

Shire of Denmark Minutes



LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 953 SOUTH COAST HIGHWAY, DENMARK,
MONDAY 19TH APRIL 2019

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19 August 2019

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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Presiding Person opened the meeting at 4:05pm

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCEMEMBERS:

Cr Ceinwen Gearon	Shire President & Presiding Person
Cr Roger Seeney	Council Representative
Mr Matt Hartfield	Denmark Police, Officer in Charge
Mr Adam Smith	DFES District Emergency Management Advisor
Mr Bryce Edwards	Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer
Mr Derek Stone	Denmark Volunteer Marine Rescue
Ms Marion MacDougall	St. John Ambulance, Denmark
Mr Lee Shelley	Denmark Volunteer Fire and Rescue
Mr David Rae	St. John Ambulance Community Paramedic
Ms Julie Hollingworth	Denmark Health Service
Mr George Mumford	Denmark Surf Lifesaving
Mr Wes Bailye	Department of Fire and Emergency Services

STAFF:

Mr Scott Medhurst	(non-voting) Community Emergency Services Manager
Ms Melanie Haymont	Bushfire Risk Planning Coordinator

APOLOGIES:

Mr David Schober	Shire of Denmark Manager Community Services
Ms Shenna Christensen	Silver Chain
Mr Lez Baines	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Mr John Bridger	Walpole Police, Officer in Charge
Mr Alex Williams	Walpole Sea Rescue

ABSENT:

Ms Tracey Allison	Denmark State Emergency Service
Mr Peter Newton	Walpole State Emergency Service
Mr Brian Vigus	Peaceful Bay Sea Rescue
Ms Kelly Burton	Walpole, St John Ambulance
Mr Neville Blackburn	Department of Communities
Mr George Doust	DBCA Frankland

VISITORS:

Ms Charlotte Powis	Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Ms Kathryn Kinnear	Bio Diverse Solutions
Ms Sonia Michelin	Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Ms Megan Bob	Silver Chain Albany
Mr Carl Wesley	Shire of Denmark BFAC Representative

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Nil

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING

Cr Gearon acknowledged the land on which the meeting was being held and the traditional custodians of the land, the Bibbulmun and Minang people. Cr Gearon stated that she would also like to show her respect for elder's past, present and emerging.

Cr Gearon noted that a quorum had not been met for the previous two meetings which was disappointing and reminded the committee members of the importance of attending LEMC meetings on a regular basis.

Cr Gearon welcomed Guests to the meeting and introduced Sonia Michelin the All Hazard Coordinator from Department of Fire and Emergency Services Community Preparedness Directorate to the meeting to present an overview of the At Risk Communities Program.

Following the presentation there was a question and answer session involving Committee members which focused on the following topics;

- Committee and Community involvement in the program and how the Committee could help with it being adopted.
- Other communities that had adopted this program and how successful it had been.
- Vulnerable community groups included in the program and what hazards it covered.
- Confidentiality/Privacy issues surrounding the information and where it sits in relation to the Shire of Denmark Emergency Management Arrangements.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 MINUTES OF THE LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION	ITEM 4.1
Moved: Matt Hartfield	Seconded: Marion MacDougall
That the minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee held on the 18 th February 2019, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.	
Carried: Unanimous	

5. REPORTS

5.1 WA POLICE

Sgt Matt Hartfield reported on the following

- District Emergency Management Committee has an interest in the work the LEMC is doing for vulnerable communities in Denmark.
- Disappointment that LEMC has not been able to form a quorum for the last two meetings and reminded members of their responsibilities
- Multiple agency incident – Structure Fire was a great example of how Denmark Emergency Services are coordinating and communicating
- First Responders Meeting is very valuable and has had a noticeable effect on how agencies interact at incidents.
- Increase in chemical related incidents in the Denmark community
- School Crossing South Coast Highway is now in operation and is a great example of an interagency approach to achieving it.

Cr Seeney asked for more information surrounding the National Day of Action and Sgt Hartfield advised that it was a nationwide road safety campaign.

5.2 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES

Nil

5.3 DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Mr Wes Bailye reported on the following

- Introduced himself to the committee and provided background and experience
- Mitigation and Treatment of Risk in the Denmark area

Mr Adam Smith reported on the following

- Upcoming DEMC meeting should provide some interesting scenarios for the LEMC to work with
- DPIRD are running an Animal Welfare in emergencies workshop in Albany

5.4 DEPARTMENT OF BIODIVERSITY, CONSERVATION AND ATTRACTIONS

Nil

5.5 DENMARK HEALTH SERVICE

Ms Julie Hollingworth reported on the following

- Review of the Denmark Hospital Evacuation plan to see if there is scope to have an external evacuation plan.

