

Shire of Merredin
Local Emergency Management Committee Minutes



Local Emergency Management Committee Minutes
3 September 2020 at 3.00 pm
Function Room
Merredin Regional Community and Leisure Centre

1.0 Attendance

Cr Romolo Patroni	Shire of Merredin – Chairperson
Cr Julie Flockart	Shire of Merredin – President
Andrina Prnich	Shire of Merredin – Deputy CEO
Calvin Shotter	Shire of Merredin - EMES
Stacey Jaskiewicz	Shire of Merredin - Ranger
Gabriella Rechichi	Shire of Merredin – ASO
Ross Billing	Collgar Windfarms
Chris Thompson	WAPOL
Andrew Galbraith	WAPOL
John Flockart	Merredin Bush Fire Services
Stephen Crook	Merredin Bush Fire Services
Matthew Reimer	DFES
Sally Trunfio	Department of Communities
Philippa Davey	Department of Communities
Simon Menz	St John Ambulance
Yvette Grigg	Office of Emergency Management
Chris Cox	Merredin Hospital

2.0 Apologies

Cr Mal Willis	Shire of Merredin
Cr Phill Van Der Merwe	Shire of Merredin
Shaun Whisson	Merredin IGA
Gareth Davies	Merredin Energy
Donna Crook	Department of Finance
Gerry Duke	CBH
Joanne Spadaccini	Department of Communities
Gren Putland	Main Roads WA
Cr Roy Butler	Shire of Merredin
Caitlin Gregson	Force Real Estate
Jo Trachy	CEACA
Adriana Coniglio	St Mary's School
Graeme Keals	Department of Parks and Wildlife
Debbie Morris	CRC Manager
Mark Tobiassen	WAPOL
Elizabeth Moody	Merredin Residential College
Renee Manning	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
Sheree Lowe	Merredin VFRS
Ron King	Merredin Farms
Lyndon Clark	Water Corporation

3.0 Welcome

3.1 Chairperson - Cr Romolo Patroni – Opening of Meeting

The Chair opened the Meeting at 3.03 pm noting that a quorum was present and welcomed all in attendance. The Chair acknowledged the presence of the Shire President, Julie Flockart and thanked Yvette Grigg from the Office of Emergency Management for providing an Emergency Training Session to the LEMC Committee prior to the meeting. The Chair also welcomed Calvin Shotter (the Shire's new EMES) and Andrew Galbraith (WAPOL) to their first LEMC Meeting.

4.0 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Motion: That the minutes of the previous Meeting of the Local Emergency Management Committee held on 25 June 2020 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Moved: Cr Julie Flockart

Seconded: Sally Trunfio

Carried

5.0 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

5.1 Emergency Control Centre (Generator) –

Andrina Prnich, Deputy Chief Executive Officer at the Shire of Merredin informed the meeting that at the Special Council Meeting held on 28 July 2020, Council approved in its 2020/21 budget which includes allowance for the purchase of a generator and associated works which will enable the MRCLC to be used as the Shire's Emergency Evacuation Centre in the instance of an emergency. Quotes will be sought in the near future.

5.2 Risk Profile Change - Solar Farm –

This item has been on the LEMC agenda for discussion for some time as a Risk Management issue due to their being singular access to the now operating solar farm. The Shire of Merredin will add the solar farm to its Risk Registry. Currently there is only one access point and there is a need for the farm to install a major vehicle access gate. It was noted that the solar farm operator needs to maintain a fire break and manage fuel loads on-site (eg. Maintenance under the solar panelling). The Shire's Ranger noted that fire break inspections will be conducted in November 2020 and the CBFCO advised that he would be in touch with the operators regarding management of fuel loads inside the operational areas.

6.0 Correspondence

6.1 Incoming Correspondence

- a. WALGA BOC Communique July 2020

6.2 Outgoing Correspondence

Nil

Motion: That correspondence in / out be received as presented.

