

Augusta Margaret River Local Emergency Management Committee

Minutes

For the meeting held
Tuesday, 11 May 2021
Augusta Council Chambers
66 Allnutt Terrace, Augusta
Commencing at 4.30pm

Notice of Meeting

Please be advised that a meeting of the Augusta Margaret River Local Emergency Management Committee was held on 11 May 2021, commencing at 4.30pm

Augusta Council Chambers
66 Allnutt Terrace
Augusta WA 6285

This meeting was open to members of the public.

If you were unable to attend the meeting, please contact Lisa Garstone, Emergency Services Admin Officer.

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Order of Business

Agenda Listing	Subject
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Notice of meeting

Order of business

- 1.0 Declaration of opening**
- 2.0 Attendance / Apologies / Non-attendance**
 - 2.1 Attendance**
 - 2.2 Apologies**
- 3.0 Question time for the public**
- 4.0 Disclosure of members' interests**
- 5.0 Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting**
 - 5.1 Local Emergency Management Committee Minutes: 9 February 2021**
- 6.0 Business arising from previous minutes**
 - 6.1 Action List**
- 7.0 Reports from Shire Officers and Delegates**
 - 7.1 Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions**
 - 7.2 Department of Communities**
 - 7.3 Department of Fire and Emergency Services**
 - 7.4 Department of Health**
 - 7.5 Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development**
 - 7.6 Shire Bush Fire Brigades**
 - 7.7 Shire Human and Community Services**
 - 7.8 State Emergency Services**
 - 7.9 St John Ambulance**
 - 7.10 Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service**
 - 7.11 Volunteer Marine Rescue**
 - 7.12 WA Police**
 - 7.13 Water Corporation**
- 8.0 General business**
 - 8.1 Nil**
- 9.0 Matters for which the meeting may be closed (Confidential Items)**
- 10.0 Closure of meeting**

1.0 Declaration of opening

The Chairperson welcomed all in attendance and the meeting was declared open at 4.33pm.

2.0 Attendance / Apologies / Non-attendance

2.1 Attendance

Committee Members

Adam Jasper	:	Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)
Brendan Jordan	:	St John Ambulance – Augusta
Luke Jenner	:	St John Ambulance – Margaret River
Herman Gerritsen	:	Volunteer Marine Rescue – Augusta
Tori Gilmour	:	WA Police – Augusta
Andrew Slee	:	WA Police – Margaret River/ Local Emergency Coordinator
Josh Jackson	:	Water Corporation

Shire Staff Members

Ian Earl	:	Shire President/Chairperson
Nigel Anderson	:	Shire Manager Human and Community Services/Shire Recovery Coordinator
Lisa Garstone	:	Acting CESM/Minute Secretary

Observers

Nil

2.2 Apologies

Adrian Yates	:	Augusta Margaret River State Emergency Service (SES)
Petrina Yates	:	Augusta Margaret River State Emergency Service (SES)
Ed Hatherley	:	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)
Hal Snyder	:	Department of Communities
Roma Boucher	:	Department of Communities
Nathan Hall	:	Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)
Peter Thomas	:	Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)
Vik Cheema	:	Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)
Emily Lewis	:	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD)
Michael Beasley	:	Marine Rescue – Margaret River
David Holland	:	Shire Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (CBFCO)
Quentin Blunsdon	:	Shire Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (DCBFCO)
Stephanie Addison-Brown	:	Shire Chief Executive Officer
Nick Logan	:	Shire Director Sustainable Development and Infrastructure Services
Alex Bernhagen	:	Volunteer Fire and Rescue – Augusta
Leith Jones	:	Volunteer Fire and Rescue – Margaret River
Dane Hendry	:	St John Ambulance – Margaret River
Marie Tweedie	:	WA Country Health Service (WACHS)
David Wall	:	WA Police – Augusta
Gary Smith	:	Western Power
Matt Davey	:	Western Power

3.0 Question time for the public

Nil

4.0 Disclosure of members' interest

Nil

5.0 Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

5.1 Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting Minutes: 9 February 2021

