions to staff at the Shire of Quairading.
  - Delivery of Evacuation Centre Team Member and Evacuation Centre Manager training to staff from the Shire of Quairading and Department of Communities
  - Preparedness outreach sessions and children and youth programs held in Badgingarra, Cunderdin, Dandaragan, Dowering, Kalgoorlie, Southern Cross, Tammin, Toodyay and Trayning.

### 3. WORKFORCE TRAINING AND PREPAREDNESS

#### Volunteer Recruitment

- Red Cross has undertaken preliminary volunteer recruitment activities with 12 new volunteers being onboarded. Due to an organisational restructure recruitment has been temporarily closed for the year.

#### Training

- Red Cross is currently undertaking a series of psychological first aid training to ensure volunteers are accredited for the upcoming season. Two more sessions will be held in August and September.
- Nine volunteers have recently been trained to deliver the Pillowcase program. Over the next three months these volunteers will undertake up to three supervised program deliveries to be accredited as Pillowcase presenters.

### 4. KEY MESSAGES AND NATIONAL INFORMATION

- Red Cross has recently undertaken an organisational restructure which has resulted in:
  - Emergency Response activities being centralised and the creation of two Senior Officer positions to lead response in Western Australia and based in Perth and under management of the Manager Emergency Response.
  - Disaster Resilience and Recovery being aligned with Red Cross Migrant Support Programs under management of the State Manager Programs based in Perth with two Senior Officer Resilience and Recovery positions under management.
  - Meaghan Barry has been appointed to the role of Manager Emergency Response and is based in Victoria.
  - Liza Beinart has been appointed to the role of State Manager Programs.
  - Jennifer Pidgeon, former State Manager Emergency Services, Karina Skipworth, former State Lead Workforce and Operations and Lauren Holmes, former State Lead Resilience and Recovery have left the organisation.
  - Recruitment will be undertaken in September to fill the four Senior Officer roles which are currently vacant.
  - Volunteer capability and availability remains at previous levels, with volunteers available for response activities and limited resilience and recovery activities.
- The Duty Phone number will remain as is and managed through the new Emergency Response portfolio.
- Follow the Red Cross WA Facebook Page for updated posts:
- Key messages and support tips are continually updated on the Australian Red Cross website:  
<https://www.redcross.org.au/>

For further information, please contact:

#### Response

Meaghan Barry

#### Manager Emergency Response (Victoria)

Mob +61 0402 974 833 | Email [mbarry@redcross.org.au](mailto:mbarry@redcross.org.au)

#### Resilience and Recovery

Liza Beinart

State Manager Programs (WA)

Mob +61 0411 024 802 | Email [lbeinart@redcross.org.au](mailto:lbeinart@redcross.org.au)

**LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISOR REPORT  
July to September 2024**

## STATE NEWS

The last meeting of the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) was held 7 August 2024. SEMC Communiqués can be found [here](#).

## STATE CONSULTATION REQUESTS

To view all current and recently closed state consultation requests please go to [Engage WA Emergency Management](#).

### **Review - State Hazard Plan – Human Biosecurity**

The Department of Health has recently undertaken a comprehensive review of the State Hazard Plan - Human Biosecurity. The DFES State Emergency Management Policy Branch is now seeking broad stakeholder feedback on the proposed amendments and welcomes other questions or comments you have in relation to this Plan.

For further information and to provide feedback go to the [State Hazard Plan - Human Biosecurity](#) webpage.

**Feedback by COB 8 November 2024.**

### **Review - State Recovery Arrangements in the EM Framework – DFES**

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) is undertaking a review of state level recovery coordination and governance arrangements provided in the State Emergency Management Framework.

The purpose of the review is to better define when and how the state government will provide recovery coordination support to local governments and communities following emergencies. This will include clarifying the role, membership, responsibilities and accountability of key state level recovery coordination positions and groups and the DFES Resilience and Recovery Portfolio.

The review will not change the role and responsibilities currently held by local government under the *Emergency Management Act 2005* and State Emergency Management Framework, however it will clarify the circumstances and arrangements for state support to local governments and/or involvement of a state appointed recovery coordinator.

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements are **not** a focus of this review.

