



## Special Council Meeting

**30 November 2011**

### **CEO – MARGARET RIVER FIRES REPORT**

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

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ITEM NO	SUBJECT	PAGE
10.0	MARGARET RIVER FIRES	

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**PLEASE NOTE:**

Due to the cancellation of the Ordinary Meeting of Council from 23 November 2011 and renumbering of the Order of Business for this Special Meeting, the following attachments now fall under Item 10.0 and not Item 15.2.2 as originally numbered.

## **Emergency Recovery Committee**

Minutes of the Emergency Recovery Committee, Shire of Augusta-Margaret River held Thursday, 24 November 2011 in Council Chambers, Wallcliffe Road Margaret River commencing at 11.08 am.

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### **ATTENDEES:**

Cr Ray Colyer, Gary Evershed, Vicky Small, Dylan Brown, Donna Wolter, Alison Edmunds, Annie Riordan, Wayne Prangnell, Wayne Gailey, Kim Luciano, Gavin Jennion, Paul Gravett, Rachel Tielens, Simon Cooper, Vik Cheema, Roma Boucher, Boyd Brown, Peter Fagan, Donna Wolter, Jo Parkinson, Paul Kilgren

### **1 Welcome by CEO - Chair of Recovery Committee**

Gary Evershed welcomed agencies and staff to the inaugural Recovery meeting.

### **2 Clarification of Roles and Membership**

Brief of the recovery committee is to assist the community to return to normality ASAP. Financial assistance, infrastructure and social psychologist of the community. Meeting is to determine the issues which we need to deal with immediately and over time. This will be a fluid committee in terms of membership. Core membership of Shire staff and other agencies as required. We need to do our best to relieve and make a difference during the crisis.

Gary Evershed (CEO/Chairman)  
Ray Colyer (Shire President)  
Wayne Prangnell (Shire Director of Infrastructure)  
Simon Cooper (Manager Human Services Centrelink)  
Vick Cheema (FESA)  
Vicki Small (Manager of Customer Service and Information)  
Annie Riordan (Director of Corporate and Community Services)  
Roma Boucher (DCP)  
Rachel Tielens (Shire Media Liaison)  
Gavin Jennion (Shire Coordinator of Ranger Services)  
Jo Parkinson (DCP)  
Paul Kilgren (Manager Finance Shire)  
Dylan Brown (Coordinator Recreation Centre)  
Kim Luciano (Manager Building Services)  
Boyd Brown (Telstra General Manager)  
Peter Fagan (Shire Ranger)  
Wayne Gailey (Shire Manager Works)  
Donna Wolter (shire minute Secretary)

The CEO Gary Evershed noted that as part of the recovery process Shire staff have designated duties.

Gary in accordance with the Shire's Emergency Recovery Plan is Chair of recovery meeting. Paul Gravett fills a statutory position as the recovery coordinator. Cr Colyer Shire President is the Chair of LEMC operating at strategic level and this is an operational committee. Responsibility is statutory. LG is best place to manage recovery process. Activating committee while response is still in place is to ensure smooth transition following response.

Rangers can assist with security, animal welfare, and bush fire brigade liaison including fire fighting.

Health Services – assist with recovery following the fires regarding resident smoke issues, Rainwater tanks, supplies, damaged stock disposal, and access to tips.

Building Services – building inspections to see if dwelling is fit for habitation and structurally sound. Shire of Busselton has offered assistance.

Finance Services – Shire will be called to distribute funds. Shire President has the capacity to release funds in an emergency as required. Funding will become clearer over the next 24 hours.

WALGA have confirmed that the Lord Mayor Relied Fund has been activated and donations can be placed at all banks.

Centrelink, Telstra, Western Power and other service agencies will supply community resources and relief and provide updates as required.

### **3 Feedback on the extent of the incident and status report**

Many people attended the briefing at the cultural centre fire has been a very serious incident. All resources are trying to keep the fire under control. MR townsite could be in the direct line of fire. Couple of strategic locations being Kevill Rd East to prevent fire progressing to MR.

PG asked about readiness – looking at soft trigger points they will start to look at our arrangements. If the fire reaches the hard trigger. Brendan has gone to incident control to get more up to date brief. We would hope this is not the case. Institution such as hospital and aged care will have highest priority Gloucester Park is the main evacuation point.

GE noted all staffing resources are available for use to assist in the process. This may be as simple as getting assistance with record management. There will be an enquiry in this matter. We need to ensure that there are records in relation to this incident. PA around the organisation could help with meeting and file notes in during the emergency

### **4 Development of action plan**

Shire will evolve an action plan over time. Immediate infrastructure needs and aftermath of the incident including remedial works which are required are priorities. Longer term assistance, particularly for those who have been directly impacted is a higher priority. Other day to day work will take second place.

Donations are confirmed to be cash only, no food, blankets, and mattresses. Everyone is to be instructed to make donations of cash at any bank to the Lord Mayors Disaster Relief Fund. Fundraising has already commenced and there will be a lot of goodwill and support to the community. There is a lot of support for the effort.

### **5 General Business**

#### **5.1 Communication**

The Augusta-Margaret River Times is offering a small advertisement space and they need copy by 12 pm (today). The Augusta Margaret River Mail has offered us a full page next Wednesday at no cost. Media liaison will be working with the agencies to get information out to the community. Key messages and information can be presented to the community through the local media and ABC Radio.