Moved: Matthew Reimer

Seconded: Stephen Crook

Carried

7.0 HMA and other Agency Updates

7.1 Agency Briefings pre-circulated (attached)

- a. Shire of Merredin Report
- b. St John Report
- c. Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Report
- d. SES DFES Report
- e. WAPOL Report
- f. Department of Communities Report
- g. Wheatbelt District Emergency Management Committee Report
- h. Collgar Wind Farm

7.2 Other Agency Briefings

The meeting received a verbal update from Merredin Bush Fire Services Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, Stephen Crook on the next pre-season fire meeting on 18 September and the first internal exercise to be held in October, as well as the two upcoming training dates for the Merredin Bush Fire Brigades on 19-20 September and 8-9 October. Stephen also advised the meeting of the potential Fire Control Officer training for the current Fire Control Officers and brigade members wanting to step up to the Fire Control Officer position in the future.

8.0 Standing Items (Submitted at each Meeting)

8.1 Update of Contacts and Resources Register

- Replace details for Troy Scaddan with Vanita Patal A/Team Leader from the Department of Communities
- Add Andrew Galbraith from WAPOL to the Contact register
- Add Arc Infrastructure control room Resources register

8.2 Change of Positions/Leave and Acting Arrangements Notification

As above

8.3 Incident Support Group Activations

Nil

8.4 Risk Profile Change

Not started until the beginning of 2021

8.5 Local Emergency Management Arrangements

Updates to the LEMA are now due to commence. This will be worked on by the LEMC over the coming meetings, commencing November 2020.

8.6 Local Recovery Plan

Will be workshopped with the Local Emergency Managements Arrangements review.

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

Nil

9.0 Documentation

Nil

10.0 Presentations or Proposed Exercises

A St John volunteer information session was scheduled for the evening of 3 September

11.0 General Business

Nil

12.0 Next Meeting

Motion: That the next LEMC Meeting be held on the following date:

Date and Time	Venue
Thursday, 26 November at 4.00 pm	Merredin SES Unit (with a tour of the new SES Shed prior to the meeting)

Moved: Matt Reimer

Seconded: Andrina Prnich

Carried

13.0 Close

There was no further business and the Chair closed the meeting at 3.48 pm and thanked all in attendance.

Shire of Merredin Report to LEMC September 2020

COVID-19 prevention for staff and visitors continues to be a high priority for the Shire of Merredin. The Shire continues to maintain social distancing awareness, hand sanitiser stations and regular wiping down of surfaces in all Shire operated facilities. The Shire is also maintaining its sanitiser spray program in public areas and senior management discuss and monitor necessary actions on a weekly basis.

On Monday, 10 August, Calvin Shotter commenced work at the Shire as the new Executive Manager of Engineering Services. Calvin comes to the Shire with a strong background in local government and its involvement with emergency management.

In July, DFES issued nine defibrillators to be circulated to seven Bush Fire Brigade and two SES vehicles.

Three of the seven Bush Fire Brigades have now received their new defibrillators and fuel cards (as requested at the Bush Fire Advisory Committee AGM). The Ranger will be attending the Bush Fire Brigade AGMs which is a good opportunity to meet with the volunteers and allow for a smoother distribution of remaining uniforms from the 19/20 ESL, fuel cards and defibrillators for vehicles.

The restricted burning period begins on Wednesday, 16 September through to Saturday, 31 October, after which the prohibited burning times (NO burning) will start on Sunday, 1 November until Wednesday, 17 February 2021. The fire break order was sent out with the rates notices and regular reminders will be advertised on the Shires social media platforms.

At its August OCM, Council resolved to appoint Ms Stacey Jaskiewicz as a Fire Control Officer for the purpose of issuing burning permits. A notice to this effect was circulated in the Phoenix on Friday, 28 August.

The two SES vehicle defibrillators have now been distributed. The Shire was pleased to approve a round 1 community funding grant to SES of \$4,000 for a GPS upgrade.

The Emergency Services Levy (ESL) acquittal for the 2019/20 was submitted on Friday, 28 August.

The ESL operating grants for 20/21 are as follows:

BFB's - \$52,992

SES - \$14, 998

The ESL capital grants for 20/21 are as follows:

SES - \$21,815

Met with DCBFCO (given the CBFCO was on leave) regarding additional water tank funding from DFES who are rolling out \$2 million funding for 100 new water tanks

(replacement tanks not applicable). Given the short turn round time, the Shire was only able to lodge for one tank. As there are currently no tanks within the Korbalka Brigade area, this was given priority.

The Shire's Annual budget has been adopted by Council and includes \$65,000 funding towards works at the MRCLC which will allow for the purchase of a generator and any necessary work required to ensure building is compatible.

