

Shire of Denmark Minutes



LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
953 SOUTH COAST HIGHWAY, DENMARK
MONDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2019

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1. ELECTION OF PRESIDING PERSON

As the Chairperson of the Committee was not appointed by the Local Government pursuant to Section 38(3) (a) of the Emergency Management Act 2005. The default Chair will be the current serving Shire President of the Council Cr Ceinwen Gearon.

2. DECLARATION OF OPENING / WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Presiding Person opened the meeting at 4:05pm

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

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

Cr Ceinwen Gearon	Shire President & Presiding Person
Mr John Bridger	Walpole Police, Officer in Charge
Mr James Anderson	Denmark State Emergency Service
Mr Peter Mather	Denmark Volunteer Sea Rescue
Mr Brian Vigus	Peaceful Bay Sea Rescue
Ms Marion MacDougall	St. John Ambulance, Denmark
Mr Lez Baines	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Ms Julie Hollingworth	Denmark Health Service
Mr Neville Blackburn	Department of Communities

STAFF:

	(non-voting)
Mr Scott Medhurst	Community Emergency Services Manager
Ms Melanie Haymont	Bushfire Risk Planning Coordinator
Mrs Angela Simpson	Manager Community Services
Ms Emma Holliday	Administration Officer Community Services (scribe)

APOLOGIES:

Mr Lee Shelley	Denmark Volunteer Fire and Rescue
Mr David Rae	St. John Ambulance Community Paramedic
Mr Dennis Hall	Chairperson St John Ambulance Community Paramedic
Mr George Doust	DBCA Frankland

ABSENT:

Mr Matt Hartfield	Denmark Police, Officer in Charge
Cr Mark Allen	Council Representative
Ms Tracey Allison	Denmark State Emergency Service
Mr Bryce Edwards	Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer
Mr Peter Newton	Walpole State Emergency Service
Ms Kelly Burton	Walpole, St John Ambulance
Mr Wes Bailye	Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Mr Alex Williams	Walpole Sea Rescue
Mr Adam Smith	DFES District Emergency Management Advisor

VISITORS:

Nil

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Nil

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING

Cr Ceinwen Gearon commended the work of volunteers from Denmark Surf Life Saving Club who were off duty when an incident occurred on Thursday, 12th December at Ocean Beach and surf life savers attempted to provide first aid.

Cr Ceinwen Gearon welcomed Angela Simpson, Acting Manager Community Services and Emma Holliday, Administration Officer Community Services and minute taker of the meeting.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**5.1 MINUTES OF THE LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE****OFFICER DECISION**

ITEM 5.1

Moved: Nil

Seconded: Nil

That the minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee held on the 19th August 2019, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

Carried: **DEFERRED****6. REPORTS****6.1 WA POLICE**

Sgt John Bridger reported that both Denmark and Walpole Police are prepared for the tourist season.

6.2 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES

Mr Neville Blackburn reported on the following:

- On the 19th December the organisation ran a Welfare Evacuation Centre Exercise out of the Albany Leisure and Aquatic Centre, representatives from 6 local government organisations attended as well as others. It was identified that Jerramungup was not suitable for a large evacuation.
- Department of Communities have been heavily involved in the bush fires up north, there is currently 50 staff still assisting in the Gingin Evacuation centre.

6.3 DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Nil

6.4 DEPARTMENT OF BIODIVERSITY, CONSERVATION AND ATTRACTIONS

Nil

6.5 DENMARK HEALTH SERVICE

Ms Julie Hollingworth reported on the following:

- The Denmark Hospital has employed four additional locum doctors to assist with fatigue management. They will provide on-site coverage from 25 December 2019 until 27 January 2019, with the current registered GP's continuing to operate on-call.

- The locum's will be travelling from Albany this year as no accommodation arrangements have been made, although the intention is to provide accommodation for them next year.

6.6 DENMARK SES

Mr James Anderson reported that SES are well staffed with volunteers over the Christmas period.