5.6 DENMARK SES

Nil

5.7 DENMARK SURF LIFE SAVING

Mr George Mumford reported on the following

- Denmark to host the Sate Country Championships in March expecting 2000+ people to attend, SLSC are working on a Risk Management and Evacuation plan for the event.
- Funding applications for the new club are progressing
- Esperance MARSAR and LANDSAR were a valuable learning experience for the club and they have been shared with other agencies.

5.8 ST JOHN AMBULANCE

Mr David Rae reported on the following

- Major Incident Medical Management Support training has occurred in Denmark for volunteers and Community Paramedic.
- Leavers Alive – The First Responders meeting in conjunction with Roadwise are working on a motor vehicle crash simulation to present to the Y11/12 students of the High School and Ag College.
- Multiple Agency Training with VFRS and WAPol was very beneficial with some learnings already being adopted as best practice.
- Denmark SJA subcentre now has generator backup and fixed satellite phone redundancy to ensure they can continue to provide service to the community during extended power outages.
- 10 new members expected to be fully trained by the end of the year.

Ms Marion MacDougall reported on the following

- Community Car transport service has been very well adopted with the service being used almost daily and 17 volunteer drivers are now available. They have also liaised with medical practices in Albany so there is a coordinated approach to appointment times for Denmark Residents (Exact numbers of people transported were not available but will be brought to the next meeting)

5.9 SILVERCHAIN WALPOLE

Nil

5.10 CHIEF BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICER

Mr Bryce Edwards reported on the following

Since the last LEMC meeting all was quiet during the Restricted Burning Period

History has shown that once the restrictions are lifted then we seem to have a few call outs in the first week. This was proved to be correct in that we received 8 Emergency calls in the first 5 days of The Unrestricted Burning Period

JUNE 5th, 6th and 7th incidents

After receiving adverse incoming weather reports, including high winds with gusts expected to exceed 80 kph and after consulting with Albany DFES, The Shire decided to invoke section 46 of the Bush Fires Act 1954 prohibiting the lighting of fires on June 5th, 6th and 7th June 2019.

There was, however a gap in how this information reached the Public and therefore all we could do is to ask the owners to extinguish any Fire that they had lit during these three days.

There have since been several conversations with DFES to see if there is a better way to get the message over to the public when we need to put restrictions in place.

Infringement notices have been issued as there still appears to be a lack of knowledge surrounding the understanding of the responsibility of containing controlling and extinguishing fires.

Initially the incidents were controlled on site prior to the Shires Incident Control Room being stood up. The effort and training that the Shire had done since May 2018 was made very obvious and it was plain to see. The Shires works department was also very much on the ball with Water Carriers and equipment when requested.

Mooney Valley incident saw crews work through the night and managed to achieve the set objective of containment within the designated area. Community Warnings were issued for this incident and remained in place until the risk was removed.

During this period there was a total of 15 incidents created in the Denmark Shire. All incidents were closed off on the 7th June.

Thank you to DBCA Parks and Wildlife who assisted us with a fire on the edge of National Park where they supplied 3 Heavies plus machinery and were on site within an hour.

Recently Brigades also assisted the Denmark Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service at a Structure Fire in Denmark. This was to supply water and manpower to limit the spread of fire away from the structure. Thanks to Denmark VFRS for their support and Coordination.

5.11 VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE

Mr Lee Shelley reported on the following

- Structure Fire was a great multiple agency collaboration and reinforced the work agencies had been doing to work well together. There were no injuries which was the best outcome for the situation.
- Joint training between agencies has been working well.
- First responders meeting has led to better relationships at incidents

5.12 VOLUNTEER MARINE RESCUE

Mr Derek Stone (Denmark) to report on the following:

Single Callout since last meeting which was a standby call while fuel was delivered by a member of the public to another vessel.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

6.1 Ocean Beach Evacuation

The evacuation of Ocean Beach remains an item of interest to the DEMC, Mr Scott Medhurst in consultation with Mr Adam Smith are looking at ways to improve the LEMA in this space. The information obtained during the BRIGS project which will be discussed during general business will provide some solid evidence-based decision making opportunities for this item.

6.2 Angel ring life buoy install at Lights Beach

The Shire in conjunction with Recfishwest have arranged for the supply and fitment of three Angel Rings at no expense to the Shire. These are to be installed at Lights Beach, Peaceful Bay and either Conspicuous Cliff or Madfish Bay (in consultation with DBCA). Mr Scott Medhurst would like to acknowledge the support of Recfishwest in this matter both financially and practically. It is really good to see that agencies can all work together to improve the safety of anglers and beachgoers generally.