RECOMMENDATION/LEMC DECISION LEMC2021/04

That the unconfirmed minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held 9 February 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

Moved: Brendan Jordan, St John Ambulance – Augusta

Seconded: Josh Jackson, Water Corporation

Carried: 8/0

6.0 Business arising from previous minutes

6.1 Action List

Date	Action Item	Action Update	Status	Actioning Officer
20/05/20	LEMC Exercises/Meeting Locations.	<p>20/5/20: Adam Jasper to liaise with Nathan Hall and get in touch with Josh Jackson from the Water Corporation regarding his offer to host a meeting/exercise.</p> <p>11/08/20: Hypothetical Water Corporation Exercise discussion held. Members to forward their responses to the Emergency Services Admin Officer. Outcomes to be discussed at the November LEMC which is proposed to be hosted by the Water Corporation in Margaret River (TBC).</p> <p>9/2/21: Due to DFES District Officer Emergency Management LSW, Nathan Hall, being an apology as a result of a deployment to Albany, this item will be rolled over to the next LEMC meeting due to be held on 11 May 2021.</p> <p>11/5/21: Due to DFES District Officer Emergency Management LSW, Nathan Hall, being an apology for this meeting, this item will be rolled over to the next LEMC meeting due to be held on 10 August 2021. Lisa to liaise with Josh Jackson re the possibility of Water Corporation hosting the next LEMC meeting, and to include a tour of the Margaret River facility.</p>	In progress	Adam Jasper, Nathan Hall, Josh Jackson and Lisa Garstone

7.0 Reports from Shire Officers and Delegates

7.1 Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions

- Meeting apology.

7.2 Department of Communities – Roma Boucher PPE Kits Update

- Items for the SW PPE kits have been received and sorted into 2 x 60ltr crates per kit.
- We have 18 crates stored at the Busselton office in readiness for the City of Busselton and Shires of Augusta Margaret River and Nannup; 9 kits in all. Due to the lateness of delivery and being late in the summer season, we have decided to keep the crates at the Busselton office and move them as/if required on an as needs basis.

Cyclone Seroja

- I was recently deployed to Geraldton to assist with recovery work in relation to Cyclone Seroja for 11 days and worked in Geraldton, including outreach to Northampton and at the Incident Control Centre. The welfare work of the Department continues providing personal support and financial assistance from 3 hubs in the Mid-West Gascoyne and available at Kalbarri, Northampton and Morawa. Teams are deployed weekly and work according to accommodation availability, etc.

The above report was received following distribution of the Agenda, but prior to the meeting being held.

7.3 Department of Fire and Emergency Services Acting Area Officer Leeuwin – Adam Jasper

Mr Jasper informed the meeting of his recent deployment to Geraldton as part of the cyclone Seroja recovery team, including some of the issues faced. He stressed how important it was to ensure that all LEMA arrangements and contact details were kept up-to-date, and that hypothetical exercises and response plans are regularly tested.

District Officer Capes LSW – Peter Thomas

- Meeting apology.

District Emergency Management Advisor SW – Vik Cheema State

State Emergency Management Committee met on 5 March 2021. Please see attached copy of the SEMC Communique (*refer Attachment 7.4.1*).

Key points to note:

- Royal Commission into National Disaster Arrangements
- WA Community Disaster Resilience Strategy
- Grant update
- State Emergency Management Framework
- Local Government State Capability Webinar Link
- SEMC Capability Survey

District – South West

South West District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC) met on 16 March 2021. Highlights of the meeting are:

- COVID-19 current status and preparedness update from the WACHS
- DBCA Prescribed burn presentation
- Australian Defence Force disaster assistance presentation
- Agency updates
- Shire of Manjimup local evacuation and recovery arrangements noted by the DEMC

TC Seroja: DEMA SW deployed to Geraldton and provided support to the multi-agency response and recovery efforts. TC Seroja has caused a widespread impact across several local government districts. As a result, disaster Relief Funding Arrangement (DRFA-WA) is activated for the TC Seroja event, and Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund is collecting public donations to assist the impacted community. Emergency Services staff and volunteers from across the state deployed to the Midwest region.

