



Animal Welfare Plan

February 2017

This document links to the Community Strategic Plan through:



Goal 1: Valuing the natural environment



Goal 2: Welcoming and inclusive communities



Goal 3: Managing growth sustainably



Goal 4: Vibrant and diverse economy



Goal 5: Effective leadership and governance

“Strong communities are welcoming and safe and enjoy quality lifestyles that celebrate their local identity, diversity and culture. The Shire fosters community resilience and wellbeing through its social planning, recreation, safety, education and preventative health strategies”.

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Fire fighters providing welfare during a bushfire

Welcome/Message

In Australia, natural disasters are inevitable, often unpredictable, and will remain a constant feature of life for communities and animals. Animals are part of our lives and in addition to minimising their suffering, there are compelling reasons to fully integrate animals into disaster management:

- Animals have intrinsic value:

As sentient beings, animals suffer in disasters from injury, pain, hunger, thirst, fear and distress. On the basis of animal welfare principles alone, efforts should be made to protect animals from disasters.

- Animals contribute to human health and wellbeing:

The link between human wellbeing and interaction with animals is well documented. A survey of New Zealand residents found that almost two-thirds believe their relationship with their pet is vital to their psychosocial wellbeing.

Following Cyclone Tracey, animals were flown out of Darwin while the infrastructure was repaired. Residents reported that the return of their animals was critical to their recovery following the disaster.

- Animals have economic value:

Whilst there is no comprehensive database of the livestock losses incurred in disasters, available data suggests that the direct costs of livestock losses are considerable. For example, the 1983 Ash Wednesday fires resulted in an estimated total gross output loss of more than \$65 million. A decrease in production in the agriculture sector also results in downstream production losses for agriculture-dependent industries. These downstream impacts have been estimated to result in a total economic loss some 2.4 times greater than that experienced by the agricultural industry alone.

- Failure to account for animals puts human life at risk:

The Royal Commission into the Black Saturday fires found that individuals perished as a result of failing to evacuate with their animals and prematurely returning to the fire ground in order to save their animals.

National Planning Principles for Animals in Disasters



Animal Welfare Plan

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River Animal Welfare Plan has been prepared in accordance with Section 41 (4) of the Emergency Management Act 2005 and forms a part of the Local Emergency Management Arrangements. This plan has been endorsed by the Shire of Augusta Margaret River Local Emergency Management Committee and approved by Council of the Shire of Augusta Margaret River.

The Animal Welfare Plan has been tabled for noting with the South West District Emergency Management Committee and the Office of Emergency Management.

Chair

Shire of Augusta Margaret River LEMC

Date

Endorsed by Council

<Insert resolution number>

Date

Distribution List

Organisation/Officer	Number of Copies
Shire President (LEMC Chair)	1
Shire Chief Executive Officer	1
Director Corporate and Community Services	1
Manager Human and Community Services	1
Community Emergency Services Manager	1
Coordinator Ranger Services	1
Executive Officer South West DEMC	1
District Advisor DEMC	1
Office of Emergency Management	1
Officer In Charge Margaret River Police (Local Emergency Coordinator)	1
Officer In Charge Augusta Police	1
Augusta Hospital	1
Margaret River District Hospital	1
Department of Child Protection	1
Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia	1
Department of Fire and Emergency Services	1
Department of Parks and Wildlife	1
Water Corporation Western Australia	1
Department of Transport Western Australia	1
Surf Lifesaving Western Australia	1
Shire Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	1
Augusta Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service	1
Margaret River Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service	1
Augusta Margaret River State Emergency Service Unit	1
Augusta Volunteer Marine Rescue Service	1
Margaret River Volunteer Marine Rescue Service	1
Augusta Volunteer St John Ambulance Service	1
Margaret River Volunteer St John Ambulance Service	1
Shire Libraries	2
Shire Offices	2

Amendment Record

Suggestions and comments from the community and stakeholders can help improve the plan and subsequent amendments.