Work is being undertaken on the Merredin LEMA review with first modules to be worked on from the next LEMC meeting in November.

Report for Merredin LEMC

St John Ambulance - Merredin

Merredin LEMC Members,

Since the last LEMC meeting, we at St John have reviewed and updated our internal emergency management plan. This includes investigating what resources we have available to us in the event of a major incident as well as creating a list of trained personal and their contact details. This plan is stored internally within St John and is available for other Sub centres to access if they are called into the region to assist.

We have also now introduced 'Ambulance Commander Vests' into every ambulance. Previously these have been carried by the Community Paramedic and feedback from other regions in the Wheatbelt is that the initial crews on scene were finding it difficult to identify a 'Person in Charge' from St John. By having these vests available on every ambulance in the Wheatbelt, we are now able to clearly identify who is liaising with other agencies which will lead to improved communication across agencies.

The Volunteers at Merredin have been getting involved with some interagency training and we recently participated in a joint training session with Merredin VFRS, Merredin Police and Merredin SES at the Merredin Western Power sub-station. Hopefully these interagency training sessions can continue in the future.

Many thanks,

Simon Menz

Community Paramedic – Eastern Wheatbelt

St John Ambulance

Ph: 0418 378 948

Email: simon.menz@stjohnambulance.com.au



Department of
**Primary Industries and
 Regional Development**

DISTRICT & LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORTING

Agency: **Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development**

Date: **(03 Apr 2020 – August 2020)**

DPIRD - Plant and Animal Pest & Disease Activations:

Date	Type of Incident	Location of Incident	Resources & Agencies Involved	Comments/Outcomes
Mar 20 – Ongoing	Qfly	Dalkeith & Surrounds	DPIRD/LG	Insect Pest – Eradication Program
Feb 19 – Ongoing	Browsing Ant	State wide	DPIRD/DAWR	Insect Pest – Surveillance activities
Mar 19 - Ongoing	European Wasp	Perth Metropolitan	DPIRD/LG	Insect Pest – Eradication Program
Nov 19 – Ongoing	Red Imported Fire Ant	Perth / Fremantle focused on transport distribution points.	DPIRD/DAWR	Insect Pest – Surveillance activities
Jun 20 – Ongoing	Ehrlichia canis	Kimberly Region	DPIRD	Animal Disease (Dogs) – Surveillance activities

DPIRD Reporting

DPIRD COVID19 Update

DPIRD continues to support wider State Emergency Management Arrangements across the State.

Biosecurity Incidents and Responses – Update

Queensland Fruit Fly (Qfly) - DPIRD continues to respond to Qfly operations within Dalkeith and surrounding suburbs since Mar 2020. Eradication and surveillance activities will be managed in accordance with the National Fruit Fly Management Protocol.

Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) continues to focus on surveillance under National arrangements. Ongoing surveillance activities are focussed on transportation hubs within the wider Perth Metropolitan area eg. Kewdale, Welshpool, Fremantle etc.

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.

National Biosecurity Responses of Interest

DPIRD is currently monitoring Avian Influenza responses in Victoria due to potential market access impacts for WA produces. Refer <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/animal-diseases/poultry-diseases/avian-influenza-bird-flu> for further information.

Preparedness Activities

DPIRD has commenced reviewing Departmental preparedness policy, procedures and training, to include confirmation of DPIRD DEMC/LEMC representatives for the 2020 / 2021 Natural Hazard season.

Exercise or Event Schedule until end of financial year.			
Agency	Dates	Exercise/Event	Learning Outcomes

N/A			
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Andrina Prnich

From: REIMER Matthew <Matthew.Reimer@dfes.wa.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 31 August 2020 1:19 PM
To: Gabriella Rechichi
Cc: GRIGG Yvette
Subject: RE: Call for LEMC Agenda Items

Hi Gabriella,

I will be at the LEMC Meeting on Thursday. I've included an Agency Report for information.

LEMC Agency Report – DFES

- Membership and administrative assistance to Wheatbelt Operational Area Support Group (OASG) re: COVID-19 Pandemic (fortnightly meetings run by HMA – Health Department)
- Currently busy with volunteer training in the lead-up to the fire season
- Merredin SES has just received handover of their newly constructed shed. Currently compiling plans and a funding request through DFES to upgrade their facility to be able to operate as a Level 2 Incident Control Centre
- Holding a Volunteer Leaders Forum in Northam on Saturday 5th September which will include a bushfire season outlook from the Bureau of Meteorology and confirming our pre-seasonal deployment arrangements

Thanks.