6.7 DENMARK SURF LIFE SAVING

Cr Ceinwen Gearon reported that Denmark Surf Life Saving have been in season for three weeks, with lots of new volunteers and over 200 nippers.

6.8 ST JOHN AMBULANCE

Ms Marion MacDougall reported on the following

- Patient Transport has increased with November figures at,
 - 51 patients transported in the Community Transport vehicle.
 - 53 patients transported in the Ambulance.
- Currently operating with adequate volunteer support, 15 drivers available.
- David Rae has recently successfully completed Medical Incident Management System training.
- Non-accredited First Aid courses will be run for the community in the New Year.
- Schools are scheduled in for First Aid training in the New Year.
- A volunteer recruitment drive will be run in the New Year.

6.9 SILVERCHAIN WALPOLE

Nil

6.10 CHIEF BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICER

Mr Lez Baines submitted the following report:

Conditions now, in the Prohibited Burning Period are of a great concern, things are very dry and there is a lot of fuel around. I cancelled all permits from midnight last Thursday due to the conditions and we have had 1 Total Fire Ban day issued in the Shire since that day.

Brigades are compliant with training and most brigades are continuing to run regular training sessions. Brigades are compiling weekly availability sheets to enable us to create a better response time plus the majority of Denmark's Brigades are now registered with the DFES paging system to hopefully raise awareness that there is an incident developing and to provide an improved response time.

Myself, as Chief and Bryce Edwards as Deputy Chief have had talks to ensure that we do not over extend ourselves and that we manage our fatigue carefully throughout this fire season. Moral is good but the brigades are concerned with low volunteer crew members.

It is now common knowledge that Denmark deployed 3 volunteers to assist in NSW. In addition to that we have had crews on standby several times for a quick deployment should they be required in the Great Southern area.

Incidents attended since the last LEMC meeting:

1of Unattended burn (no permit required)

1of Illegal burn (owner extinguished immediately)

- 1of Suspicious scrub fire
- 4of Escaped burns (all had permits)
- 1of Re-ignition burn (permit expired thought fire was extinguished)
- 1of Illegal burn due to Permit conditions not being adhered to.
(Permit was revoked)
- 1of Justifiable false alarms
- 1of Assist VFRS with structural fire

Communications between all emergency groups is excellent and we are all working well together. Denmark now has in the region of 50 Bush Fire Ready Groups within the Shire and these contact details will be given to the Shire, Denmark Police and DBCA for their records. An enormous amount of effort has been made to create these groups from both volunteers and staff from Albany DFES.

Thank you to Matt Hartfield who gave a brief talk at the last BFAC meeting on road safety and driving under emergency conditions

Mr Lez Baines advised that one light tanker is currently away and Walpole only has four appliances available.

DBCA will not be conducting anymore prescribed burns, but are currently still monitoring Redman and Sticks.

6.11 VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE

Mr Lee Shelley submitted the following report:

The Shire of Denmark has just finished the installation of 14 Beach Emergency Numbering (BEN) signs at Shire beaches, with a further 21 signs to be installed in DPaW beach reserves and parks. This was achieved with a grant for \$14,500 from DPIRD for the manufacture of the signs and the shire installing them. Each sign displays a unique code which, when provided to emergency services, gives specific beach access location information.

Please take note of the sign when visiting the beach

You can use the BEN signs in an emergency by dialling triple zero 000 and quoting the unique code. The signs can also be used to report shark sightings to water police on 9442 8600

<https://www.sharksmart.com.au/news/new-sharksmart-wa-app-to-help-switch-on/>

Over the past few months Denmark VFRS has attended 8 serious incidents turning out with multiple agencies. Team work and cooperation has been exceptional and I would like to thank Denmark Police, St John Ambulance and SES

6.12 VOLUNTEER SEA RESCUE

Mr Peter Mather (Denmark) reported the following:

- Radio watches continue.
- A couple of minor issues occurred with boats setting to sea with non-operational radios. As a result an article was printed in the local paper reminding people to check their radios before setting to sea.
- Two new sub bases were installed during the month, sub base 6 and 7. Watches commenced on these sub bases in November.