#### **5.2 Community welfare.**

DCP are ensuring the welfare centre has qualified staff to assist with immediate financial assistance and Pat Kelly and Raymond Grapes are working with DCP in the provision of qualified psychologists to assist with post traumatic stress.

#### **5.3 Affected Landowners – Partial or total Damage**

Shire has contacted most affected landowners that they it is aware of. Fire Impact assessments are required by DEC and FESA prior to the Shire contacting property owners.

*St Johns Jo Parkinson left the meeting the time being 11.23 am.*

#### 5.4 Recovery Process

Customer Service and Information Manager, Vicky Small confirmed that the recovery activity has commenced. Donations of food items and management of people who will still deliver goods to the shire doorstep so please consider this in planning.

Management of records of those people who have been affected will be required to be collected and registered.

Key people in the Shire need to be aware that the Lake Clifton fire did not qualify for national or state relief, which is based on public assets including Roads buildings not insurable and bridges. This will be qualified into the future as assessment of damage is completed.. At this stage most properties damaged will be private not public infrastructure. WANDRRA funds are not available if damage to private property. During the clean up works staff will be assessing the damage to public infrastructure and if the cost of replacement is over \$250K the Shire can access WANDRRA as it will be trigger funding under national emergency. Future planning in short, medium and long term will need to continue.

#### 5.5 Premiers Fund

The Premier and state has confirmed that funding of \$3000 per household who have total dwelling destruction of their primary residence and \$1000 for sheds or auxiliary buildings from state government will be made available in the first instance. The Manager of Finance will contact state the emergency services to liaise with protocols for access to the funding. Templates for applications are available and applicants will be required to provide confirmed identification of those who have been affected in the form of a property title or real estate tenancy agreement.

#### 5.5 Centrelink

Two social workers from Centre Link are working at the recovery centre to manage social recovery of clients affected. Too early to confirm if AFG state assistance.

#### 5.6 DCP – financial arrangements

At this point the department picks up the cost of immediate assistance and the welfare centre during the emergency. DCP will be offering financial assistance from now for all residents evacuated from their properties which will assist with those who cannot get back to their residence/dwelling. Cards are available right now. Two psychologists are at the welfare centre now with more on the way. Lunch, dinner and breakfast meals are covered until tomorrow and when WANDRRA kicks in more financial assistance will be available.

#### 5.7 Western Power

Power supply from west Caves Road and Prevelly has been cut off. Approval needs to be granted by DEC and FESA to go into restricted area to assess damage and reinstall power to homes and assess damage to infrastructure. At this stage we have 6 x 4-5 man teams in the area. Western Power are trying to get the backbone of the main line from Margaret River to Prevelly back online. We have been hampered by weather conditions and the fire zone due to safety of staff. A communication caravan is being deployed to Margaret River which may be sited at DEC's ICC (incident control centre).

#### 5.8 Telstra

No infrastructure damage to mobile side of business but landlines have been affected. Damage to property information is required and cannot be completed until fire zone access is granted. Telstra can assist by diverting fixed lines to mobiles of property owners and residents.

#### 5.9 FESA – Community liaison team

The role of the community liaison team is to work closely with DCP. After the Toodyay fire incident, a guide has been developed for immediate recovery. We will work with the Local Government Authority and DEC and can assist with structural assessments of damaged properties.

5.11 The Chairman thanked the agencies for their updates and asked about the tourists who have lost their passports and if the Augusta-Margaret River Tourism Association could contact SW coach lines to assure Transport out of town if required. Shire of AMR to address this issue with agencies and our staff. DCP noted belongings are at locations but they cannot move to new locations because they cannot access their belongings.

The Chairperson noted that a short meeting will be called tomorrow at 11 am to reconvene and more information will be available.

Please ensure that the Water Corporation, a gas agency representative and Director of Infrastructure attend the Incident Support Group meeting or are available at the one stop-shop.

The Premier Hon Colin Barnett MLA will be arriving in the region at 1pm to meet those people who have lost their homes at 2 pm and attend the community update at 3 pm.

*There being no further business the Chairperson closed the meeting, the time being 11.37 am.*

**Recovery Committee Meeting**  
**Minutes of the Recovery Committee Meeting of the Shire of Augusta Margaret River**  
**held Friday 25 November 2011 commencing at 11.43 am.**

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**1.0 Attendance**

Boyd Brown (Telstra), Wayne Zee (Telstra), Glenn Murdoch (Telstra), Greg Blee Western Power, Simon Cooper Centrelink, Kim Luciano Shire of AMR Building Services, Alison Edmunds, Shire Environmental Health, Annie Riordan, Shire Corporate and Community Services, Nigel Anderson, Shire Manager HR, Paul Gravett Coordinator Recovery, Dylan Brown Coordinator Recreation Services, Katie Taylor Shire, Helen O'Connor, AMRSC, Brian Smith, Dept Ag and Food, Gary Yates, Water Corporation, Lauren McDonnell Red Cross, Rachel Tielens Shire Media, Steve Joske State Executive Red Cross, Frank Edwards, LMDRF (City of Perth), Gary Evershed CEO, Pamela Adams DCP, David Nicholson Shire Assets, Steve Raper DEC, Roma Boucher DCP, Brendan Mooney DCP, Helen-Mary Sykes DCP, Ron Fernandez, Dept Human Resources, Donna Wolter (Shire)

**2.0 Welcome**

CEO and Chairperson of the Recovery Committee, Mr Gary Evershed confirmed that the WALGA and City of Perth have announced that the Lord Mayors Disaster Relief Fund has been activated following the fires of this week. Today Mr Frank Edwards is attending the meeting to provide further information regarding this fund. Frank is the Honorary Secretary of the Perth Lord Mayors Disaster Relief Appeal the CEO of the City of Perth. Frank will provide information regarding the Lord Mayors Disaster Relief Fund for the benefit of the recovery committee.