Matt Reimer

District Officer – Natural Hazards Midlands
Goldfields / Midlands Region | Country Operations
Northam Regional Office – 79 Newcastle Road Northam WA 6401
Department of Fire & Emergency Services
T : 9690 2304 | M : 0428 100 457 | E : matthew.reimer@dfes.wa.gov.au
www.dfes.wa.gov.au



Government of Western Australia
Department of Fire & Emergency Services



From: Gabriella Rechichi <aso@merredin.wa.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 21 August 2020 8:20 AM
To: crflockart <crflockart@merredin.wa.gov.au>; Councillor Willis <crwillis@merredin.wa.gov.au>; Councillor Billing <crbilling@merredin.wa.gov.au>; Councillor Boehme <crboehme@merredin.wa.gov.au>; Councillor Butler <crbutler@merredin.wa.gov.au>; Councillor Manning <crmanning@merredin.wa.gov.au>; Councillor McKenzie <crmckenzie@merredin.wa.gov.au>; Councillor Patroni <crpatroni@merredin.wa.gov.au>; Councillor Van Der Merwe <crvandermerwe@merredin.wa.gov.au>; GRIGG Yvette <Yvette.Grigg@dfes.wa.gov.au>; Renee Manning <renee.manning@dpird.wa.gov.au>; Ron.King@merredinfarms.com.au; Karen.Horsley@health.wa.gov.au; debbie@merredincrc.com; Melissa Ivanetz <ea@merredin.wa.gov.au>; CEO <ceo@merredin.wa.gov.au>; Peter Zenni <emds@merredin.wa.gov.au>; Troy Davey <cs@merredin.wa.gov.au>; mark.tobiassen@police.wa.gov.au; Chris.Thompson@police.wa.gov.au; Christopher.Cox2@health.wa.gov.au; Leigh.j.nelson@education.wa.edu.au; adriana.coniglio@cewa.edu.au; andrewchandler@rameliusresources.com.au; joanne.spadaccini@communities.wa.gov.au; Troy.Scaddan@communities.wa.gov.au; sally.trunfio@communities.wa.gov.au; jaaas@wn.com.au; Flockdrill@bigpond.com; philvan@wn.com.au; merredinvfrs@bigpond.com.au; Sheree.lowe@gmail.com; Graeme Keals <graeme.keals@dbca.wa.gov.au>; merredinses@westnet.com.au; REIMER Matthew <Matthew.Reimer@dfes.wa.gov.au>; WILLIS Jeremy

<Jeremy.Willis@dfes.wa.gov.au>; Lyndon.Clark@watercorporation.com.au; kim.cooper@westernpower.com.au; Gren.putland <Gren.putland@mainroads.wa.gov.au>; elizabeth.davies@mainroads.wa.gov.au; simon.menz@stjohnwa.com.au; Gerry.Duke@cbh.com.au; Caine.Denyer@education.wa.edu.au; Elizabeth.moody@education.wa.edu.au; coordinator@merredincrc.com; dprnich@belgravialeisure.com.au; Shaun.whisson@iram.com.au; Donna.Crook@finance.wa.gov.au; Ross.billing@collgar.com.au; jo.trachy@ceaca.org.au; caitlin@forcerealestate.com.au; Gareth.davies@twps.com.au; RANGER <ranger@merredin.wa.gov.au>; Andrina Prnich <dceo@merredin.wa.gov.au>; Philippa Davey <Philippa.Davey@communities.wa.gov.au>; Force Realestate - Wheatbelt <wheatbelt@forcerealestate.com.au>; Merredin CRC <MerredinCRC@outlook.com>; Calvin Shotter <emes@merredin.wa.gov.au>

Subject: Call for LEMC Agenda Items

Dear LEMC Committee

The next LEMC Meeting will be held after the LEMC Training Session on Thursday, 3 September starting at 3.00 pm. If you have any items you would like to be included on the Agenda, can you please email me by 2.00 pm on Wednesday, 26 August.

A gentle reminder that the Chair has requested each Agency provide an Agency report prior to the meeting to keep the meeting as streamlined as possible.

