

Shire of Denmark Minutes



LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
953 SOUTH COAST HIGHWAY, DENMARK
MONDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2020

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1. 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.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE**MEMBERS:**

Cr Ceinwen Gearon	Shire President & Presiding Person
Cr Mark Allen	Council Representative
Sgt John Bridger	Walpole Police, Officer in Charge
Sgt Matt Hartfield	Denmark Police, Officer in Charge
Mr Adam Smith	DFES District Emergency Management Advisor
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 Lee Shelley	Denmark Volunteer Fire and Rescue
Mr Lez Baines	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Mr David Rae	St. John Ambulance Community Paramedic
Mr Neville Blackburn	Department of Communities
Ms Kylie Spencer	Denmark Health Service

STAFF:

	(non-voting)
Mr Scott Medhurst	Community Emergency Services Manager
Mrs Angela Simpson	Manager Community Services
Ms Emma Holliday	Administration Officer Community Services (scribe)

APOLOGIES:

Ms Julie Hollingworth	Denmark Health Service
Mr Alex Williams	Walpole Sea Rescue
Ms Charmaine Shelley	Senior Ranger

ABSENT:

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
Ms Melanie Haymont	Bushfire Risk Planning Coordinator
Mr George Doust	DFES Frankland
Mr Wayne Dumbrell	Walpole Volunteer Marine Rescue
Mr Wes Bailye	Department of Fire & Emergency Services
Mr Dennis Hall	Chairperson St John Ambulance Walpole/Nornalup
Ms Nikki Rouse	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions
Ms Marnita Sletten	SilverChain Walpole
Mr Lee Brampton	Denmark Surf Lifesaving

VISITORS:

Nil

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Nil

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING

Cr Ceinwen Gearon commended the work of volunteers who were deployed over east to assist with bush fires.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**4.1 MINUTES OF THE LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

OFFICER DECISION	ITEM 4.1
Moved: Neville Blackburn	Seconded: James Anderson
That the minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee held on the 16 th December 2019, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.	
Carried: CARRIED	

5. GUEST SPEAKER

Marion Massam, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
Gave a presentation on the Beach Emergency Numbers (BEN) sign program.

Matt Hartfield enquired as to what advertising could be done to advise the public of the BEN signs, angel rings and defibrillators.

Scott Medhurst advised that the Albany Advertiser recently did a piece on the angel rings in Albany, we could possibly contact them to do a follow-up piece on the installation of the angel rings in Denmark.

Action: The Shire to investigate the possibility of having a map stating the locations.

6. REPORTS**6.1 WA POLICE**

Sgt Matt Hartfield reported the following:

- Police attendance has been above average
- Crime has been down.
- There has been an increase in mental health related incidents, vehicle crash incidents and drug / alcohol related incidents.
- Emergency management has been low
- Police have completed training recently and another training exercise is due.

Feedback from the Katanning Fire

- Preparedness was lacking.
- Over 300 people evacuated due to an sms being sent out to the whole town rather than just effected areas.
- It is police policy that officers are not to attend within (1) hour of being notified of a fire. It is important to notify police as soon as an issue is identified, be aware of the (1) hour policy don't wait.

Sgt John Bridger reported the following:

- Acknowledgment of the work done by people who attended Ayr Sailean over the Christmas / New Year period., the Managers will not be returning
- (SAM) Speed Alert Monitoring
- There were no major incidents at Peaceful Bay over the holiday period
- Tree Top Walk, are still in discussions over the Emergency Management Plan.

6.2 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES

Mr Neville Blackburn reported on the following:

- Completed 2 x evacuation centre openings, Gnowangerup and Katanning until 7.30pm on the Friday.
- There was an event at the speedway and the Shire advised tourists that they could attend the evacuation centre when they shouldn't have as is only meant to be available for locals.
- They were asked to open the leisure centre, which is the nominated evacuation centre, the request was declined due to it being located within 400m of the fire.
- There was limited staff on 4 available when 350 people arrived at the evacuation centre, there was no power until 10:00pm. People choose to leave and only 40 remained. Four (4) more staff eventually arrived in Katanning from Perth at 12:30am.
- Approximately 10 people evacuated to Nyabing, Shire of Kent.

Ceinwen Gearon put the question forward asking what were the Key items learnt from the experience, Neville Blackburn responded that Shire of Katanning need a backup evacuation centre as the leisure centre was inappropriate and that the most appropriate place to send people at the time was Nyabing, Shire of Kent.