Mr Peter Masters will review locations on DBCA tenure to assess suitability of mounting locations for Angel Rings. Potential locations include the rocks at the western end of Conspicuous Cliff and the high current area at Madfish Bay.

Committee discussion took place surrounding the best location for the Angel Rings. With Elephant Rocks and Mazzoletti Beach being suggested.

Action Item:

Mr Scott Medhurst to follow-up with DBCA/Recfishwest surrounding these locations and their support for placing the Angel Rings there.

6.3 Vulnerable persons register / evacuations establishment of working group

This was a deferred item from the previous meeting awaiting the expertise of Mr Adam Smith to assist in the establishment of the Working Group Mr Scott Medhurst has been in regular contact with Mr Adam Smith to work on ways to ensure the best outcome of this working group.

Based on the presentation provided at the start of the meeting discussion surrounding the actual need for a working group and establishment of a register took place. Outside agencies already hold this information and there is confidentiality, privacy and currency issues with sharing it. Based on the expertise in the room it was determined that advice should be sought from the DEMC to obtain an accurate description of what they deem as vulnerable. Contact will then be made with external providers to obtain an approximate number of these people in the community.

Action Item:

Mr Adam Smith to obtain a definition of a vulnerable Person from DEMC

Mr Scott Medhurst to obtain a list of external care providers in Shire of Denmark and contact them for an approximate number of people meeting this definition in their care.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Ms Charlotte Powis, Ms Kathryn Kinnear and Ms Melanie Haymont - Bushfire Resilience in the Great Southern (BRIGS) Project.

Presentation of the plan and expected outputs of the Great Southern Resilience Project

- The Shire of Denmark, Plantagenet and the City of Albany will have clear direction for mitigation and evacuation planning for 8 precincts with an identified, elevated risk from bushfire. This will enhance these community's response and recovery capacity through informed planning strategies.
- Evacuation centres will be identified for the ability to withstand fire and provide a tenable environment during and after a fire event. Increasing the likelihood of resilience and recovery to a bushfire event.
- Local governments will be better informed to enable strategic forward planning for bushfire resilience which will create confidence with local volunteers and state response agencies.
- The communities will develop greater confidence in local government and state agencies ability to respond in the event of a bushfire.
- BAL contour plans for 3-4 precincts with Very high or Extreme risk per local government.

- GIS mapping with Vegetation classes, BAL Contour Plans and works plans for identified precincts.
- Targeted community and stakeholder consultation around works plan.
- Targeted community and stakeholder consultation on evacuation planning.
- Consolidation of existing information on road networks, population statistics, Bushfire Management Plan's, Town Planning Schemes and subdivision guide plans, road networks and conservation values to guide evacuation planning and on ground works.
- Method 2 BAL assessments on all existing evacuation centres and possible locations of "safer areas or places of last resort.
- Recommendations to assist evacuation centres to BAL 10 or lower
- Identify possible areas for community safe areas where evacuation may be compromised due to no-through roads, population density or rapid onsite of fire and/or extreme behaviour.
- Identify areas of improvement for evacuation procedures within the high-risk extreme precincts to advise local governments of future development opportunities and strategic road development /improvement.
- Inform local government's Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) around current risk and capability for evacuation planning
- Provide strategic input into town planning, evacuation management, local government's wide risk management tools

7.2 **Mr Carl Wesley – Combined Emergency Services recruitment day.**

Mr Carl Wesley introduced himself to the committee and advised that he had been nominated by the Bushfire Advisory Committee to attend this meeting and speak with the LEMC in regard to holding a combined emergency services recruitment day. This suggestion was supported by the LEMC committee. Mr Bryce Edwards provided further information surrounding the Shire of Denmark Brigades that needed focusing on.

Action Item:

Mr Scott Medhurst and Mr Carl Wesley to have a discussion out of session on the best way to move this forward. Possible involvement from DFES Volunteer Management support officer and Shire of Denmark will also be sought.

7.3 **Ms Charlotte Powis – Bushfire Ready Facilitators forum.**

A general overview of the first ever Bushfire Ready Facilitators forum was given. Facilitators from the Great Southern and Lower South west came together to share ideas and provide learning and mentorship opportunities. The forum was very well received and key learnings will be implemented as practical.

8. **NEXT MEETING**

Scheduled for Monday 21TH October 2019 in the Shire of Denmark Council Chambers, 953 South Coast Highway, Denmark, commencing at 4.00pm.

9. **CLOSURE OF MEETING**

There being no further business the Presiding Person closed the meeting at 6:28pm

These minutes were confirmed at the meeting of the _____

Signed: _____

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