Feedback can include;

1. What you do or do not like about the plan;
2. Unclear or incorrect expression;
3. Out of date information or practices;
4. Inadequacies;
5. Errors, omissions or suggested improvements.

To provide feedback on the plan, copy the relevant section of this document, mark the proposed changes and forward it to:

The Chairperson

Local Emergency Management Committee

Shire of Augusta Margaret River

PO Box 61

MARGARET RIVE WA 6285

Or alternatively you may email to: amrshire@amrshire.wa.gov.au

Number	Date	Amendment Summary	Author
1	Feb 2017	First Issue	N.Hall
2			
3			
4			
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6			
7			
8			

Glossary of Terms

Terminology used throughout this document shall have the meaning as prescribed in either Section 3 of the *Emergency Management Act 2005* or as defined in the State EM Glossary or the WA Emergency Risk Management Guide.

Animal Welfare: How an animal is coping with the conditions in which it lives. An animal is in a good state of welfare if (as indicated by scientific evidence) it is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, able to express innate behaviour, and if it is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear, and distress. Good animal welfare requires disease prevention and veterinary treatment, appropriate shelter, management, nutrition, humane handling and humane slaughter/killing. Animal welfare refers to the state of the animal; the treatment that an animal receives is covered by other terms such as animal care, animal husbandry, and humane treatment. [OIE May 2008 – International Office of Animal Health].

Biosecurity: The protection of the economy, the environment, social amenity or human health from negative impacts associated with the entry, establishment or spread of animal or plant pests and disease, or invasive plant and animal species.

Livestock: Any animal kept for the purposes of primary production, including cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry, alpacas, goats and deer; or (b) horses, including where used for recreation; or (c) any animals prescribed as livestock.

Pets: Domestic animals, primarily kept for companionship and which usually accompany the family when they leave the property i.e. dogs, cats, rabbits, rodents, fish, birds.

Wildlife: All native and introduced animals that live without regular human intervention or support. Does not include stray domestic animals.

General acronyms used in this plan

Acronym	Terminology
AWC	Animal Welfare Coordinator
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CESM	Community Emergency Services Manager
CPFS	Department of Child Protection Family Support
ESD	Emergency Services Directory (South West Extended Version 2016)
DAFWA	Department of Food and Agriculture Western Australia
DFES	Department of Fire and Emergency Services
HMA	Hazard Management Agency
IMT	Incident Management Team
ISG	Incident Support Group
LEC	Local Emergency Coordinator
LEMA	Local Emergency Management Arrangements
LEMC	Local Emergency Management Committee
LRC	Local Recovery Coordinator
LRCC	Local Recovery Coordinating Committee
P&W	Department of Parks and Wildlife
SES	State Emergency Service

Introduction

Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to provide guidance to Shire Staff, Hazard Management Agencies, Combat Agencies and Support Agencies to assist the community with the care and management of domestic and native animals during an emergency within the Shire of Augusta Margaret River.

Objectives

The objectives of this Animal Welfare Plan are to:

- Support and assist the Local Emergency Management Arrangements;
- Coordinate the function and outline the management structure of animal welfare arrangements;
- Contribute to enhanced public safety and community resilience within the Shire through effective planning and management of animals in emergencies;
- Ensure animals within the Shire are better considered and protected from suffering during and immediately following emergencies;
- Reunite owners with lost animals during and after an emergency;
- Ensure straying animals are impounded for their safety and the safety of the community, road users and emergency services; and
- Increase community knowledge and confidence that animal welfare will be considered and managed during an emergency.

Scope

The Animal Welfare Plan recognises that the Shire of Augusta Margaret River is ultimately responsible for domestic animal welfare during an emergency and it is limited to the care of domestic animals residing within the Shire of Augusta Margaret River, during an emergency or disaster. It does not include the routine management of animal welfare during non-emergencies.

Animal owners are responsible for the welfare of their pets and livestock at all times, including disaster situations. However, the Shire acknowledges that disasters are complex events, often limiting the ability of people to fulfil these obligations. Furthermore, their inability to care for their animals can lead to significant distress in already trying situations.