6.3 DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Mr Adam Smith reported on the following:

Local

- WA Community Evacuation in Emergencies Guideline is open for review – comments close 28 February.
- State Hazard Plan Space Re-entry Debris is open for review
- Exercise Management – changes made to the exercise requirements were made at the end of last year; changes include the introduction of a State EM Exercise Framework and 3 year exercise cycle and;
 - Over a three year period, EMA's and local governments will conduct a capability analysis to identify which core capabilities pose the greatest risk to their capacity to respond, manage and recover from their hazards, or perform their support functions.
 - They will then develop and submit an exercise schedule to the SEMC informing how they will test and improve their capabilities against the relevant capability achievement objectives.
 - EMA's and local governments will conduct their capability based exercise programs, (which are matched against their and the States greatest risks), and are relevant to their hazards and/or roles. These exercises may be in a workshop, desktop, drill, functional or field exercise format.
 - Agencies will progressively report against their exercise schedules by way of standardised post exercise reports.

- EMA exercise programs will continue to be resourced and funded by EMA's, support agencies and local governments as per existing arrangements
- EXERCISE EXEMPTIONS: Where an EMA, public authority, DEMC or Local Government is involved in a multi-agency activation, they may apply for an exercise exemption providing they can demonstrate that the capabilities identified to be exercised in their exercise schedule have been demonstrated and assessed during the activation. Agencies seeking an exercise exemption must prepare and submit a post operation report to the SECT, which includes an assessment of the identified State EM capabilities
- Local Emergency Management Forums – quarterly forums have been scheduled for 2020 for local government staff with the aim to work collaboratively on SEMC requirements, share information and training. Forums will be held north and south of the district – first forums 10th & 12th March.
- Next Great Southern WALGA Zone meeting – consideration of MOU for emergency support.

District

- Last DEMC meeting held 11 December 2019
- Ongoing items discussed included;
 - Outstanding LEMA
 - WAERN Radio Capability & familiarisation
 - Telstra communication issues
- Other items discussed included
 - African Swine Fever preparedness
 - Dept. Communities Welfare Centre exercise
 - Water deficiency declarations
 - New/updated Bushfire Planning policies & guidelines (Dept. Planning)
- Presentations from:
 - Western Power – focus on power & NBN
 - Shire of Denmark Preparedness Activities
 - BRMP
 - Local Risk Project
 - BRIGS Project
 - Holistic Community Resilience Building
 - Bushfire Ready
 - Disaster Management Conference Overview
 - Dept Planning attended, summary of conference
- DEMC 2029 –
 - further workshop to translate report into 3 year business plan.
 - Presenting to SEMC March
- Next Meeting 25 March 2020

SEMC

- Last met 13 December 2019
- Presentation from National Emergency Manager from Telstra with agreed action to move forward
- Fuel Reduction Activities in WA Report noted
- LEMA noted
- Implementation Plan for National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework, noting future funding will be based around the framework

- Cyber Security to become State Hazard Plan
- Sector wide review of Local EM Arrangements scoping early 2020.
- Approved a review of State Risk Project

National

- Emergency Management sits with the Dept. of Home Affairs
- Established Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience
- EMA Podcast
- National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework
- Australian Disaster Preparedness Framework
- National Strategy for Disaster Resilience
- Handbook Collection
- Volunteer Leadership Program 13 March Perth

Ceinwen Gearon asked if the Water Corporation had a seat on DEMC, Adam Smith answered that NO they did not have a seat on DEMC. A further question was asked by Ceinwen Gearon if we should be requesting ongoing reports from the Water Corporation about how much water we have and Adam Smith suggested that YES that was appropriate.

Action: Water availability reports to be requested from the Water Corporation by the Shire of Denmark.

6.4 DEPARTMENT OF BIODIVERSITY, CONSERVATION AND ATTRACTIONS

Nil

6.5 DENMARK HEALTH SERVICE

Ms Kylie Spencer reported on the following:

- A Corona virus specific action plan has been created in preparation for the flu season, currently as it stands there are no confirmed cases of the virus in WA.
- There has been some clearing of trees around the hospital precinct.

A question was raised around how many people can the bus carry, to which the answer was 19.

6.6 DENMARK SES

Mr James Anderson reported the following:

- 1 incident of search tide and rescue
- Assisted the water bomber with replenishing
- Volunteer members currently being trained on the incident control vehicle.

6.7 DENMARK SURF LIFE SAVING

Nil

6.8 ST JOHN AMBULANCE

Mr David Rae reported the following:

- The first aid post in Katanning had special ops paramedics attend from Perth with a 4wd vehicle, as DFES requested a vehicle that could access the terrain.
- DFES are hosting a workshop to see if volunteers can be dispersed across more areas.
- There has been a decrease in annual training requirements, as education is being standardised and targeted training is being implemented.

Lez Baines asked the question, are special ops paramedics allowed on the fire ground. David Rae answered that yes they are allowed on the fire ground but no there are no plans for community paramedics to be trained to be allowed on the fire ground.

Scott Medhurst asked if there was any scope for Denmark to get a 4wd ambulance to which David Rae responded that a proposal has been submitted to get one in 2022, it involves a full conversion of the Hiace.