### **Local Government Focus Group Sessions**

As part of the review, DFES have conducted 2 focus group sessions in June with local government representatives that have recent disaster recovery experience. The purpose of the focus group sessions was to test the policy options and obtain preliminary feedback to inform the review.

All local governments and the emergency management sector will have the opportunity to review the proposed changes and provide feedback via a formal three-month consultation period later this year. The consultation period will include a program of webinars and engagement sessions for local government.

### **Amendments to State Emergency Management documents**

DFES has completed the periodical comprehensive review of the State Hazard Plan – Hazardous Materials Emergencies (HAZMAT). The term ‘hazardous materials’ was removed from the title to reduce the confusion between the definition of a ‘hazardous substance’ within the *Emergency Management Act 2005* and the definition of ‘hazardous materials’ in the *Fire Brigades Act 1942*, and the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1988*. The plan is now known as State Hazard – HAZMAT.

DFES has amended the State Hazard Plan - Fire and State Hazard Plan - Severe Weather following further implementation of the Australian Warning System framework across cyclone, flood and storm warnings.

Consequential amendments to the Local Recovery Guideline and resources were redesigned to increase accessibility of the documents and bring the documents in line with the West Australian Government’s accessibility and inclusivity standard. Please note the DFES State Recovery Team has initiated a comprehensive review process to further review this guideline as more substantial amendments were required to meet the current recovery needs. Local governments do not need to amend their current plans to match these revised documents.

The WA Police Force has amended the State Hazard Plan – Hostile Act, and State Hazard Plan – Terrorist Act to incorporate the consequential statement of fact amendments as a result of removing chemical, biological, and radiation (CBR) emergency from State Hazard Plan – HAZMAT. As described in State Hazard Plan – HAZMAT, DFES will continue to provide a HAZMAT (chemical, radiological or other substance) capability to hostile act or terrorist act incidents managed by the WA Police Force.

### **The 2023 Emergency Preparedness Report**

The 2023 Emergency Preparedness Report has now been released. This report is a snapshot in time of the level of emergency management capability and preparedness we have, as a state, to manage before, during and after emergency events. It highlights our strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement statewide, and combines the input from about 170 agencies.

[2023 Emergency Preparedness Report](#)

### **Local Emergency Management Committee Handbook and useful tools**

The [LEMC handbook](#) provides local governments with a summary of the actions and best practice principles as required under section 38 – 40 of the Emergency Management Act 2005, State Emergency Management Policy, procedures, and guidelines.

The LEMC Handbook provides a summary of the WA emergency management arrangements, key roles, and responsibilities and best practice advice for the administration of LEMC.

The Handbook also includes sample LEMC Terms of Reference and Meeting Agenda templates, which can be downloaded from the SEMC website.

### **Australian Warning System (AWS)**

Western Australia has adopted national consistency for cyclone, storm and flood warnings through the [Australian Warning System \(AWS\)](#). The wet weather hazards join bushfire and heatwave in using the AWS colours, icons and warning levels. Warnings also feature an action statement in the headline, giving clear advice to the community about how to stay safe.

## **DFES / NEMA Recovery Funding Presentation**

**Tuesday 17 September 2024 9:30 – 11:30am**

This recovery presentation is designed to build awareness of Western Australia's approach to recovery funding and the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) and broader awareness of national initiatives driving the Commonwealth's contribution to recovery and recovery funding. Email [drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au) to register.

### **Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements**

Natural disasters or terrorist acts can result in large-scale expenditure in the form of emergency and recovery assistance. To assist with this financial burden, the Australian and Western Australian governments have joint arrangements in place to provide financial assistance in certain circumstances. These arrangements are referred to as the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Western Australia (DRFAWA) and are administered by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) on behalf of the WA State Government.

Recovery from disasters is a shared responsibility between individuals, households, businesses, communities and governments. The arrangements are designed as a safety net when costs to undertake recovery activities from an eligible disaster become significant.

For assistance to be made available under the DRFAWA, the event must meet all three of the following criteria:

1. The event was one or a combination of the ten specified disasters including bushfire, earthquake, flood, storm, cyclone, storm surge, landslide, tsunami, meteorite strike, tornado; or the event was a terrorist act.
2. A coordinated, multi-agency response was required.
3. Eligible expenditure relating to emergency assistance, damage to essential public assets and/or other eligible assistance provided in relation to the event exceeds \$240,000 across the affected local government areas.