Whilst the care of native animals is the responsibility of the Department of Parks and Wildlife the plan does identify processes that can be undertaken to assist injured, distressed or displaced wildlife during an emergency or disaster.

It is important to note that whilst every effort should be made to protect and care for animals, human life and safety should always take precedence over animal welfare!

Related Documents

This Animal Welfare Plan forms a part of the Shire of Augusta Margaret River's Local Emergency Management Arrangements and should be read in conjunction with these arrangements and its related documents. They also interface with other hazard specific, emergency management and animal plans at District and State levels.

Plan Activation

The Shire's Animal Welfare Coordinator or Recovery Coordinator will activate the plan following advice from the Hazard Management Agency, Local Emergency Coordinator or Incident Controller.

Triggers for plan activation may include:

- Major emergencies such as fire, flood, drought and animal disease.
- Opening of a Welfare Centre; and /or
- Large scale carcass disposal requirements;



Pets need to be considered as part of emergency planning and recovery.

Roles and Responsibilities

Animal Welfare Coordinator

The appointed Animal Welfare Coordinator (AWC) for the Shire of Augusta Margaret River is the Coordinator of Ranger Services who is responsible for the implementation and management of this plan.

Depending on the size and nature of the emergency event, the Coordinator of Ranger Services may choose to delegate this position to another suitably qualified Shire officer.

Shire Rangers

The Shire's Rangers Services team consists of three (3) full time rangers and one (1) part time ranger during the summer months.

The Rangers report to the Coordinator of Ranger Services and are the primary officers responsible of undertaking the duties of the Animal Welfare Plan.

It should be noted that the Rangers also fulfil other logistical roles during emergencies and their services may be limited.

Animal Owners

Animal owners are responsible for the welfare of their pets and livestock at all times, including disaster situations.

State Agencies and Support Groups

Depending on the nature and size of the event, further assistance may be required from other state agencies or support groups to carry out the effective management of animal welfare during an emergency situation;

Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia

Biosecurity

To protect Western Australian agricultural industries from pests the [Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia](#):

- Works with stakeholders to identify and manage biosecurity risks.
- Develops legislation.
- Establishes import controls.
- Conducts inspections.
- Provides quarantine services as required.

Emergency Response

Under State Emergency Management Arrangements, the Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (DAFWA) is the Hazard Management Agency (HMA) for emergency management of significant:

- a) animal pest or disease; and
- b) plant pest or disease.

Which could result in an outbreak that could cause significant damage to property, the environment and harm humans and industry. As such DAFWA has a lead role in emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

Department of Parks and Wildlife

The Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) has a key role in protecting our [native animals](#), and does so through the management of lands and waters reserved under the [Conservation and Land Management Act](#), a range of conservation initiatives operating [on other lands](#), and programs such as [Western Shield](#), [scientific research](#) and the protection of [threatened species and ecological communities](#).

DPaW has a [Wildcare Helpline](#) (9474 9055) which is a 24 hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week telephone referral service which provides a service for members of the public who find sick, injured or orphaned native wildlife and are seeking advice on how to find care for the animal.

RSPCA

The [RSPCA's](#) mission is to prevent cruelty to animals by actively promoting their care and protection. To achieve this, the RSPCA works to enforce animal cruelty laws and prompt new legislation where required. The RSPCA also operates animal care and adoption facilities, and seeks to raise community awareness regarding the humane treatment of animals. In addition, the RSPCA works with government and industry to establish standards for animal care.

FAWNA

[FAWNA](#) is a not for profit government approved wildlife rescue and rehabilitation organisation (based in Busselton) for sick, injured and orphaned native fauna. FAWNA may be able to provide assistance for native animal welfare during and emergency situation.

Veterinarians

There are three (3) main local veterinarian hospitals within the Shire of Augusta Margaret River who are able to provide a wide range of medical services for sick and injured animals. The veterinarians also have arrangements with Ranger services for emergency animal care and shelter.