**2.1 Lord Mayors Disaster Relief Fund**

Frank confirmed that the LMDRF raises funds through public appeal and gains strength through the media. The fund provides financial support and assistance goes directly to those affected. The local Recovery committee will determine the criteria which will be endorsed by the Board of the fund. The Fund provides cash to those who have lost their homes but it will be difficult if those homes which were destroyed are holiday homes which are only partially used and the Recovery Committee will be asked to determine criteria for financial assistance. The board will seek your recommendations on the criteria. The board will then make the decisions as to who will get the money. The Recovery Committee will assist with the funding process and make recommendations to the board but the Fund is administered by the City of Perth. The City of Perth are looking forward to assisting the Shire in the distribution and Frank noted he is also a rate payer of this community and has been very concerned about his own property.

**3.0 Essential Services**

- Water
- Power
- Telecommunications
- Road closures
- Public Health

**4.0 People who have Lost Homes**

When can evacuees and people who have lost their homes have access to their properties? Shire will seek clarification on the logistics of allowing residents back into the community affected through FESA and DEC but community safety is the main priority.

Financial assistance is available through a number of agency outlets but are dependant on federal and state funding. At this stage the Premiers state emergency fund for those directly affected has been initiated and DCP are providing immediate emergency relief to those evacuated from their homes.

### **Accommodation DCP**

- DCP are responsible for the provision of temporary accommodation for those who have lost their properties.
- The Insurance Council will arrive on Monday with RAC to attend the one stop shop. Short term plan is affected property owners will stay with family and friends.
- Insurance council has put "1300" number and press release and a flier from Insurance Council which will be given to out for financial information.
- Assessment of damaged homes building services of the Shire may be called to assist in this process Kim Luciano and Busselton Shire have offered assistance.

### **Evacuation Centre Operations**

- Food deliveries unsolicited donations and we need a plan going forward as to what we will do with the food as there is perishable goods. Management of donations such as this. ABC Radio and no further donations. DCP have not ordered any food. Coles have been bulk delivering. Shire organised and set up BBQ, food orders and lunch dinner and dinner was ongoing donations. In terms of direction regarding the service of the evacuation centre. 5 truck load of food.
- Shire staff will not be able to provide any support over the weekend. Sound contractor doesn't know if he is required to leave his equipment.
- Community Meeting will be held at 10 am. DEC announced it not the shire but the shire will get the information out.
- Shire staff will be required to maintain the centre during the period. Is it worth getting a data base together of volunteers which will allow the community to get together and support each other this was a positive way for the community to connect. It will allow the community to debrief on the fire incident. A volunteer register is being kept at the customer service desk.

*Gary Evershed and Paul Gravett left the meeting the time being 11.56 am.*

*Annie Riordan Deputy Chair assumed the Chair the time being 11.57 am.*

- Goods are being collected by Montessori school and the Lions Club of Margaret River want confirmation regarding who to distribute the goods to? DCP do not have the capacity to deal with donations. Perhaps the Shire could manage? The Lions club have confirmed that goods can be dropped off at their centre. Volunteer coordinator is required for donations of goods and services. Need to stock take items identify suppliers and Annie will contact the manager to wind up the evacuation. Donations are not part of the DCP remit they are a part of the recovery process not for an evacuation centre.
- Evacuation Centre services will run until it is not needed anymore. Catering and food requirements will continue until the recovery one stop shop commences.
- Breakfast tomorrow will still be required but food outlets may be closed on Sunday depending on the return to homes of the evacuated residents.
- The welfare centre would then become a one stop shop for agency information.
- Early indicators are this will be closed this evening and will be a one stop shop this afternoon.
- Food is sourced by commercial enterprises or cooked on site. Best option is that the food be prepared on site.
- Pamela and DCP can assist with the development of a recovery plan and coordination of catering.
- Catering, service clubs mis-communicated that there was not enough food available.
- Roller Derby girls are doing lunch today. DCP organise food for the evacuation centre and the Salvation Army are going to be doing dinner and breakfast for any other meals
- Shire staff at the rec centre are assisting and coordinating the donations of food goods
- Weekend assistance – is there a requirement for any shire staff to assist on the weekend. DCP developing a staffing roster with only three people, if the shire can assist then that would be great.
- Red Cross volunteers (3) are available.
- Ron Fernandez - Dept Human Resources (Centrelink) have 3-4 people dealing with income and financial assistance. This is a normal service we provide in the case of disaster.

- Roma reconfirmed that the centre will not be an evacuation centre would become an information centre or one stop shop.
- A record is being kept of those who are sleeping overnight who are residents of the shire and can return to their homes. What are their plans do they need help.