Ms Marion MacDougall reported the following:

- They have had three (3) more volunteers join since the last LEMC meeting.
- Marion attended the regional seminar, where they read out the commendation that was sent to the Denmark Bulletin. The commendation praised the patient transport service, that was available to everyone not just the elderly.
- Transport service is for any medical or well being appointments, any age group can access the service, although children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Carer's can travel for free with the patient.
- The Ambulance station is installing solar power.

6.9 SILVERCHAIN WALPOLE

Nil

6.10 CHIEF BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICER

Mr Lez Baines submitted the following report:

Conditions within our Shire are of a great concern and the risk to loss of property and possibly life is extremely serious. We are noticing that there are a number of permanent residents in Denmark who are not taking note or aren't clarifying the fire rules and regulations.

The Deputy Chief had a Camping Ground owner phone him up to say they were going to burn their rubbish dump, they could not grasp why this was illegal during the Prohibited Burning Period.

DFES are extremely concerned about the risk to Denmark and they have assured me that assistance from them will be of a priority should a large-scale incident occur within our Shire.

Recent Incidents:

- Two hazard reduction burns completed in the restricted period had re-ignition in spots.
- Hazelvale Road Bush Fire: Small area of paddock burning, cause unknown.
- Hastings Road Bush Fire: This fire was caused by a camp/cooking fire which had not being fully extinguished. We managed to hit this incident quick and fast and a total of 19 appliances, 2 water bombers, Air Attack supervisor and a bulldozer were used to contain, control and extinguish the fire. The owner contacted me and said that he thought he had been responsible believing that he had completely extinguished his fire. The incident was classed as accidental.
- Freds Road: Illegal burn using two steel drums burning plastics and waste.

The prohibited burning period has been extended.

Matt Hartfield advised that it is important to feed back to police if there are theories / a gut feeling that fires could have been purposely lit. Also remind volunteers to take note of any people leaving a fire.

The question was asked if Denmark has an "NO GO ZONES", the answer was that no Denmark does not have any "NO GO ZONES" but the first responder does an assessment at each fire.

6.11 VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE

Mr Lee Shelley reported the following:

- 1 incident before Christmas with joint agency attendance

6.12 VOLUNTEER SEA RESCUE

Mr Peter Mather (Denmark) reported the following:

- Currently in the process of investigating the purchase of light truck to tow the boat, as the original submission to purchase a Toyota Landcruiser has been denied, deemed unsuitable.
- Presented a question to the group of having Mr Brian Humphries attend the LEMC meeting and give a presentation on a road network design that could be developed for evacuation.

It was identified by other group members that Mr Brian Humphries had presented to LEMC previously.

Scott Medhurst advised that a lot of road reserves have been identified by the mitigation activities fund for works. It was noted that the bushfire mitigation working group could be a good forum for Brian Humphries to speak in.

Mr Brian Vigus (Peaceful Bay) reported the following:

- 1 incident attended, tow-in boat went out with no radio and no oars.
- There will be a sea rescue exercise running in March at Walpole.

6.13 CR MARK ALLEN REPORT

Cr Mark Allen reported the following:

- An upcoming Fire Forum is scheduled to be held, that will have varying specialists in attendance who will discuss different methods of fire mitigation and bush firefighting. It is being run by the Denmark Environment Centre
- The first session of the bushfire mitigation working group was held.
 - Well attended
 - Only 5% of the mitigations are burn-offs, it was demonstrated that there will be lots of different methods used to mitigate.
 - Works on the rail trail have already been completed
 - The plan that Melanie Haymont submitted to the group looks very promising
 - All works are to be completed by 1st June 2020
 - \$300,000 worth of work will be completed over the whole Shire of Denmark
 - This project will be closely looked at by State Government

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

7.1 TELSTRA MOBILE PHONE TOWER UPDATE

Scott Medhurst reported that a Developer Application has been lodged by Telstra and they are still waiting on approval, once it has been approved the tower will be install very quickly within one (1) to two (2) weeks.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 ST JOHN AMBULANCE

St John Ambulance, Walpole are experiencing issues with callouts to Peaceful Bay as there is limited / no house numbering

Marion MacDougall advised that this is an ongoing issue all over the Shire and is not limited to Peaceful Bay, she has previously raised this as an item at the Road Wise committee to which they advised that a measure could be put in place. Lee Shelley advised that as an interim measure he has given Walpole a small map with hand written Peaceful Bay house numbering on it.

Action: Angela Simpson to speak to Engineering Services and get an update on house numbering.

8.2 TELSTRA POWER OUTAGE FACT SHEET

Attendees pre-read Telstra fact sheet.

9. NEXT MEETING

Scheduled for Monday 20th April 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 6:10pm

These minutes were confirmed at the meeting of the _____

Signed: _____

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