Kind regards
Gabriella

Gabriella Rechichi
ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT OFFICER



Shire of Merredin
PO Box 42 MERREDIN WA 6415

P: (08) 9041 1611 E: aso@merredin.wa.gov.au
W: www.merredin.wa.gov.au  [shireofmerredin](https://www.facebook.com/shireofmerredin)

Andrina Prnich

From: TOBIASSEN Mark [PD07956] <mark.tobiassen@police.wa.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 24 August 2020 11:12 AM
To: Gabriella Rechichi
Subject: RE: Call for LEMC Agenda Items

Hi Gabriella,

I will be in attendance at the exercise and LEMC and I'll be bringing at least one if not both of my sergeant's with me.

In terms of an agency report. I don't really have anything to report, we've assisted SJA and the Fire brigade with a few jobs in recent months, most notably the recent house fire in Duff Street.

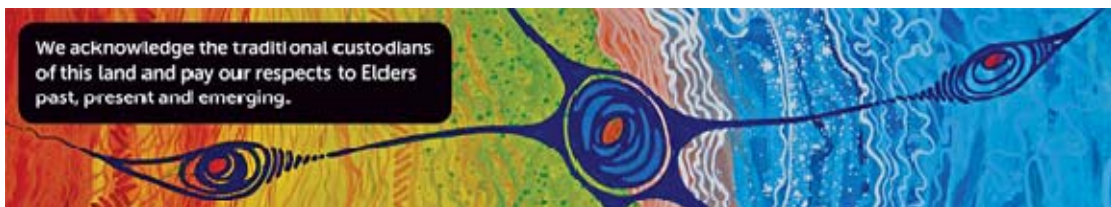
The only thing I think we need to be looking ahead to, is the coming fire season.

Regards

Mark



Mark Tobiassen | Acting Inspector
Wheatbelt District Office | Western Australia Police Force
22 Mitchell Street, Merredin WA 6415
T: (08) 9030 0175 | M: 0436 940 235 |
E: mark.tobiassen@police.wa.gov.au |



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To: Councillor Flockart <crflockart@merredin.wa.gov.au>; Councillor Willis <crwillis@merredin.wa.gov.au>; Councillor Billing <crbilling@merredin.wa.gov.au>; Councillor Boehme <crboehme@merredin.wa.gov.au>; Councillor Butler <crbutler@merredin.wa.gov.au>; Councillor Manning <crmanning@merredin.wa.gov.au>; Councillor McKenzie <crmckenzie@merredin.wa.gov.au>; Councillor Patroni <crpatroni@merredin.wa.gov.au>; Councillor Van Der Merwe <crvandermerwe@merredin.wa.gov.au>; Yvette.Grigg@dfes.wa.gov.au; renee.manning@dpird.wa.gov.au; Ron.King@merredinfarms.com.au; Karen.Horsley@health.wa.gov.au; debbie@merredincrc.com; Melissa Ivanetz <ea@merredin.wa.gov.au>; CEO <ceo@merredin.wa.gov.au>; Peter Zenni <emds@merredin.wa.gov.au>; Troy Davey <cs@merredin.wa.gov.au>; TOBIASSEN Mark [PD07956] <mark.tobiassen@police.wa.gov.au>; THOMPSON Chris [PD10520] <Chris.THOMPSON@police.wa.gov.au>; Christopher.Cox2@health.wa.gov.au; Leigh.j.nelson@education.wa.edu.au; adriana.coniglio@cewa.edu.au; andrewchandler@rameliusresources.com.au; joanne.spadaccini@communities.wa.gov.au; Troy.Scaddan@communities.wa.gov.au; sally.trunfio@communities.wa.gov.au; jaaas@wn.com.au; Flockdrill@bigpond.com; philvan@wn.com.au; merredinvfrs@bigpond.com.au; Sheree.lowe@gmail.com; graeme.keals@dbca.wa.gov.au; merredinses@westnet.com.au; Matthew.Reimer@dfes.wa.gov.au;