5 Other Issues

5.1 Formation of Subcommittees (see Attachment)

**5.1.1 Financial Support Sub-Committee – Annie Riordan Chair**

- Manager of Finance Manager, DCP, and other internal staff including Vicky Small to be members.
- DCP psychologist facing questions about financial situation they require relief to those questions.
- Annie will gather resources information to provide funding message to those people but will not be available until mid next week if the incident is declared a natural disaster in which case Level 3- 4 funding categories will become available
- First group of affected property owners have not been told about funding availability

**5.1.2 Welfare Support Sub Committee – DCP Chair**

- Welfare Subcommittee outreach for longer term recovery and Red Cross can assist. Red Cross can tap into all community members and have lots of planning involved. Few necessary things including maps, affected households, area evacuated, what services are available, what agencies need to be available. Think about what your going to be doing and how it is going to be coordinated.
- Red Cross can assist and time to process.

**5.1.3 Restoration and Reconstruction Sub Committee – DIS**

- DEC to clarify the hand over process for recovery. What information can DEC provide information, Dave will contact DEC's incident control centre. Health, IC Control, David Nicholson, Kim Luciano and Rangers Services

**5.1.4 Communication Sub Committee – CEO, Media Liaison**

- MCDA's part of this recovery committee, the Shire can continue the gather information to provide to the community via media outlets.
- Website to be set up and part of the recovery will be Shire taking on volunteers, Shire Customer Service to assist with registration and information gathering. Register at Shire customer service and the shire will continue to network with Lion and Montessori. Role is to get information out what roles are available. Provision of accommodation.

***ACTION: Annie to contact the Chair's of each subcommittee and determine time of their meetings.***

***ACTION: Register set up at the shire by Customer Service to register volunteers for the recovery process.***

**6.0 Next meeting of Recovery Committee**

- 6.1 Tuesday 11am Main Break Meeting Room

*There being no further business the Deputy Chair closed the meeting the time being 12.25 pm.*

## EMERGENCY RECOVERY COMMITTEE

Meeting of the Emergency Recovery Committee held in the Main break Meeting Room Civic Administration Centre Margaret River, Tuesday 29 November 2011 commencing at 11 am.

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### 1.0 ATTENDANCE

The CEO called the meeting to order the time being 11.05 and includes introduction of each agency representative.

Vik Cheema (EMWA FESA), Belinda Birt (Dept Human Resources Centrelink), Kim Dean (DCP), Roma Boucher (DCP), Rhonda Roberts (DCP) Deborah Linto (DCP) Wayne Prangnell (Shire DIS), Laurie Ratz (Insurance Council), Greg Blee (Western Power), Ray Colyer (Shire President), Troy Verhoeff (Telstra), Boyd Brown (TELSTRA), Gary Yates (Water Corporation), Drew Griffiths (DEC), Mike O'Callaghan (Dept Premier and Cabinet), Danny Mosconi (FESA), Libby Mettam (Hon Barry House MLC Office of), Leo Gibbons (Hon Troy Buswell MLA Office of), Fran Temby (Rotary), Simon Ambrose (AMRTA), Wayne Gailey (Shire Works), Anthony Congdon (Australian Red Cross), David Nicholson (Shire Asset Manager), Annie Riordan (DCCS Shire), Paul Kilgren (Manager Finance Shire), Gary Evershed (Shire CEO)

Apologies: Dylan Brown (Shire Coordinator of Recreational Services)

The Chairperson CEO of the Shire of Augusta Margaret River Gary Evershed called the meeting to order the time being 11.05 am and asked each agency representative to introduce themselves.

The Chair confirmed that we are transitioning from incident into the recovery process. This will be the last time agencies will be called on to report on the incident. The minutes of this meeting and those of previous recovery meetings will form part of the agenda for Local Emergency Management Committee and Ordinary Meetings of Council of the Shire of Augusta-Margaret River. The minutes of the past three meetings will also be tabled for consideration at a Special Meeting of Council which has been called by the Shire President to report on the fire incident and the recovery process Wednesday 30 November.

The Chair confirmed that a state press release was issued which confirms \$500 000 from a State government contribution to the recovery efforts. A Natural Disaster announcement also triggered WANDRRA funding and the Premier has written to the Prime Minister requesting federal funding and natural disaster relief and disaster arrangements for local community welfare.

### 2.0 Incident Update

#### 2.1 Incident Control - DEC

Mopping up progress has occurred overnight with progress continuing to consolidate the boundaries. Focus on detailed survey of exposures leading into next drying and warming trend leading into Saturday and planning for risk management. DEC will continue to have an ongoing presence and manage the fire risk through to the weekend.

DEC will be handing over the incident to the Shire and are moving into the transition from response to recovery, which has been signed by DEC and Shire. DEC will maintain a presence for suppression works and assist with recovery operations as risk management plans are formulated.

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The Chair confirmed that he and Paul Gravett Recovery Coordinator attended a teleconference meeting with the WA Commissioner of Police of the Emergency Coordination Committee and confirmed the large scale and resources that were thrown at this fire incident and operation, which included:

**FESA/Bushfire Brigades (Local Governments)**

Including air support, there were more than 655 personnel from FESA attending to this fire over its course and more than 171 appliances.

- Appliances/vehicles and personnel

Fire and Rescue Service (Career FRS):	34 appliances	85 personnel
Fire and Rescue Service (Volunteer)	15 appliances	70 personnel
Bush Fire Brigades (Local Government)	90 appliances	290 personnel
FESA management and support	30 vehicles	200 personnel
  
- Air Support

2 Type 1 helicopters (provided through FESA) flew 31 hours and dropping 250,000 litres of water. 10 support personnel.

**Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC)**

Including air support, there were more than 515 DEC personnel responding with over 212 appliances.

