



LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 953 SOUTH COAST HIGHWAY, DENMARK, MONDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2016, COMMENCING 4.00PM.

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Council Committee Meeting

12 December 2016

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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Deputy Presiding Person, Matt Hartfield, opened the meeting at 4.12pm

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

Mr Matt Hartfield	(Denmark Police, Officer in Charge)
Mr Ross McDougall	(Chief Bushfire Control Officer)
Mr Leanne Laurie	(Denmark Health Service)
Mr Lee Shelley	(Denmark Fire and Rescue Service)
Mr Neville Blackburn	(Department for Child Protection & Family Support)
Mr George Mumford	(Denmark Surf Lifesaving)
Mr Alex Williams	(Walpole Sea Rescue)
Mr Adam Smith	(SEMC Secretariat)
Mr Derek Stone	(Denmark Sea Rescue)
Mr Harold Luxton	(St. John Ambulance Walpole)

STAFF:

	(non voting)
Mr Marcus Owen	(Committee Secretary & CESM)
Mr Gregg Harwood	(Director of Community and Regulatory Services)

APOLOGIES:

Mr Brian Vigus	(Peaceful Bay Sea Rescue)
Mr George Doust	(DPaW Walpole)
Ms Tanya Moore	(St. John Ambulance, Denmark)
Mr David Wall	(Walpole Police, Officer in Charge)

ABSENT:

Cr David Morrell	(Shire President & Presiding Person)
Ms Tracey Allison	(Denmark State Emergency Service)
Mr Peter Newton	(Walpole State Emergency Service)
Mr Daniel Moore	(Silver Chain Walpole)

VISITORS:

Charlotte Powis	DFES Community Engagement Officer
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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Nil

Name	Item No	Interest	Nature

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING

Nil

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 MINUTES OF THE LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION & COMMITTEE DECISION	ITEM 5.1
Moved: Harold Luxton	Seconded: Alex Williams
That the minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee held on the 12 th September 2016, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.	
Carried: Unanimously	

5.2 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

5.2.1 Volunteer Marine Rescues Role With Respect to Fire Evacuation

At the conclusion of the current fire season a renewed effort will be made to seek the required feedback from the brigades.

Alex Williams advised that this task is completed as the Sea Rescue has consulted with brigades that were prepared to respond and compiled information on likely areas.

5.2.2 Ceiling Fans – Denmark Relocation Centre

Update

A budget allocation for the purchase and installation of Ceiling Fans has been made in the 2016/17 budget subject to a successful grant application.

The Rec Centre manager will submit an application to Dept. of Sport and Rec. early next year, February/March 2017

5.2.3 Control Room Modifications

Progress to date:

The air conditioning unit has been installed.

Large wall map – an electronic aerial image has been sourced; currently investigating what additional information can be added, e.g. fire sheds and water points etc.

Jason Signs have been contacted to provide options and quotes.

5.2.4 Water Bomber Refilling Facility Upgrades – Denmark Airport

Gregg Harwood

Action to date:

The Shire of Denmark Airport volunteers were successful in securing grant funding from GSDC; this money along with a co-contribution from the Shire will enable works including sealing of the water bomber turnaround area and increase water storage capacity to be undertaken.

GSDC funding - \$58,000

Shire budgeted - \$64,000

- To seal aircraft turn- around
- To purchase and install 370kL water tank

The new tank has been installed and works to upgrade some aspects of the plumbing are currently being undertaken.

5.2.5 Green Bag Evacuation Flagging Concept

Progress to date:

Informal discussions have been held with Adam Smith (SEMC) and Matt Hartfield, Denmark Police, with the following observations made;

- For the Green Bag system to work there would need to be a 100% commitment from all parties,
- A significant awareness/education program would need to be conducted,
- Green bag or no green bag, emergency services would still go and check properties,
- Time may be better spent, utilising the Prepare, Act, Survive publication, to encourage residents to form their own plans for self-evacuation then providing LG contact details for evacuees to register where they have gone,
- In the heat of the moment bags could be forgotten about.

Matt Hartfield recommended, from a police perspective that the Shire of Denmark does not proceed with this concept.

5.2.6 Fire Regulation Notice (FRN) Review

Progress to date

At the Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting held on 2 June 2016 a Fire Regulation Notice Review Committee, made up of the Chief FCO, Ocean Beach FCO, Harewood FCO, Senior Ranger and CESM was appointed.

This committee has held two meetings the results of which are draft set of regulations.

The draft regulations were tabled at the November BFAC. On the whole they were well received however questions were raised as to the practicality/need for boundary breaks on rural properties.

Following discussions, the general consensus was support for boundary breaks through contiguous bush and not necessarily required through pasture.

5.2.7 Denmark Sea Rescue Group - Rescue Boat up-grade briefing

Derek Stone has advised that:

The Denmark Sea Rescue is currently in the process of upgrading their rescue vessel.

