

Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held in St Johns Ambulance Offices
28 Mitchell Street, Merredin
28th May 2019 commencing 5:30pm

Attendance

Cr Romolo Patroni	Chairman – Shire of Merredin
Cr Mal Willis	Councillor - Shire of Merredin
Jo Spadaccini	Dept of Communities
A/Snr Sgt M Patterson	WAPOL
Mark Briggs	SES – Merredin Branch/VFRS
Judy Briggs	SES – Merredin Branch/VFRS
Gerry Duke	CBH Merredin
Phil Van Der Merwe	Merredin VFRS
Sheree Lowe	Merredin VFRS
Darrell Krammer	DFES
Phil Hardy	DFES
Dale Pugh	WA Health Services
Kellie Bartley	DCEO - Shire of Merredin
Kim Friis	Senior Ranger – Shire of Merredin

Apologies

Snr Sgt Mark Tobiassen	WAPOL
Stephen Crook	CBFCO
John Flockart	D/CBFCO
Colin Brown	DFES - SES – Wheatbelt Area Manager
Sally Trunfio	
Gren Putland	MRD - Northam
Jacinta Herbert	MRD
Karen Horsley	Merredin Hospital

Welcome

The Chairperson, Cr Romolo Patroni, declared the meeting open at 5.33pm and welcomed all present to the committee members.

Confirmation of Minutes

That the Minutes of the Shire of Merredin Local Emergency Management Committee held on 26th February 2019 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Moved: Phil Van der Merwe

Seconded: Cr Mal Willis

CARRIED: Unanimously

Business Arising from Previous Minutes

- Emergency Control Centre (Generator) - Shire of Merredin will complete a feasibility study for the MRCLC (Rec Centre) for the appropriate decision to make concerning a generator for this centre. Required to be approved in draft 2019/20 budget.
- Contact and Resources Register – when will this be completed? Kim F advised it will be addressed at the meeting tonight.

Correspondence

Incoming Correspondence

Nil

Outgoing Correspondence

Nil

Standing Items to be considered at each meeting

Update of Contacts and Resources Register

- Contact list for the meeting to be circulated and updated.

Change of Positions/Leave and Acting arrangements notification

- Shire of Merredin - Kellie Bartley, Deputy Chief Executive Officer now taken the position from Peter Zenni (SoM).
- DFES – Jeremy Willis replaces Stuart Parks
- Merredin Hospital – Dale Pugh appointed Health Services Manager

Incident Support Group Activations

Nil

Risk Profile Change

Nil

Local Emergency Management Arrangements

The LEMA to be reviewed in 20xx or after a major incident

Local Recovery Plan

The Recovery Plan to be reviewed in 20xx or after a major incident

Report and/or debrief of any LEMC exercise(s)

- Request for Yvette Griggs (DFES) to be contacted along with Jo Spadaccini, Dept of Comms working with the Shire for an exercise to be arranged for LEMC.
- CBH will do a desktop in 2019 at Wongan Hills. Will try to involve LEMC in the 2020 exercise. The desktop sessions will be for CBH employees.
- Merredin VRS – Phil has asked who will run the next exercise? Number of things to take into consideration:
 - Aged care
 - School bus runs
 - Things we need to identify
 - What happens if full power is out – how will we source enough power to cope
 - Contact details and availability of relevant stakeholders/staff after 8pm ie Shire Staff, Hospital Staff, Dept of Communities etc
 - LEMA 24/7 numbers for contacts
 - Response time
 - Possible to try to evacuate a block in the Merredin town site to see how this will work effectively
 - How effective would this work should we have to do a full evacuation process, will we have enough people to achieve the movement of large numbers?
- DFES – you can possibly use up to 20-30 casualties to help find out how this really effects the community, a chemical spill, bush fire
- DCA – the assessment of where your volunteers come from and how do we get a large number through the doors ie Cyclone Veronica – how do we evacuate the community, how they interact with one another, who else do we get to do this?
- St John’s – question of how do we get our nursing homes evacuated if the ambulance is not able to assist in this matter.
- Phil (MVRS) – examples of the number of trains at midnight. How do we evacuate and have an exclusion zone of 500 meters – how do we evacuate to Nungarin or Bruce Rock.
- DFES – truck over the bridge, a diesel leak or a crater in ground for 500 meters.
- Phil – without a car crash, how does one-access bus services if the fire service is out servicing the incident?

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- DCA – Wongan has 32 buses but only 6 drivers as the rest were out doing the incident. How do we activate 3,000 people in this region effectively?
- Romolo – will we be able to move 500 persons?
- Mark – The plan needs to be tested.
- Kell – As Kalamunda (Ray Owen Centre) has conducted this type of program. Jo (DCA) confirmed that their department had some input into the concept and the scenario.

All these points clearly show that a lack of planned process between the LEMC working group. Shire of Merredin will make the necessary arrangements for having a planned exercise but to also look at a grand scale incident.

Documentation

Nil

Agency Updates

St Johns Ambulance – Merredin Branch

New building opened in January 2019, with a cost of approx. \$1 mill. This was supported with funding from Royalties for Regions, Lotterywest and local support.