Facilities and Resources

Animal Welfare Centre

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River Animal Welfare Centre will be located within the Margaret River Administration Building on located on Wallcliffe Road. The functions of the welfare centre are to;

- Record, register and prioritise all requests for assistance;
- Record and register all lost, found, rescued and impounded animals;
- Assist with the logistics of caring for all impounded animals; and
- Maintain all financial and administrative records.

Animal Sheltering Facilities

Animal sheltering facilities are to provide short term housing and welfare for rescued, roaming and impounded animals. Animals are not allowed inside an evacuation centre, with the exception of assistance animals (i.e. guide dogs). Residents are to be urged to seek shelter for their animals with friends or families that have not been affected by the emergency event prior to utilising the services of an animal sheltering facility.

Domestic Pets

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River pound has been appointed as the primary pet sheltering facility located on the corner of Bussell Hwy and Boodjidup Road Margaret River.

In the first instance all stray/lost domestic pets (cats & dogs) are to be delivered to the pound for processing and welfare. A Ranger will be at the facility during business hours (in an emergency situation).

Injured domestic pets are to be taken to the Margaret River Vet Hospital located at 47 Station Road Margaret River. If the injured domestic pet is stray/lost the vet hospital will notify the Shire's Ranger Services.

Where this facility is not suitable, the AWC is to nominate an alternate or additional location. These facilities will not be able to cater for the needs of large livestock, however small livestock (i.e. poultry) may be permitted.

Ranger services has existing working relationships with local boarding kennels should the Shire's pound not have sufficient capacity.

Livestock

Livestock are to be contained within the closest safe paddock. All attempts should be made to restrict their access to road ways, ensure they have access to feed and water, and have room to exercise. When resources become available all attempts should be made to identify and contact the owners utilising the National Livestock Identification System.

Where livestock are not claimed or are unable to be contained safely the AWC will either:

- Arrange for the livestock to be relocated to the Shire's stock yards located on the corner of Bussell Hwy and Boodjidup Road Margaret River, or
- Approaching land holders of suitable properties and arranging for appropriate management of the animals that are housed within the facility.

If there are large number of livestock that are injured or deceased as a result of the emergency the AWC will liaise with DAFWA in the management of treatment/euthanasia or disposal of the livestock.

Horses

In addition to livestock the Shire acknowledges the following additional sheltering arrangements may be available to horses:

- Margaret River Horse and Pony Club 98 Roxburgh Rd, Margaret River; and
- Small stock yard at the back of the sporting facilities on Gloucester Park.

Temporary Sheltering Facility

As animals, with the exception of guidance animals, are not permitted in emergency welfare centres the AWC will look to establish a temporary holding facility near the welfare centre to assist with the wellbeing of not only the animals but also the owners who may become greatly distressed with being separated from their animal(s).

This temporary holding facility will normally be located on or near the welfare centre in a suitable location such as an oval or suitable shaded reserve.

If a temporary sheltering facility is established additional resources such as portable fencing, watering equipment, shade tents, food and waste equipment will be required.

Equipment

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River Rangers Services has an established supply of animal equipment including emergency supplies of animal cages, leashes, water/food bowls. Where possible animal's owners are to be encouraged to supply equipment when impounding their animal. Any purchase of additional equipment or food supplies shall be made using the

dedicated Shire account number for the emergency and recorded appropriately for incident reporting purposes.

Food

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River Ranger Services have a limited supply of domestic pet food for approximately five (5) days.

For additional animal food including feed for livestock and horses the Shire's preferred supplier is Margaret River Produce and Rural located at 19 Station Road Margaret River.

Purchasing of animal food will be done via purchase order utilising the Shire account number for the emergency.

Fees & Charges

Where possible the Shire will endeavour to assist the community in caring for their animals, by the waiving of selected fees and charges for a period of time of no longer than fourteen (14) days. Only the AWC has the delegated authority to waive, amend or impose fees and charges as deemed appropriate.

