

**Local Emergency Management Committee Minutes**  
**7 May 2026 at 3.00 pm**  
**Shire of Merredin Council Chambers**  
**Cnr Barrack Street and King Street, Merredin**

<b>1.0 Attendance</b>	
Cr Phil Van Der Merwe	Shire of Merredin – Chair / Merredin VFRS
Craig Watts	Shire of Merredin
Sheree Lowe	Shire of Merredin / Merredin VFRS
Gabrielle Calitz	Shire of Merredin
Greg Hart	WA Police
Ashley Smith	Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Nigel Hasson	Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Danielle Parkin	Merredin SES
Joanne Spadaccini	Department of Communities
Di Dixon	WA Country Health Service
David Hamersley	St Mary's School
Terrence King	Western Power
Ash Michael	Road Trauma Support WA / Injury Matters
<b>2.0 Apologies</b>	
Codi Brindley-Mullen	Shire of Merredin
Shelby Robinson	Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Paul Wanless	Merredin Bush Fire Services
Laurent Marsol	Department of Parks and Wildlife
Michael Phillips	Department of Communities
Alan Matthews	St John Ambulance
Gren Putland	Main Roads WA
Kylie Cattaway	Merredin College
Caine Denyer	Merredin Residential College
Gary Anderson	CBH
Andrina Prnich	Merredin Community Resource Centre

### 3.0 Welcome

#### 3.1 Opening of Meeting

The Chair welcomed all in attendance and opened the meeting at 3.03pm.

### 4.0 Guest Presentation

#### 4.1 Ash Michael, Road Trauma Support WA

In regional and remote areas especially, we know the ripple effects of a single road crash can be far-reaching, impacting families, workplaces, schools and the broader community.

Post-crash care is recognised as the fifth pillar of the Safe System approach, highlighting that recovery and ongoing support are essential components of road safety and community wellbeing.

Road Trauma Support WA is a free, statewide service assisting anyone affected by road trauma, regardless of when the incident occurred or the level of involvement they had – such as driver, passenger, bystander, first on scene, or family member. They provide information and resources, education and training, and free, specialist trauma and bereavement counselling.

### 4.0 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

***Motion:** That the Minutes of the previous Meeting of the Local Emergency Management Committee held on 5 February 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.*

**Moved:** G Hart

**Seconded:** T King

### 5.0 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Nil

### 6.0 Correspondence

#### 6.1 Incoming Correspondence

Shelby Robinson - "Fuel Supply Intelligence Form – Request for Assistance" (Addressed by Shire CEO)

Shelby Robinson – "Digital Inclusion and Emergency Preparedness" (Invitation passed on to all LEMC members 8/4/26)

Shelby Robinson – TC Narelle Operational Area Support Group meeting

Shelby Robinson – "Goldfields-Midlands Increased Road Risk" (Forwarded to VFRS on 23/2/26)

Megan Lehaney – "P-CEP course guidelines and DIEP next steps" (Shire CEO, SCEM and ESO met with DFES to map out next steps)

Aleisha Power – "Road Trauma Support WA – Opportunity to connect with the Shire of Merredin 2026" (ESO accepted invitation)

## 6.2 Outgoing Correspondence

Nil

## 7.0 Standing Items (Submitted at each Meeting)

### 7.1 Update of Contacts and Resources Register

- **Andrina Prnich** has been added as Co-ordinator for **Merredin Community Resource Centre**.
- **Scott Rastall** has been removed as Community Paramedic for **St John Ambulance** and **Alan Matthew** has been added as Station Officer.

### 7.2 Change of Positions/Leave and Acting Arrangements Notification

- **Andrina Prnich** has been appointed as Co-ordinator for **Merredin Community Resource Centre**.

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

*Disability Inclusive Emergency Planning (DIEP) Forum Report*

The Disability Inclusive Emergency Planning (DIEP) forum facilitators have sent through a summary document of the discussion at the forum held in Merredin on 25<sup>th</sup> August.

DFES have prepared a “plain English” summary of common themes emerging, which will be circulated with the minutes.