The 7.3m Naiad we have had since 2009 has been sold to the Dept. of Transport and the group is currently short listing its replacement with the intentions of placing an order by the end of September with delivery expected by the end of this year or early in the New Year.

In the mean time we have the VMRWA 7.3m relief boat Tom Reed on loan to DSRG until we take delivery of the new 7.5m vessel, and so there will be no break in DSRG's operational availability or capability.

Derek also advised that Denmark SRG were currently unable to launch at Ocean Beach as, due to high tides and large swells, the 'ramp' had been washed away; they would have to launch at Parry Beach.

The committee was advised that the launching ramp is currently serviceable and that more repairs would be carried out now that weather conditions had changed and sand is again being deposited on the beach by the ocean.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 Recovery Workshop – Lee Shelley

Local Government is responsible for the recovery phase following any incident and depending on the scale; this may involve a number of staff from administration to infrastructure integrity, health/sanitation, members of the LEMC and the community.

Recovery is a coordinated process of supporting the affected community in the following environments.

- Physical/built environment
- Social environment
- Natural environment
- Economic environment

On the 20th October 2016 Shire representatives attended a Recovery Workshop hosted by the City of Albany with key note speakers from the State Emergency Management Committee and local governments that have recently experienced major impact on their communities through bushfire and flood. This workshop was a valuable exercise to gain further knowledge assist with the formation of a detailed comprehensive Recovery Plan which is to be included in the 2017 review of the Shire of Denmark's Local Emergency Management Arrangements.

One the key observation was that effective recovery plans have preformed committees.

Adam Smith will be assisting in facilitating Recovery Plan Workshops and meetings with LEMC members. These workshops follow a structured path to facilitate the formation of a consistent comprehensive and Recovery Plan as part of the Shire of Denmark LEMA.

6.2 Recent Fires – CESM

Nut Rd – initial fire started 2/11/16 on private property, the fire jumped South Coast Highway in to DP&W estate and also into neighbours property.

DP&W and Shire appliances attended with fire handed back to the property owner after a day or two.

On the 26th November crews were called back to Nut Rd after the fire had started again after a smouldering tree had fallen over containment lines.

Bulldozers were called in to cut more breaks and clean up other existing breaks. As this fire is within a stand of Karri trees that have not been burnt for some years, the duff layer is continuing to smoulder and cause some problems.

This fire ground is currently being patrolled twice daily.

Sunny Glen Rd – started on 14th November in private property, crews from DP&W, Bushfire Brigades and Volunteer Fire & Rescue attended.

Four bulldozers were used for tracking around the fire and for building containment lines.

The CESM and the crews on the night shift did the hard yards to 'blackout' the fire edge in preparation for the severe fire weather forecast for the next day.

On the morning of the 15th crews worked hard to continue strengthening containment lines and with their hard work prevented any fire escape that could have potentially ended up very close to Denmark.

In an effort to manage fatigue the CESM was sent home to sleep in case the situation blew out in the afternoon and Gregg Harwood, Lee Shelley and Matt Hartfield supported field operations from the control room and Graeme Thallon in the field.

Springdale Beach – a brigade burn that was undertaken before the restricted season reignited.

Castelli Estate – fire broke out within the grounds of Castelli Estate which was promptly attended by Volunteer Fire & Rescue, Bushfire Brigades and brigades from the City of Albany.

Fortunately the fire was contained within the estate through hard work and a fortuitous wind change.

During the day (15/11/16) there were up to 5 fire burning across the Shire, as well as the fires already mentioned, brigades were also attending reported fires that were a result of re-ignition/flare up from hazard reduction burns that were carried out up to a week or more before hand.

On this the firefighting and support resources within the Shire were stretched to the limit. We dodged a cannonball; things could quite easily have turned for the worse.

In light of these fires a public meeting is being held, Monday 12th December at 7.00pm in the Civic Centre, to assist the communities to become more resilient and be better prepared themselves the next time a fire breaks out.

COMMITTEE DECISION

ITEM 6.2

Moved: Harold Luxton

Seconded: Derek Stone

That LEMC acknowledge and thank the volunteers, various paid staff and police that were involved in fighting the seven fires that were burning on the 15th November 2016.

Carried: Unanimously

6.3 Alternate Bridge Crossing

The CESM read out the submission letter that the DCRS had written of behalf of the LEMC in response to the recent public submission period for the Denmark Bridge.

7. NEXT MEETING

Scheduled for Monday 13 March 2017 in the Shire of Denmark Council Chambers, 953 South Coast Highway, Denmark, commencing at 4.00pm.

8. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Presiding Person closed the meeting at 4.48pm.

The Chief Executive Officer recommends the endorsement of these minutes at the next meeting.

Signed: _____

Bill Parker – Chief Executive Officer

Date: 23 December 2016

These minutes were confirmed at the meeting of the

Signed:

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