Local

2021 Annual and Preparedness Report Capability Survey

Under section 33 and 40 of the Emergency Management Act 2005 (EM Act), Local Emergency Management Committees are required to submit annual reports to the SEMC regarding their emergency management activities. Also, under the EM Act, the State Emergency Management Committee is required to report to the Minister for Emergency Services each year regarding the preparedness of the State to combat emergencies. It should be noted that completion and submission of the survey will form part of the evaluation criteria for grants such as AWARE and National Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR).

A letter from the SEMC Chair is sent to the local government CEO on 16 April 2021. The survey is due for submission to SEMC Capability team no later than Wednesday, 9 June 2021.

Local Emergency Management Arrangement – status correct as at 12 March 2021

Number local governments	Number LEMCs	LEMA noted/submitted to SEMC	% Local governments with current required LEMA		
12	12	12	100%		
Local Government		LEMA Status	Date	Resolution No	Date of 5-year review
Shire of Augusta Margaret River	Augusta Margaret River	Current	3/10/2017	46/2017	3/10/2022
Shire of Boyup Brook	Boyup Brook	Current	3/08/2018	52/2018	3/08/2023
Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes	Bridgetown-Greenbushes	Current	3/10/2017	46/2017	3/10/2022
City of Bunbury	Bunbury	Current	6/03/2020	08/2020	6/03/2025
City of Busselton	Busselton	Current	8/12/2017	63/2017	8/12/2022
Shire of Capel	Capel	Nearing review	2/08/2016	40/2016	2/08/2021
Shire of Collie	Collie	Current	3/10/2017	46/2017	3/10/2022
Shire of Dardanup	Dardanup	Nearing review	2/08/2016	40/2016	2/08/2021

Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup	Donnybrook-Balingup	Current	3/10/2017	46/2017	3/10/2022
Shire of Harvey	Harvey	Current	3/10/2017	46/2017	3/10/2022
Shire of Manjimup	Manjimup	Current	6/03/2020	08/2020	6/03/2025
Shire of Nannup	Nannup	Current	14/08/2020	50/2020	14/08/2025

7.4 Department of Health

Margaret River and Augusta Hospital (WACHS-SW) – Marie Tweedie COVID

- Staff and aged care resident COVID vaccinations have commenced with extra dates and sites (Margaret River/Busselton)
- COVID swabs continue for both asymptomatic and symptomatic presentations.
- WAPOL are notified for any protentional breach as occurred on Friday 23rd April.
- Change of visiting hours to respond to recent outbreak to both sites.
- Staff continue to be trained in donning and doffing of PPE and fit checks for masks.
- PPE supply and stocks are adequate.

Emergency drills:

- Code red fire drills continue for both sites including ALL staff and volunteers.
- Updated Margaret River Hospital Emergency procedure manuals to include pandemic information.

Activity and staffing

- Margaret River had over 200 more presentations to ED than at the same time last year
- Augusta had 30 more than this time last year.
- Bed capacity at Margaret River and Augusta Hospital's remain full due to lack of available beds in nursing homes putting pressure on the ability to admit acute patients.
- Nursing recruitment is underway for both sites to maintain activity and surge presentations. Accommodation for new starters remains an issue.
- Staff deployed to Midwest to assist after Cyclone Seroja.

7.5 Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development – Emily Lewis DPIRD COVID19 Update

- DPIRD continues to support wider State Emergency Management Arrangements across the State e.g. Woorlooloo; TC Seroja/Odette.

Biosecurity Incidents and Responses – Update

- Queensland Fruit Fly (Qfly) - DPIRD continues to respond to Qfly operations within Coolbellup since Dec 2020. Eradication and surveillance activities will be managed in accordance with the National Fruit Fly Management Protocol.
- Browsing Ant response has transition to a National program, DPIRD activities are focussed on surveillance to verify eradication across the State.
- Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA) response has transition to a National program, surveillance activities are focused on establishing 'Proof of Freedom' to prove the pest has been eradicated.
- Ehrlichia canis (Ehrlichiosis) DPIRD is conducting surveillance for the disease and has conditions on dogs moving out of northern WA to reduce the risk of the disease spreading to southern WA.
- Additional information on these pests are available at www.agric.wa.gov.au.