## 8.0 General Business

### 8.1 Agency briefings (precirculated)

Michael Phillips, Department of Communities – Emergency Relief and Support, 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2025-26

### 8.2 Around the table – agency briefings

#### **Merredin VFRS**

Has been quiet lately, only really seen each other for meetings and social events.

#### **Shire of Merredin**

Took delivery of two new 4000 litre trucks for Burracoppin and South Burracoppin Bush Fire Brigades to replace the two small 500 litre Landcruisers. Over winter brigade volunteers will be learning how to drive and operate them properly.

*Chair:* What preparations did the Shire undertake ahead of TC Narelle?

Put socials out pushing people to the Emergency WA website, worked internally trying to prepare for whatever wind gusts and rain might come. Given the equipment and staff we had available it was difficult, but fortunately was a non-event in the end.

Merredin Show was scheduled for that weekend. The Shire did not put pressure on the committee to cancel the Show, that decision was made purely by the committee for safety reasons. However, even though the cyclone fizzled out, it was still windy and wet enough that the Show would not have been enjoyable, and would have caused considerable damage to the sports oval.

### **Merredin Police**

Blair has gone, so currently operating without a substantive Sergeant. Waiting on a new sergeant arriving, when she arrives Greg will bring her to the next meeting and update ESO with her contact details.

Was involved in OASG meeting hosted by DFES ahead of TC Narelle. DFES did a fantastic job putting out plenty of information and providing solid context. It was great to be included. What was possible on the Thursday had changed remarkably by the Friday.

### **Department of Fire & Emergency Services**

Ash was the identified IC for TC Narelle. Luckily got off lightly in the end and spent five days in Geraldton assisting with response and recovery.

In consultation with the Shire, Merredin SES made available empty sandbags to members of the community.

### **Department of Communities**

A written briefing from Michael was precirculated. Trying to organise evacuation centre training / desktop discussion, just trying to work out clusters; for example, if a session isn't held in Merredin, the Shire of Merredin may be able to send two people at a time to three different locations. Jo's been on leave, but once she's had a chance to speak to Michael they'll be in touch with Shires to arrange.

### **Merredin SES**

Now have twelve registered volunteers. Still looking for more, encourage anyone interested to get in touch. Three members did Roof Safety training course on the weekend. Got some new kit, some new harnesses and can launch ropes over a roof.

### **Merredin Hospital**

Managed to secure a nurse practitioner, working week on - week off at the moment, hoping for another to fill the off week to cover doctor gaps. Staffing-wise, looking really good. Put in a lot of preparedness for TC Narelle – for example, prepared for evacuation, had go bags packed for residents, made sure generators were filled, etc – which was really good practice.

Moving into a new district model. By the next meeting will have a better idea of how that restructure will look. New district director is awesome.

### **Western Power**

Prepared for utter devastation for TC Narelle, in the end had nothing. Don't often have a lot of lead time to prepare for emergencies, so it was good to do some preparedness.

Have three internationals coming over if WP can secure some housing for them.

Fault levels are business as usual. This is the quiet time of the year, so focusing on planned work and faults and going well.

## 9.0 Presentations or Proposed Exercises

### 9.1 Emergency management discussion exercise

Shelby Robinson, Department of Fire & Emergency Services: Digital literacy and emergency planning

Shelby was a late apology and this presentation will be revisited at a future meeting.

## 10.0 Next Meeting

*Motion: That the next LEMC Meetings be held on the following dates:*

Date and Time	Venue
Thursday, 6 August 2026 at 3pm	Shire of Merredin Council Chambers
Thursday, 1 October 2026 at 3pm	Shire of Merredin Council Chambers
Thursday, 4 February 2027 at 3pm	Shire of Merredin Council Chambers
Thursday, 6 May 2027 at 3pm	Shire of Merredin Council Chambers

**Moved: T King**

**Seconded: C Watts**

## 11.0 Close

The Chair thanked everyone in attendance and closed the meeting at 4.16pm.