Jeremy.Willis@dfes.wa.gov.au; Lyndon.Clark@watercorporation.com.au; kim.cooper@westernpower.com.au; gren.putland@mainroads.wa.gov.au; elizabeth.davies@mainroads.wa.gov.au; simon.menz@stjohnwa.com.au; Gerry.Duke@cbh.com.au; Caine.Denyer@education.wa.edu.au; Elizabeth.moody@education.wa.edu.au; coordinator@merredincrc.com; dprnich@belgravialeisure.com.au; Shaun.whisson@iram.com.au; Donna.Crook@finance.wa.gov.au; Ross.billing@collgar.com.au; jo.trachy@ceaca.org.au; caitlin@forcerealestate.com.au; Gareth.davies@twps.com.au; RANGER <ranger@merredin.wa.gov.au>; Andrina Prnich <dceo@merredin.wa.gov.au>; Philippa Davey <Philippa.Davey@communities.wa.gov.au>; Force Realestate - Wheatbelt <wheatbelt@forcerealestate.com.au>; Merredin CRC <MerredinCRC@outlook.com>; Calvin Shotter <emes@merredin.wa.gov.au>

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District Emergency Services Officer – Wheatbelt Update: August 2020

The new COVID Normal

The last 6 months have seen me mainly working out of Perth as the Coordinator of the COVID Support Helpline, where DC have supported many people going through financial hardship due to isolation, either at home or in other accommodation around the state. This also includes people who have had to isolate due to being tested and waiting on results.

Support provided includes, doing food and essential item drops to people who have no other family or friendship networks, providing activity packs to children in isolation as well as assisting with the cost of the accommodation and food while in isolation outside of their home.

The support has not just been in the metro area, it has also been provided throughout the entire state as required.

Increase in the Department of Communities Wheatbelt Footprint

In the first quarter of the year, the Wheatbelt District was increase from 38 to 41 Local Government areas of responsibility, with the inclusion of Lake Grace, Dumbleyung (Great Southern District) and West Arthur (South West District). All three will be attached to our Narrogin Office and I will shortly be heading out to introduce myself and ensure that all contact details are up to date.

Local Emergency Welfare Plans

The process to update the Local Emergency Welfare Plans (LEWP) is underway and I hope to attend as many shires as I can when I am in the area. In the meantime I will be starting to contact the Shires to ensure that the details that are in the LEWPs are up to date and to make any changes to services available in the shire, if required.

If any there are any changes to contact details or suppliers within your Shire please send them through to joanne.spadaccini@communities.wa.gov.au and they will be updated in the new version.

Social Distancing (SD) in Evacuation Centres

In the event of an evacuation centre being required we will need to address the social distancing requirements in play at that time. This may involve looking at more than one facility to avoid over crowding or requesting people to stay with family or friends if available (that also adheres to SD rules). The estimated capacity for each centre listed in the LEWP will need to be revised and will be shown in two sections. Non COVID and COVID capacities. I will have discussions with the Shires around this and what other resources are available if required.

Department of Communities - Wheatbelt District - Contact arrangement for welfare support in emergencies.

In an emergency, if welfare support services are required during business hours, please contact the Department of Communities office listed in your LEWP or after hours contact Crisis Care on 1800 199 008 to activate Communities.

During business hours the District Emergency Services Officer is contactable for non-activation enquiries on 0429 102 614, but as I am often on the road and out of phone service range, please leave a message and I will return your call as soon as I can.

If you would like any further information please call my mobile 0429 102 614 or email me joanne.spadaccini@communities.wa.gov.au.

Kind regards

Jo Spadaccini
District Emergency Services Officer - Wheatbelt
Department of Communities - Emergency Services Unit
0429 102 614

Wheatbelt District EM Advisor LEMC Report

September 2020

Interim Observations – Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements

This first paper was released on the 31st August 2020. This is not the final report and doesn't contain recommendations. It sets out some preliminary views to guide those interested in the Commissions work. The final report will be presented by 28 October 2020.

<https://naturaldisaster.royalcommission.gov.au/publications/interim-observations-31-august-2020>

Joint EM Training and recovery days

A series of Emergency Management Days are being held across the Wheatbelt. They include a refresher of Emergency management with a focus on recovery and include a recovery-based exercise.

These EM days have already been held in Dowerin and Merredin with two others scheduled in Quairading and Northam, and one in NEWROC still to be decided.

If you have anyone interested, they are most welcome to join in any of the sessions. It is suitable for all LEMC members, local government staff members (particularly those involved in recovery) and interested elected members.

Local Recovery Guideline Review.

The Guideline is out for review with feedback due by COB 14 October 2020. Please see below.