Mr Brian Vigus (Peaceful Bay) reported the following:

- Department of Transport installed a new coast cam last week, these cameras provide near real time visual images of the coastline and can be accessed by anyone on the Department of Transport website.
- The new boat trailer has been collected, thank you to Denmark and Walpole for assisting for four days while the boat was out of the water.
- New antennas have been installed on Sea and Rescue building.

Cr Ceinwen Gearon questioned if there will be additional surf lifesaving personnel on the beach during the busy period at peaceful bay. Mrs Angela Simpson advised that she was not aware but would investigate and advise the group.

Action: Mrs Angela Simpson to notify the group about extra life savers

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

7.1 OCEAN BEACH EVACUATION

Ms Melanie Haymont reported the following:

- Angela Simpson and Melanie Haymont gave a presentation to DEMC that was well received.
- The BRIGS project first lot of field reporting has been completed and the data has been sent to level three bushfire consultants for review.
- Some things that will be reviewed are;
 - Options to open up another road reserve
 - Measurements on how quick a fire will move through that area.
- Mapping of bush fire risk over the whole of the Shire of Denmark to be completed in February.

7.2 ANGEL RING LIFE BUOY INSTALL AT LIGHTS BEACH

Mr Scott Medhurst reported the following update:

- There are currently 5 angel rings installed with three more to be installed at the below locations:
 - Parry's Beach (Herring Hole)
 - Lights Beach
 - Peaceful Bay (Jetty)
- A request for quotes has been submitted to local contractor to have the bases built for the Angel Rings, currently still waiting on response.
- No response was received from DBCA so at this current time, no Angel Rings to be installed within their managed locations with current round of funding from Recfishwest.

7.3 VULNERABLE PERSONS REGISTER / EVACUATIONS ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUP

Mr Scott Medhurst reported the following:

- Further discussions were had and it was decided that a working group is not going to be created at this stage.
- An external list of care providers is still being created, it will include positions not names.
- Mr Lee Shelley with DFES assistance, conducted workshops at Amaroo Village these were well received and as a result the Shire received multiple registration requests for the Emergency Services "SMS Alert" service.

7.4 COMBINED EMERGENCY SERVICES RECRUITMENT DAY

Mr Scott Medhurst reported the following:

- This item will be actioned in the off season.
- DFES are currently running the “Get Behind the Frontline” campaign to educate the community about behind the scenes emergency services roles, attract new recruits from diverse backgrounds, and drive traffic to the online volunteer recruitment page.

Cr Ceinwen Gearon raised a question about getting more young people involved in cadets, Mr Scott Medhurst advised that an Emergency Services Cadet Corp program was available to school age children. A lot of brigades come up against constrictions around Brigade cadet programs, such as “working with children checks” as well as enough volunteers to run a cadet program.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 MOBILE PHONE TOWER

Cr Ceinwen Gearon advised that a mobile phone tower is being installed at the windfarm to hopefully boost some of the current dead spots.

Action: Arrange for a Telstra representative to attend the February meeting and give an update on the works.

8.2 WATER AVAILABILITY

Cr Ceinwen Gearon questioned whether there were any water restrictions or concerns this summer for firefighting. Mr Lez Baines responded that they had no concerns, that they had water tanks and if these are empty refills can be done in multiple locations such as dams or multiple inlets.

Cr Ceinwen Gearon advised that there was mixed information in the media and other sources about our current water supply, if it was low or not.

Action: Arrange for a representative from Water Corporation (possibly Pamela Hawkins) to attend the February meeting and give an update on the water supply.

9. NEXT MEETING

Scheduled for Monday 17th February 2020 in the Shire of Denmark Council Chambers, 953 South Coast Highway, Denmark, commencing at 4.00pm.

10. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Presiding Person closed the meeting at 5:10pm

These minutes were confirmed at the meeting of the _____

Signed: _____

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