- Appliances/vehicles and personnel

DEC management and support	174 appliances	400 personnel
	10 vehicles	65 personnel
  
- Air Support

8 bombers  
4 air attack platforms (1 rotary and 3 fixed-wing)  
3 ignition platforms (2 rotary and 1 fixed-wing)  
5 detection aircraft  
1 air reconnaissance helicopter  
1 retardant tanker  
6 support trucks

An estimated combined total of 87 hours of operation and dropping 400,000 litres of water. Favourable winds and lower temperatures assisted fire crews in containing the Margaret River fires with final containment lines in place on Saturday 26 November 2011.

**2.2 Water**

- All services have been fully restored.
- Water Corp are still running the treatment plants on gen sets until Western Power fully completes their repairs.
- Water supplies systems are fully restored.
- Volunteers and plumbers are on the ground and thanks to everyone for their support.

**2.3 Power**

- Since yesterday meeting progressing the Wooditch Subdivision has power restored from 2 pm yesterday; main areas of Prevelly and Gnarabup main restored. Old Prevelly town site 50% restored with remainder restored by 3 pm.
- Baudin Drive restored and Freycinet Way restored.
- 30-40% Prevelly subdivision restored. We should have completed whole area by mid afternoon.
- Many customers will required a private electrical contractor to restore power.
- Any obvious damage has been assessed and staff have isolated connections and left notes for residents.

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- There are places where we have no indication of the damage but caution notices have been left for households.
- Electrical compliance inspectors are in the area and conducting reconnection assessments.
- Those with obvious damage have been disconnected and the non obvious ones are to contact an electrical contractor
- Street lighting overhead will take some time to finalise.
- Underground supplies have been reinstated and are functioning.
- Wester Power would like to thank agencies, volunteers for assisting with the work being done and will ensure the appropriate people are acknowledged. We will now scale down to the provision of information at the One Stop Shop by lunch time today depending on the number of enquiries but will leave our contact details for those customers still requiring assistance.

#### **2.4 Telecommunications**

- Progressing with the fix of physical damage to network and will continue to do so. Should be finished by end of the week.
- It is hard to identify until faults are registered by customers
- Interim services are being couriered in.
- Due to network being mostly underground TELSTRA got away with very little damage. Will maintain a presence at one stop shop until the end of the week
- Free dialling public phones available until the end of the week.
- Telstra redirection for those who have lost their homes includes a free diversion from a home landline to a mobile phone at landline costs.
- Time limit 3 months initially and up to 6 months and will divert to non Telstra if required.

#### **2.5 Public Health**

- Dept of Health will arrive this tomorrow morning to provide assistance and information for local people during the recovery process
- Skip bins for food waste are available but will be removed Wednesday/Thursday
- Rain water tanks Kilcarnup and Redgate – door knock information will be provided to those communities about contamination issues including early DSS fire retardant impacts. Shire has contacted labs regarding the time it will take for water contamination testing but no response has been received from those that have been contacted.
- Septic Tanks ATU's on the Ridge - these effluent disposal units may not be working and inspection by property owners and Shire staff may be required as is a major health risk
- Waste streams – waste management plan is being drafted for those affected including how to treat waste before disposal and where to take it. Dept of Health will arrive at 10am tomorrow morning and have provided phone support and advice. The shire can assist with any enquiries regarding rainwater contamination.
- Do the Shire provide bins for the clean up of the private properties as funding is available under WANDRRA, which is negotiable. There is an urgent need to assist private properties.
- Road side bin services have re entered the area in their normal service cycle and service which were affected on Friday have a special service today although it was hard to get the message out.
- Bin replacement for those who have melted are being delivered and approx 60 will be available for members of the public to access. Fee waiver or recoup of the cost through WANDRRA funding.

The Chairman mentioned that there are many concerns from residents as to the condition of those damaged properties which includes issues such as loose sheet metal and dangerous items and who is responsible.

The Chairman read an emailed letter from a concerned resident which asked about the issues of responsibility and safety for residents and asked from a shire's point of view who is

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responsible for debris floating around the community. The point being made was that as the affected property owner or resident were not responsible for starting the fire so how can they be held responsible for public safety on their own property following the fire. They also noted concerns regarding safety of those entering the site of their damaged property without consent.

- David Mosconi of FESA noted that following complaints from the community regarding wind affected metal from those destroyed homes the SES came down last night and dealt with one of the roofs posing an immediate threat. FESA are unclear about the responsibility for the property clean up which includes issues of public safety. Brendan Jordan Shire Emergency and Community Safety Manager was seeking information about the responsibility following the fire incident. The Manager of Health and Waste noted that there are other safety issues which need to be considered during the clean up phase which includes CC Timber, Pesticides, asbestos etc and the Shire called in the SES to assist because of the weather last night but are they responsible?

## **2.6 WANDRRA – Vik Cheema (EMWA FESA)**

The WANDRRA fund is for counter disaster operations. There are two categories which are:

Category A, Removal of debris from residential sites

Category B, Protection of members of the public

An assessment by the Shire and Public coordinator will be required and private property owners are responsible for the removal of their private property and it is their responsibility to clean up property and their insurance should cover this process and cost. Private property owners are responsible for their own clean up.