For more information go to <https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/recovery-funding>

For any queries, please email [drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au) or call 1800 920 659.

## **DISTRICT NEWS**

The next Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee meeting is scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

A regional bushfire exercise was held in August for the DFES Great Southern region to test Incident Management Team (IMT) capability and readiness prior to the high threat period. The DFES Upper Great Southern regional bushfire exercise is planned for October.

## **LOCAL NEWS**

### **LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS**

Please check the due date for your five-yearly LEMA reviews and allow a minimum of six months to complete the LEMA review process. Funding opportunities are available to assist with LEMA reviews.

### **The Local Emergency Management Arrangements Improvement Program**

Building on the previous work of the LEMA Review, the LEMA Improvement Program will continue working toward the goal of a more capable and resilient community, through a local

approach to emergency management. To deliver on the commitment of a sector-led LEMA improvement process, the WA Local Government Association (WALGA) is partnering with SEMC. WALGA will work on behalf of local government, making sure that the sector is consulted, and their feedback guides the reform of local emergency management.

The projects that make up the LEMA Improvement Program will be fulfilled in phases. Phase 1 has commenced, with the following key activities underway:

- LEMA pilot program development
- Recruitment for a resource to undertake the local government emergency management policy work
- Setting up governance structures and groups.

***Given the timeframes of the program please don't delay in preparing any LEMA that are due or nearly due for their 5-year review. This will enable compliance with your obligations under the Emergency Management Act 2005.***

### **District Emergency and Local Emergency Management Committees Review**

In May 2022 SEMC meeting, members approved a review of the roles of District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC) and Local Emergency Management Committees (LEMC).

For more information go to:

<https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/state-emergency-management-committee/review-district-and-local-emergency-management-committees>

### **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.

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

## **2024 SEMC MEETING SCHEDULE**

- 2 October 2024
- 4 December 2024

**Complied by: Charlotte Powis  
District Emergency Management Advisor  
Great Southern  
Department of Fire and Emergency Services.**





## Report for Shire of Narrogin LEMC September 2024

### **What is your current capability for managing incidents/responses? (Do you have enough trained and/or experienced people, resources)?**

Few vacant positions in the Wheatbelt region. Greg Durell, Regional Manager has retired. Mitchell Davies acting in this role. In the process of recruiting conservation employees for 6 month contracts, they will be trained and rostered on for this coming fire season. All Wheatbelt staff currently undergoing mandatory pre-season training – ie. fire medicals, fitness test and turnover drills and exercises.

### **2. What is your capacity (such as volunteer numbers) and resources looking like for the future? Do you have a volunteer recruitment strategy? NA**

### **3. Are there any new or emerging risks which might impact on your organisation (changes to legislation, seasonal outlooks, new industrial developments)?**

Seasonal outlook – good rain = good growth in vegetation and crops.  
'Die-off' in vegetation across the west coast and south west increasing fire behaviour risk.

### **4. Do you have any exercises planned? Can other agencies attend to participate or observe? No, select staff joining DFES exercise planned for October.**

### **5. If you have had any incidents or exercises what were the lessons identified – are any these common to other organisations? DBCA learns from every fire season.**

### **6. Thinking about your community/ies, how well prepared are they to respond to your hazard/emergency? Attended DOAC meeting last week as part of preparedness.**

### **7. What community engagement activities have you carried out / have planned? None**

### **8. How resilient do you think your community is for your hazards and what could be done to improve community resilience? NA**



### **Issues of interest to LEMC**

Grain Harvest waterbombers scheduled to be at Narrogin from 15/11, subject to curing of crops. DBCA has received approval from shire to move the fence, seeking approval from Narrogin Hawks Football Club as they have a crop in the north paddock.

One interagency agreement between DBCA and 2 DFES region due to low number of resources available.



# Emergency Relief and Support

## Emergency evacuation centre training

- The emergency evacuation centre training is being enhanced and revised to boost the knowledge and confidence of Communities district teams, local government and other partnering agencies to work within an emergency evacuation centre.
- This dynamic, interactive three-hour training enables participants to design and set up an evacuation centre, while navigating a variety of scenarios staff may encounter in such settings.
- Participants will include a cross section of Communities staff and local government agencies to foster collaboration and relationship building.
- Whenever possible, training will be held in designated evacuation centres to provide hands-on experience.

