

Shire of Merredin
LEMC: Community Support Sub-Committee Minutes



**Minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee:
 Community Support Sub-Committee**

Meeting No. 1

Thursday 7 May 2020 at 4.00 pm

Via Zoom

1.0 Attendance & Opening

Mark Tobiassen	OIC – WAPOL - Chairperson
Cr Romolo Patroni	Shire of Merredin – Councillor
Cr Julie Flockart	Shire of Merredin – President (observer)
Cr Mark McKenzie	Shire of Merredin – Councillor (joined at 4.20 pm)
Mark Dacombe	Shire of Merredin – Temporary CEO
Andrina Prnich	Shire of Merredin – Deputy CEO
Gabriella Rechichi	Shire of Merredin – Administration Support Officer
Karen Horsley	Merredin Hospital - Operations Manager Eastern Wheatbelt
Debbie Morris	CRC - Manager
Leigh Nelson	Merredin College – Principal

Apologies

Joanne Spadaccini	Department of Communities - District Emergency Services Officer - Wheatbelt

Opening Remarks

The Chairperson, Mark Tobiassen opened the meeting at 4.04 pm welcoming all in attendance, acknowledged the traditional people of the land and acknowledged Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in attendance.

2.0 Meetings

The Chairperson advised the meeting that the State Emergency Co-ordinators have requested the LEMC to meet every two weeks' during the recovery phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. To facilitate regular meetings without having to pull the whole LEMC together fortnightly the LEMC created sub-committees including the Community Support Sub-committee. The next sub-committee meetings will be held on 21 May and 4 June at 4.00 pm via Zoom, after which the committee will assess potentially holding the meetings monthly, unless there is a need to meet sooner.

The Chairperson will follow advice from the Shire on requirements for Terms of Reference and the need for quorum for the Sub-committee meetings.

3.0 Role of Sub-committee and initial focus

Tasks and assignments on state and emergency only matters will be discussed during the sub-committee meetings and briefings from Committee members will be provided if required.

The committee heard briefings from the following:

Karen Horsley – Merredin Hospital

No new cases of COVID-19 have been reported, anyone now entering the hospital is unlikely to have the virus, but this could change once the borders are reopened. Protocols are still in place for staff and visitors before entry to the site.

Leigh Nelson – Merredin College Principal

School has resumed and is at 70% capacity (about 400 students) and will not be full until mandated by government as return is by student choice. The college is meeting their responsibility by providing home learning, though some students have gone offline. The college has been selected for random COVID-19 inspections.

Debbie Morris – CRC Manager

One new family has been included on the vulnerable people's list and have received volunteer's assistance with grocery deliveries as they have been in quarantine after recently arriving from interstate.

Andrina Prnich- Shire of Merredin Deputy CEO

The Shire has collaborated with the CRC and Mia Davies' Office on community support and volunteers. Research from stake holders indicates there is no need for food hampers for the community and there were more volunteers than required. Safety and community wellbeing are still a priority, but they are also focusing on economic recovery

Mark Tobiassen – WAPOL

Business as usual for police, have been monitoring the train station to ensure Merredin is the passengers last stop before they get off, as there is still one active COVID-19 case in the Goldfields.

4.0 Review of Barrack Street closure

The Committee discussed when it would be appropriate to reopen the road to traffic on Barrack Street, which was closed by the Shire in the beginning of April for the community's safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. The closure of the road enabled customers of the IGA supermarket and nearby businesses to practice social distancing and safely line up, as shops limited the number of customers allowed in at any one time.

The long queues that formed during the three weeks prior to Easter have now eased considerably due to factors including restrictions on travel, customers over stocking and more relaxed limiting of customers in the IGA, which the committee also expressed concern about.

Mark Dacombe, the Shire's Temporary CEO will make contact with Shaun Whisson, the Retail Operations Manager for IBA Asset Management on behalf of IGA for his views on reopening the road before the next Committee Meeting and will also wait for further advice from the Federal and State Government on Social distancing practices for private businesses before the Shire makes a decision.

If it is deemed suitable to reopen the road before the next committee meeting communications can be sent via emails.

5.0 Other Matters

There were no other matters

There was no further business and the Chairperson closed the meeting 4.36 pm thanking all in attendance.