The Shire was asked to discuss the issue of public safety on private property with the insurance Council out of session. More information is required as the Shire also needs to act in the interest of public safety and it will only do so on the basis that the Shire be reimbursed.

Vik noted that following the Armadale fires they went from door to door to assess the needs of each property following the incident. The Shire will need to advise the public of their responsibility regarding on site debris noting it is their responsibility.

There are issues of public concern regarding the entry onto private properties of children in the affected areas. Properties are not barricaded and there is nothing stopping children from entering private property, this is a safety issue and a community morale issue. The Shire and community need to move quickly to get the debris cleared up. Looting could also be an issue but is a low risk as the local Police are patrolling the area affected.

## **3.0 Subcommittee Updates**

### **3.1 Financial Support Sub Committee – Annie Riordan**

- Met this morning – Paul Kilgren Manager of Finance, chaired the meeting.
- Confirmed that they would Split up the LMDRF. We need to formalise the committee and suggested that the fund would be split and recommend distribution to the recovery committee.
- Mike O’Callaghan Dept of Premier and Cabinet has accepted a nomination to the committee.
- Donation and appeals – request from Westpac that other organisations should not set up any other appeals or funds.
- Premiers state funding available
- WANDRRA – provides funding for operational issues such as clean up etc.
- LGIS also discussed

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- LMDRF separate from other funds.
- Confirmed that members of the community could become involved as in the Lake Clifton fires they had community members who were not directly affected on the committee in efforts to be transparent.
- TOR of the committee set up by the Armadale Shire has been received and the committee are considering these.
- AGRB Robert McClellan's announcement Federal Government funding availability
- Suggestion that committee contact the City of Armadale's Tony Maxwell who can provide experience and expertise.
- Useful for DCP to be ex-officio member of the subcommittee.

***The recovery committee confirmed that membership to the Finance Sub Committee be expanded to include a community representative, a commonwealth representative through Centrelink (Dept of Human Resources), a member of the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Mike O'Callaghan and a representative of DCP as ex-officio member.***

### **3.2 Welfare Support Sub Committee – DCP**

- The Welfare Committee met on Saturday with the main item to organise the function of the one stop shop this week of which 12 agencies assisted (were present). Most agencies have committed for at least two days (Monday Tuesday) and some until Friday. Access to services is quieter today but funding availability.
- DCP are still assessing impacts for immediate needs.
- Funding availability for those evacuees who went out of the district and volunteer fire brigade members who were unable to access funding assistance over the weekend will still be made available but on a one on one basis. DCP will assess one application.
- **One stop shop** – The Shire supports and would prefer for agencies to continue at the one stop shop until the end of the week in the current location. Need to judge the community sentiment as to the current venue or possible relocation to the Margaret River community resources centre which are continuity options to discuss during the transition phase. The Shire will also need to confirm with the Rec Centre the impacts of the One Stop Shop on operations and number of clientele. A reassessment will occur on Thursday following the recovery hand over from DEC Wednesday morning.
- Insurance Council Update – Laurie Ratz
- The Insurance Council will be at the one stop shop until 4 pm today and will leave contact information and business cards to access the 24 hour hotline for residents. We have declared this event as an insurance catastrophe to mobilise insurance companies. Staff of those insurance companies will assist claimants. RAC and SGIO are already at the one stop shop and larger insurance companies are sending assessors into the area. Assessors triage quickly. The Immediate needs assessment and claims process will move into recovery or repair stage very quickly. Resources and rebuilding requirements are assessed. Bush Fires are different from floods as the assessment can occur quickly and within 5 – 6 weeks trades should be able to commence work.
- Most policies include clean up of site or as part of the overall figure for rebuilding of the house or the policy has an over and above cover of the initial insurance amount. Could be for example 10 % of the policy allocated for clean up purposes. Insurers will complete the clean up but affected residents need to contact their insurer prior to any clean up on site. It is discouraged in fire incidences that over enthusiastic volunteers with the best intentions enter private property to assist with the clean up as this will affect the insurers capacity to fully compensate under the policy.
- Gary Yates noted that he had discussed with the Recovery Coordinator volunteers from the Football Club who have confirmed they would like to assist with the clean up of private homes which were affected. Football Club volunteers were told that this will be long term activity particularly in light of the public health and insurance issues.

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- People need to take photos of assets, what they look like now and put together an inventory of what they have lost. It would be great to have photos of what they looked prior but this under the circumstances may be difficult.
- In most cases such as this disaster generally 80 % of those affected are insured and about 60% are under insured, which is the bigger issue, in these cases cash settlements will be offered by the Insurance Company.
- Of those affected only one property owner has noted they are under insured.