7.6 Shire Bush Fire Brigades – David Holland
Operational Incidents/issues

- We assisted DBCA at the Bramley planned burn.

Training Courses conducted

- Planning is underway for the local training program for 2021, which is due to commence shortly.

Procedures

- Nil

Appliances / Facilities

- Nil

Administration

- A Section 46 declaration was enacted for the Easter long weekend due to the forecast of dry and windy weather. Section 46 prohibits the lighting of fires under certain conditions.
- The Shire has issued over 130 Permits to Burn so far this season (up to 28 April) which is a lot!
- The Restricted Burning Period was brought to an early close on Friday, 30 April due to sufficient rainfall to date and the forecast for more rain in the following week.

The above report was received following distribution of the Agenda, but prior to the meeting being held.

7.7 Shire Human and Community Services – Nigel Anderson
COVID-19 Shire Community Grant Program

- Care Package Round 1 – 12 approved grants of which 10 have been successfully acquitted.
- Care Package Rounds 2
- Community Resilience Grants – 10 approved grants of which 1 has been successfully acquitted.
- Economic Stimulus Grants – 7 successful applicants all of which are still open.

7.8 State Emergency Services – Petrina Yates
Incidents & Events

Low number of incidents over the 3 months, but very busy the last three weeks with cyclone recovery support:

- **TC Seroja deployment:** 6 members deployed over three weeks, for Taskforce 1, 2, and 3.
- **Ambulance assist:** 1 request for injured person in Kilcarnup (stood down before attended).
- **Storm damage:** One minor incident in Feb and April.
- **Water bomber:** Request in March but stood down.
- **Fire support:** Transfer of local crew in Feb from MR to Augusta
- **Community Engagement:** Members ran the Breakfast Bar at the MR Farmers Market in Feb, good fundraising and provision of information to the community; Members provided emergency services activities to the MR Recreation Centre Kids Club, 50 children kept involved and active for 1 ½ hours.

Training

- Members attended Navigation, Storm Damage, Chainsaw operator and BGR / USAR.
- Vertical Rescue team training in collaboration with caving groups to support cave response capability.
- Weekly Monday-night training proceeding well with 15-20 members.

Administration & Other

- Membership increased to 44 members after successful recruitment campaign for operational and administrative members.
- GRU (General Rescue Utility) Isuzu D-Max is on hold for regional areas due to concerns not fit for purpose.
- Vertical Rescue training tower enhancements approved by DFES and project manager appointed. These include safety upgrades, lighting, an enclosed space for cave rescue training and a staircase for general rescue training. Lighting installed. Designs work with Margaret River engineering.
- Collaborating with VFRS and DFES on site plans for the adjacent fire station, ensuring suitable access to SES facilities in case of major incidents.
- Approval process continuing for ablutions in the shed to supplement the two toilets at the SES facility.

7.9 St John Ambulance

Augusta – Brendan Jordan

- New Mercedes working well. Quite different to other vehicle.
- Combined exercise with Augusta VFRS simulating a two-car crash with 3 patients was held in early April.
- Things have eased off job wise since last meeting, however, Marie Tweedie's report states that both Augusta and Margaret River hospitals are mostly full, which is true. This is mainly due to permanent long-term care, with patients awaiting placement elsewhere. This in turn takes up trauma beds, leading to lots of transfers to Busselton and Bunbury, which takes us out of the area (approx. 4-5 round trip to Bunbury). However, there are currently enough volunteers to backfill.

Margaret River – Luke Jenner

- Margaret River has also seen an increase in transfers, three-fold year-on-year, which is reflective of how busy the hospitals currently are at the moment.
- Staged rollout of new ECG monitors to Margaret River at the end of May, followed by Augusta and Dunsborough later in the year. These will be good for patient care and will allow us to diagnose heart conditions more quickly, with better patient outcomes. The units from Germany will be hard-wired and will include installation and training.