To ensure there is a consistent approach to the waiver of fees, the following points for consideration are to be clarified by the AWC as early as practicable:

- Length of impoundment fee waiving period;
- Fees for the use of alternate animal sheltering facilities (i.e. boarding kennels);
- Fees for the extended impoundment of existing boarded or impounded animals due to emergency controls (i.e. road blocks);
- Veterinary costs related to impoundment period;
- Fees for surrendering animals for destruction or rehoming; and
- Extension period for micro chipping or registration fees.

Exotic Animal Diseases and Biosecurity

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River has an extensive agricultural industry within its boundaries, any significant outbreak of disease is likely to have a drastic impact on the community.

The Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia (DAFWA) is the HMA for Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases. The Shire may be requested to provide community level resources and assistance to comply with their incident management, and is responsible for recovery efforts.

Refer to [WESTPLAN Animal and Plant Pests and Diseases](#) for further information.

Administration and Public Information

Request for Assistance

All incoming requests for assistance from the public in regards to animal welfare (i.e. rescues, roaming, lost and found) shall be recorded using the Synergy computer system and will be prioritised by the AWC or designated officer for actioning.

Offers of Assistance

All public offers of assistance, such as donations of services and accommodation are to be referred to GIVIT as part of the memorandum of understanding for the coordination of donations received by the Shire in times of an emergency.

During emergencies, all goods are to be donated through the GIVIT online platform (givit.org.au) and distributed to those in need via local emergency management committees and/or existing welfare agencies.

Impounded Animals

All impounded animals are to be registered in Synergy as per the Impounding of Animals in Emergency Situations procedure.

Where there is more than one animal sheltering facility, it is to be clearly noted where the animal is located.

Lost & Found Animals

All records of lost and found animals are documented in Synergy as per Impounding of Animals in Emergency Situations procedure.

Lost and found animals during an emergency should be taken to the Shire's pound facility on the corner of Bussell Hwy and Boodjidup Road during business hours.

Contact Register

A full list of contacts can be located in the Emergency Contacts and Resource Directory (Appendix 1).

COMPANY	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Ranger Services	41 Wallcliffe Rd, Margaret River	9780 5255 0419 902 540 (A/H)
Department of Agriculture and Food	Verschuer Place, Bunbury	1800 675 888 (24hrs) 1800 084 881 (24hrs)
RSPCA	108 Malaga Dr, Malaga	9209 9300
Department of Parks and Wildlife	12/14 Queen St, Busselton	9752 5555
Wildcare		9474 9055
FAWNA		0438 526 660
Margaret River Vet Hospital	47 Station Rd, Margaret River	9757 2163 0447 906 671 (A/H)
Rosa Brook Vet Service	Unit 2/5 Minchin Way Margaret River	0429 497 791
Cape Creatures	3/159 Boodjidup Rd, Margaret River	9757 9700
Margaret River Horse & Pony Club	Terry Drive Margaret River	

Acknowledgements

The Shire of Augusta Margaret River would like to acknowledge the following references in the development of this document;

- City of Mandurah Animal Welfare Plan
- National Advisory Committee for Animals in Emergencies



Shire of Augusta Margaret River

Civic and Administration Centre

41 Wallcliffe Road (PO Box 61)

Margaret River 6285

P: 08 9780 5255, F: 08 9757 2512

Office Hours: Mon to Fri, 9am – 4pm

Phone enquiries: 8am – 4.30pm

Augusta Administration Office

66 Allnutt Terrace

Augusta 6290

P: 08 9780 5660, F: 08 9758 0033

Office Hours: Mon to Fri, 9am – 4pm

(closes for lunch 12pm — 1pm)

Phone enquiries 8am – 4.30pm

www.amrshire.wa.gov.au

amrshire@amrshire.wa.gov.au

If you are deaf, or have a hearing impairment or speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service:

TTY users phone 133 677 then ask for
08 9780 5255

Speak and Listen users phone
1300 555 727
then ask for 08 9780 5255

Internet relay users connect to the NRS
(www.relayservice.com.au) and then ask