**3.3 Restoration and Reconstruction Sub Committee – DIS**

- Established focus areas include Waste, health, public infrastructure, environment, building, planning and communication. Did discuss if outside agencies should be invited to participate but confirmed that they should feed information to this committee.
- Dept Environment and Water could be useful.
- Yesterday's meeting discussed health and waste issues and building assessments. Communication to the community was also an issue and confirmed a newsletter for the Prevelly Gnarabup area including a notice board located at the White Elephant or Gnarabar would be good for dissemination of information.
- Dust suppression management plan is being drafted by the Shire's Landcare Officer will put plans together identifying erosion risks, road borders, sand drift onto car parks, roads and paths (which could potentially disappear under dunes) and other risk factor.
- Cape to Cape are concerned about access onto the dunes and prevention of further damage on regrowth. Volunteer and environmental groups are interested in looking after wild life in the area and what are the risks of this.
- Advice from FESA is required regarding the fire retardant used in the water bombers as there is some concern regarding the chemicals and run off into the Margaret River. Water samples are being taken today of the river below Wallcliffe House for testing.
- Peter confirmed that FESA will check on this issue and will get information back to Alison today but the fire bombers will not normally bomb a house.
- FESA will check the affects of the catchment. Phosphate dilution will occur which is usually a non toxic substance

**3.4 Communication Sub Committee – CEO, Media Liaison, MCD**

- Not met as subcommittee to date. There has been a lot of activity with a full page information sheet in the AMR Mail, provided for free. Thank you to different organisations and agencies for their team effort ameliorating the suffering which has occurred. Page includes a section on grief and loss and coping with stress, hints and information about public health and other information. This local press are a vehicle to get info out the community and follow up with other information in the AMR Times Friday.
- Expansion of Volunteer Thank you function Monday 6 – 10 pm. Volunteer function because of the fires and the magnificent efforts of all agencies and volunteers a community thank you function from 6 – 10 pm advertised in the paper tomorrow and intent is that community members would bring picnic dinner and fire fighters would be at the event and there has been some generous donations of food and supplies and refreshments. Music and speeches and will be advertising as a fundraising event to raise funds for the LMDRF. There are a lot of organisation to thank but think it is a good idea to get the community together and thank them for the efforts during the fire incident. Message is it is a drink safe occasion and the Shire does not condone unsafe drinking or drink driving. Everyone is welcome to attend and in terms of PR let Gary know.
- The Federal Minister of State Hon Gary Gray AO MP will be meeting with the President and CEO to tour the one stop shop, visit fire areas to view the damage and visit Wallcliffe House and the Shire confirms an invitation to agencies representatives to meeting with Gary at 11 am tomorrow in this office, Mainbreak Meeting Room. This is an opportunity to meet with a federal Minister. The state has been terrific in their response to this emergency and the visit of federal minister is an opportune one and the Shire could leverage some funds for the foreshore rehabilitation.

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- Simon Ambrose – Tourism WA and AMRTA will campaign to keep Margaret River open for business. This is essential following a natural disaster. Make sure the local community including the Perth regional area which is 70 % of our tourist market continue to come to the region. They need to know that only a small part of the region has been affected or damaged. This is particularly important as we go into the Feb - April tourism season. TWA will continue to promote the region with a TV campaign imparting info about Margaret River with really great support from 7mate etc. AMRTA are utilising some award funding from the Tourism Town of the Year award for TV advertising. It is really early days but as we go forward we want people to continue to support local businesses and act quickly to get the message out.
- Vik Cheema noted that public information response to recovery is a very high priority. Information about funding assistance, WALGA funding and insurance needs to get out there. There is already confusion regarding what people are entitled to. Access to the local media, one stop shop and what are people entitled to.

***ACTION: Vik to put information regarding WANDRRA funding into an A4 sheet to assist with demystifying it as it is very complicated. Paul Gravett is working on a Q & A sheet to provide responses for the community.***

- Following the evacuation the AMRTA and Small Business Centre have completed an initial assessment and can confirm up to and over 100 affected tour operators and accommodation suppliers were affected by the evacuation.

#### 4.0 General Business

##### 4.1 Australian Red Cross

- Are situated at the One Stop Shop and looking forward to engagement with community through their outreach program

##### 4.2 Rotary

- Assisting with catering at the one stop shop over the weekend and early this week
- Rotary will be placing an advertisement in the local paper offering assistance to the elderly in their own home.

***ACTION: DCP and Fran to further discuss assistance to the elderly.***

##### 4.3 Hon Barry House MLC

- Barry's office has been contacted by businesses in the community seeking financial assistance regarding income loss. Tourist operators can access funding through the Vasse Small Business who are administering \$15 K grants, but at this stage it is an information gathering exercise as it is not clear how funds are going to be administered. Contact Carla Clarke at the VSBC as advice has been requested from Minister's office.

##### 4.4 Department of Child Protection

- There are some concerns regarding the opportunity to take advantage of the \$350 payments which were issued in the three days after the fire incident for evacuees. Some evacuees were not aware of funds or tied up in the evacuation process. Others thought that by registering with Red Cross they would be eligible. People who genuinely feel that the assistance is still required will be dealt with on a case by case basis and retrospective payments may be made.
- Vicky Small noted that she is in receipt of a request for assistance via email.

##### 4.5 Hon Troy Buswell MLA

- Core issues are clarity around the process of relief funding. Troy, Barry and the Premier have indicated that the Government wants a clear line of responsibility. They note the response from shire management has been magnificent and will become a template for future emergency engagement. The state can assist with liaison between the Federal government and the State Government and would like to confirm an open door policy. If there are any perceptions of bureaucracy please call and our offices will

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be part of one stop shop to the highest level including clarity of funding service delivery processes maps.