The above reports were received verbally at the meeting.

7.10 Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service

Augusta

- Not in attendance.

Margaret River

- Not in attendance.

7.11 Volunteer Marine Rescue

Augusta – Herman Gerritsen

- With bigger than average crowds over summer the number of rescues carried out over summer were probably down on previous years. Most were minor incidents (breakdowns, etc.) both in the river and the ocean. One incident which occurred in the breakers at the mouth of the river could have turned nasty, but two PWCs were deployed quickly (about 6am the morning) with a successful rescue being carried out.
- The MV Ryall is still undergoing its refit. This has been going on since the 25th September 2020. The Group is looking forward to its completion, hopefully sometime in the next week or two.
- The Group is looking forward to the commencement of its new building at the Boat Harbour. Plans and permits have all been approved and the builder hopes to start on stage one in the upcoming weeks.

- Danial Pell has spent quite a bit of time with the Commander and the Committee setting up a training programme for members to learn and upgrade skills and outlining where members can go to do courses.
- The Group has also been fortunate to have some new members join, some with previous experience from other Groups.

Margaret River – Michael Beasley

- Briefly we have had a number of break down call outs, including one capsized boat which had the potential for injury and/ or loss of life. Happily, the boat and all occupants were returned safely to shore with no serious injuries sustained.
- Our Gracetown shed extensions are nearing completion, and decisions on the acquisition of a new larger towing vehicle are currently underway.
- The group assisted in safety roles during the recent Gracetown Swim event.
- Training continues on a regular basis.

7.12 WA Police

Augusta – Tori Gilmour

- Officers sent as part of cyclone recovery assistance.

Margaret River – Andrew Slee

- No significant incidents to report.
- Previous OIC Luke Fowler has recently been transferred to Australind, with Andrew filling in for 6-8 weeks until his replacement, Simone Taplin from Esperance, arrives.

The above reports were received verbally at the meeting.

7.13 Water Corporation – Josh Jackson Scheme Summary

We have seen the trend of higher than normal consumption and treatment rates for the year. The 10-mile dam level is at 63% and the feeder creek is running already. This is a strong position for May and because of that we have shut down the Mowen Bore to undertake maintenance on the Lilly Rd WTP. We will monitor the levels and aim to restart if the rains don't continue as expected.

I have had early meetings to look at installing back up power capabilities at Fisher Rd WTP in Augusta. We have procured a genset and are looking into the design for an auto changeover arrangement to ensure continuance of supply in an emergency situation. Better fire mitigation plans for the surrounding site are also underway. We hope to have that work done prior to this year's fire season.

VDD Project incident planning

We have had several rain events with the potential to cause stream flows within the drainage system at Busselton. The project team liaised well with the local operations and stakeholders to put robust plans in place and monitor the risks live through each event. To date none had caused us to deviate from our plans or initiate any of the contingencies.

Current Projects

- The Eagle bay tank replacement. Tripling the capacity on the site.
- Cape Naturalist pump station (Genset power back up on site).
- Fisher Rd Augusta power backup.
- Vasse diversion drain flood protection for Busselton works. An estimated 30 million will be spent of flood protection of the Busselton City. The works will enable the drainage system in conjunction with the Compensating basins to handle the flows generated from a 1 in 1000-year event with 50 mm free board. Currently capable to handle a 1 in 55-year event.

The meeting then held a brief discussion regarding the current COVID restrictions, including concerns of complacency when it comes to contact tracing registration, and how this could become a problem in the future should our region experience an outbreak.

8.0 General business
8.1 Nil

9.0 Matters for which the meeting may be closed (Confidential Items)
Nil

10.0 Closure of meeting

Before the closure of the meeting, the Chair called for any final items of discussion.

As there were no further items to discuss, the Chair thanked all for attending and the meeting was closed at 4.56pm.