Consultation Information

Consultation process for Local Recovery Guideline

The State Emergency Management Policy Branch is conducting consultation via Social Pinpoint

On the State Emergency Management Policy Branch [Consultation Homepage](#) you can view all current consultations, including the [Local Recovery Guideline consultation](#) (<https://dfes.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/local-recovery-guideline>).

On the Local Recovery Guideline Consultation Page you will be able to:

- View information about the consultation process.
- Download and view the proposed amendments to the Guideline and the new Aide Memoires.
- Submit your feedback.
- Post an idea or question.
- **Please submit your feedback by COB 14 October 2020.**

Operational Area Support Group (OASG) Meetings for COVID 19

The OASGS being chaired by the Dept of Health are continuing to be held fortnightly.

They provide updates of the work still occurring in the Wheatbelt which recently has consisted of a great deal of testing and exercising of outbreak plans. Also the work being undertaken to test truck drivers bringing freight from the eastern states including Melbourne and Sydney, to ensure the outbreak risk is kept to a minimum.

In addition to this is a very strong message warning against complacency. Please share with your LEMC agencies.

WA Country Health Service warns against COVID complacency

The WA Country Health Service's (WACHS) Principal Health Officer Dr Helen Van Gessel is warning country communities against COVID complacency.

Dr Van Gessel, an expert in infectious diseases, said country Western Australians only needed to look to Victoria and New Zealand to see just how easily a COVID wave can emerge and surge.

"We cannot underestimate the risk of COVID-19," Dr Van Gessel said.

"While we may have eliminated the virus from our community, we have not eliminated the threat.

"If the situation in New Zealand has taught us anything, it's that an outbreak can occur anywhere, at any time."

According to Dr Van Gessel, while the suppression of the virus in Western Australia has afforded authorities the opportunity to test and refine plans, it was important country communities continued to take personal responsibility to protect themselves from COVID-19.

"The health and safety of country communities remains our top priority," she said.

"But we need each individual to play their part too – you need to physically distance, you need to practice good personal hygiene, you need to stay at home if you're sick and you need to get tested if you have flu like symptoms."

Dr Van Gessel also reminded the public that WACHS continued to take precautions at all country hospitals and health services including placing limits on the number of people able to visit at any one time.

"We are asking visitors to our facilities to help us protect our patients and staff by doing some really simple things like signing a visitors log, answering some screening questions and ensuring physical distancing measures are adhered to at all times," she said.

"Phone ahead before you visit if you have any concerns – we know these rules won't work for everyone but it's important to remember they're in place to protect our patients and staff.

"The imperative is on all of us to work together to stay safe," she said.



2 September 2020

Our Ref: CWF-20200902LEMC

Dear Local Emergency Management Committee

Collgar Wind Farm have engaged Vestas to provide safety management for all activities on site. Vestas engage 14 staff on an 8/6 roster enabling site coverage for 10 hours a day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year. The most significant hazards on site relate to the exposure of electrical energy to workers from the electrical apparatus in the switchyard, smoke from bushfires, injuries from conducting maintenance on turbines, light vehicle accidents, external threats, natural events, and virus and disease spread. Mitigations exist to control these risks; however, there are expectations placed on local emergency services to be able to assist Collgar respond to these. Emergency services including Fire, Ambulance and Police would be required in some cases.

Collgar and Vestas have Emergency Management Plans to manage major incidents if they were to occur. These are reviewed annually and audited biannually.

Vestas conduct an emergency response activity yearly to test the resilience of their plan. In 2020, Vestas undertook a simulated emergency where a fire cut evacuation from the base of the turbine. This required the technicians to abseil from the turbine to ground. This event was chosen since three wind turbine fires occurred in 2019 at other windfarms across the world. The main issues with these fires related back to the inability to apply fire suppressant on the top of the turbine tower.

Collgar continue to maintain a fire response trailer containing 1500L of water. The purpose of this trailer is really as a preventative tool when conducting hot work in open paddocks along the powerline. Vestas nor Collgar have sufficient training to fight fires and rely on emergency services.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Collgar and Vestas have continued to receive deliveries from the Eastern States. As an essential service, the wind farm has engaged some specialist skills workers; however, since August, these workers have been reclassified as FIFO workers and require 2 week isolation.

Regards,

Ross Billing
Site Superintendent
Collgar Wind Farm