**4.6 DCP**

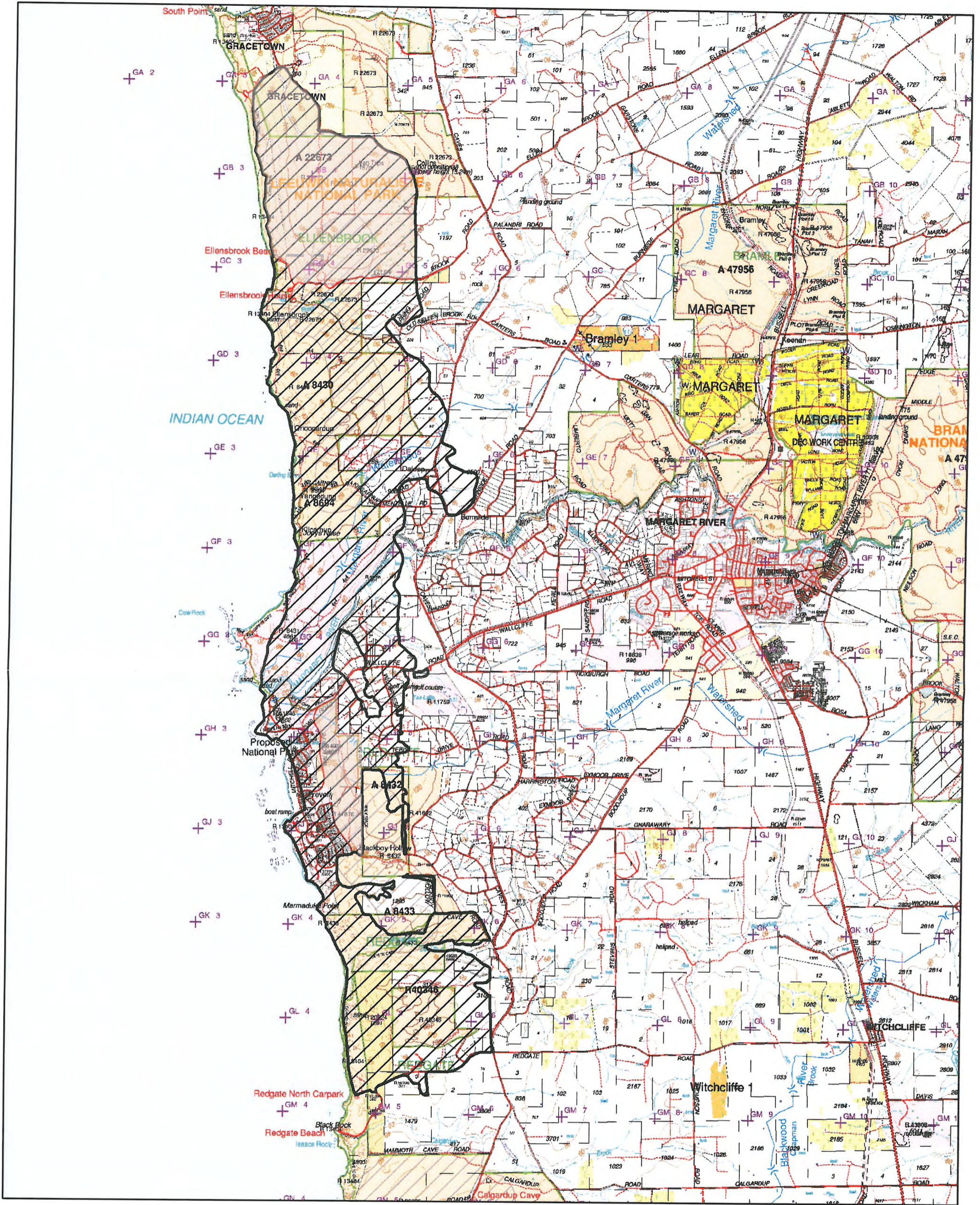
- The State has now declared category 3 & 4 payments available which are to assist with the replacement of household goods and repairs up to \$10 k. Critical that this information is supplied to the community on the A4 Sheet.
- Issue of emergency relief credit cards for the evacuation has meant some have expired prior to use of cards. Please send evacuees back to the one stop shop.
- DCP have tried to put boundaries on the cards as they were for essential items during the evacuation not long term payment. Card can be checked at the one stop shop.

**5.0 Next meeting of Recovery Committee**

Convening in one week Tuesday 6 December commencing at 11 am

*There being no further business the Chairman farewelled those agencies who have assisted during the evacuation and fire incident and thanked everyone for their magnificent work in making the emergency less of a disaster than it could have been, we need to focus on the positives which includes the restoration work by Western Power and Telsta which has been magnificent. The Chairman reiterated that all agency representatives would be welcome on Monday evening and closed the meeting the time being 12.20 pm.*

# Ellensbrook Prevelly Fire BWD008 Overview

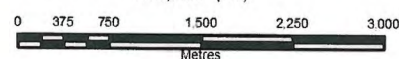


## Legend

- Prevelly\_Ellensbrook\_burn\_boundary
- Fire Boundary



1:60,000 (A3)



Projection: Universal Transverse Mercator  
MGA Zone 50. Datum: GDA94

Incident Authority: P Keppel

Produced by Paul Rampant,  
Department of  
Environment and Conservation

Map produced at 19:31Hrs, on November 27, 2011



Department of  
Environment and Conservation  
Our environment. our future

Roads and tracks on land managed by DEC may contain unmarked hazards and their surface condition is variable. Exercise caution and drive to conditions on all roads.  
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