**The ERS team will be in contact to arrange a training schedule and identifying dates and locations.**

## Planning and Preparedness

- The ERS Directorate are keen to work with Local Governments and partners in preparations and exercising. If you are running any exercises or events that would be of value and appropriate for ERS to attend, please let your ERS Regional Coordinator know.

**The ERS Directorate can support the local government by reviewing your emergency kits ensuring that appropriate items and resources are available.**

## Update of the Local Emergency Relief and Support Plans (LERSP)

- The ERS Directorate are currently reviewing the Local Emergency Relief and Support Plans (LERSP).
- The LERSP details the operational management and coordination of ERS under the Western Australian (WA) Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMAs).
- It is planned to have the LERSP tabled on the agenda for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter LEMC meetings for 2024.

**The ERS team will be in contact to request feedback and information to complete the LERSP for your region.**

## State-wide audit evacuation centres

- The ERS Directorate is completing audits of the State's nominated evacuation centres.

### State-wide audit evacuation centres

- The audits are to identify hazard-specific risks relevant to the region and to identify opportunities for local governments to upgrade facilities to mitigate these risks.
- The Directorate would like to engage with local governments (LGs) and WALGA to discuss opportunities through the Disaster Ready Fund grants for 2025 to improve these facilities and mitigate risks in emergency events.

**Discussions are encouraged with your region if you are planning any new evacuations centres or upgrades to existing ones.**

## Recovery Activities Update

### Communities 2023/24 High Threat Season Activations

The ERS Directorate would like to acknowledge and thank all our local and state partners for the assistance and support provided over the 2023-24 season.

Since October 2023, there has been a total of 40 events supported by Communities including:

- Activation under the AUSRECEPLAN– Israel and Gaza repatriation
- Pre-planning undertaken for 3 high threat weather events, that didn't result in activation.
- 457 people were supported during events through our client management system
- 1 active and declared recovery event (under Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements) - Mariginiup Fire.
- just prior to Christmas 2023, there were 6 activations supported by Communities over just 2 days (20-22 December).

Our team looks forward to working with you all over the coming months as we prepare for the 2024-25 season.

### Communities Recovery Activities

#### Kimberley Floods Recovery Program

- The Kimberley Flood Recovery Team continues to support impacted residents, through the Hub.
- In addition, to supporting impacted residents with their claims and eligibility requirements is also extended to practical, personal and wellbeing supports.
- At present there are five projects supporting Fitzroy Valley individuals and communities, in varying capacities, and we are reviewing the scope for future project requirements.
- We are currently working with the Housing Team and the Hub, to ensure residents understand their rights and obligations as they begin their journey from their temporary accommodation units to their home.

#### Mariginiup Fires Recovery Program

- Communities is supporting the City of Wanneroo to deliver the psychosocial wellbeing and financial support elements of the recovery program.
- Communities has engaged several psychologists to support impacted resident referrals and has delivered a financial assistance package aimed at supporting the replacement of essential household items damaged in the fires.
- Communities is currently supporting the City with site visits to damaged properties to commence the clean-up program to ensure residents have access to support services if required.

### Communities Recovery Activities

- [Mariginiup Bushfire Recovery Information.pdf](#)

### Bunbury Storms Recovery Program

- As of 15 July, Communities are supporting 9 people in supported accommodation.
- Communities have begun providing return home packages which include food boxes and prepaid cards for individuals transitioning home.
- Communities have finalised psychological services and beginning to triage requests via the approved providers.
- Communities have finalised category 3 and 4 financial assistance and will begin a targeted outreach of known impacted people.
- Communities Disaster Response Hotline remains open for support in the absence of HUBS. Communities' officers are engaging regularly with impacted individuals via this hotline.
- Communities is finalising a procurement process with Red Cross for the recovery training program being delivered to the city.

### Disaster Ready Fund

Several LGs in Western Australia (WA) submitted applications for the Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) in 2024 to support the improvement of their facilities used as evacuation centres.

The ERS Directorate had the opportunity to review LGs applications for the Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) provided to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) for 2024 and assessed that the projects would contribute to the State's ability to provide emergency accommodation for evacuating communities. All applications were considered suitable to progress for further consideration in the DRF process.