Currently there is 3 ambulances – 2 permanent and one at Westonia (Currently no officers at Westonia).

They get replaced at 10 years of age with all 3 ambulances due to replacement by Dec 19.

14 operative members; with 4-5 truly operative.

Transport adds concerns with the lack of ambulances within the region.

Recruiting volunteers – is needed however hard to retain with training schedules and the long term training that is now required. This gives concern to maintain long term volunteers.

Wifi is still yet not connected.

We now have been conducting St John's Ambulance training here – with approx. 2 per month (CBH & other industries via the Northam Office)

Shire of Merredin

Council has been working with DFES on ESL Services for BFB & SES (awaiting funding approval from DFES).

Bush Fire/Harvest Period – preseason meeting is planned for Aug 19, discussion of strategies for the season will be discussed then.

Department of Fire and Emergency – Merredin VRS

MVRS has attended structural fires, road crashes, fires, 2 carport fires.

Site does not have a generator and we would probably go to CBH to ask for assistance if required.

We do not have the capacity to warrant the costs of a generator at this stage.

Merredin Hospital

Staffing issues to retain nursing staff with ongoing outcomes to retain staff. Use of agency nurses occurs, overall international, ageing midwifery and nursing is increasing throughout the whole industry. It does put limitations on the industry and living in the country is hard to retain.

With any major incidents that may attend to the hospital coverage will be arranged to deal with any disaster type responses within the Wheatbelt region.

Power failure – with new upgrade, hospital has full coverage to deal with any major loss of power.

CBH

CBH do have generators up to 400KVA and in various sizes that are able to help run a small town. There is always the opportunity to support the regional community should an incident occur.

CBH will be doing inhouse training this year mainly to their staff. In 2020 they will be happy to be involved

Romolo suggested if this can be linked in the plans to help activate this should it be required.

Merredin Police

Station is fully staffed at present moment, with staff changes to come over the new few months with vacancies due to staff transferring out of this station.

Generator is currently working and provides what is required for the station in any major incident.

Police have their own policies and procedures that are current for any major incident response required for an incident.

State Emergency Services

Funding for new shed has been approved.

Department of Fire and Emergency – District Officer

Northam has had turnover of staff for the last 12 months.

Reviewing the capability risk, unit, brigades and how they are resources throughout the Wheatbelt region.

Townsites and the UCL and MVA sites. Road trip this week is covering over 600 kms per day to fire stations and assessing the risks etc.

Looking at how we get volunteers more involved and how to maintain and protect the community and the community assets.

Obviously, it is a large area and therefore looking at the key critical areas as part of the assessment.

Romolo – did we not do a risk assessment of critical areas?

DFES – yes we look at crop fires, bush fires, critical aspects, road and rail disasters. The assessment will only be looking at UCL funding, bush fire risk management. The shire's plans, along with MRD & ARC will have their own mitigation plans for any major incident.

Department of Communities

Jo and her team are present and will provide any support in the case of any major incident requiring them to set up and activate the community in such responses.

Volunteer Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Nil

Presentations or Proposed Exercises

Nil

General Business

1.) Review of Local Emergency Management Arrangements 2015

Requirement to review the LEMA 2015 for consideration by the committee. Draft will be sent for review by the next committee meeting for endorsement.

Comments:

Merredin Police – have their own plans as do the Health Dept team. (State Govt) DCA – are also updated and change consistently over time.

DFES Merredin VRS – preplanning is require along with capability to risk assessment, risk register, unallocated crown land, bush land etc, mitigation strategies, buffers, brigade resourced – these need to be addressed with DFES on preplanning and responses to assist in these processes.

CBH – encourage only 000 calling – plans are based for within the regional areas that are CBH responsibilities. Emergency Plans for each site are in place however 000 is advocated for their employees. CBH is here to assist with resourcing the region as required.

SES – fall under DFES.

Note: Action required for the Word Document to be provided with track changes for each agencies to make comment by next LEMC meeting.

2.) Contacts Directory and Resources Register – Updated

Kim F – has now been updated with each agencies. Please make sure the correct officers are registered for each agency.

Please check all email addresses to make sure that it is the correct person and responses to the LEMC contacts and correspondence out is received.

Final mail out and attachment is provided for confirmation prior to final document to be distributed to relevant officers.

Note: Register to be sent as an attachment for review.

3.) Power Supply Discussions

Rec Centre – Feasibility study to be done on the re-wiring for gen-set adaptation. Council budget consideration required.

DFES – NDR funding – Natural Disaster Funding – resilience for funding

DCA – can supply letters of support

Dept of Housing, DCA and communities works together

Next meeting

Schedule for LEMC Meetings to be held at 1730hrs

Future meetings will be arranged and forwarded to members

Shire of Merredin Offices	28 th February 2019
St John's Merredin Branch	28 th May 2019
Merredin Hospital (turn up at main entrance)	27 th August 2019
TBA	27 th November 2019
TBA	26 th February 2020
TBA	27 th May 2020

Note: Please accept or decline future invitations to the meeting to assist officers.

Closure

There being no further business to discuss the Romolo Patroni thanked everyone in attendance and declared the meeting closed at 6.43pm.