

Local Emergency Management Committee Agenda
3 August 2023 at 4.00 pm
Shire of Merredin Council Chambers
Cnr Barrack Street and King Street, Merredin

| 1.0 Attendance | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Cr Phil Van Der Merwe | Shire of Merredin – Chair / Merredin VFRS |
| Codi Brindley-Mullen | Shire of Merredin – Executive Manager Strategy and Community |
| Amer Tawfik | Shire of Merredin – Executive Manager Engineering Services |
| Sheree Lowe | Shire of Merredin – Emergency Services Officer |
| Laurie Barron | WAPOL |
| Ashley Smith | DFES – District Officer, Natural Hazards |
| Jeremy Willis | DFES – Area Officer, Central Wheatbelt (<i>Left meeting 5.02pm</i>) |
| Scott Campbell | Merredin SES |
| Joanne Spadaccini | Department of Communities |
| Greg Shea | Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development |
| Pauline Riethmuller | St Mary's School |
| 2.0 Apologies | |
| Cr Renee Manning | Shire of Merredin |
| Peter Zenni | Shire of Merredin – Executive Manager of Development Services |
| Yvette Grigg | DFES – District Emergency Management Adviser |
| Tracy Pickering | Merredin College |
| Andy Di Carlantino | St Mary's School |
| Caine Denyer | Merredin Residential College |
| Gren Putland | Main Roads WA |

3.0 Welcome

3.1 Opening of Meeting

The Chair opened the meeting at 4:06pm and welcomed all in attendance.

4.0 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

Motion: *That the Minutes of the previous Meeting of the Local Emergency Management Committee held on 4 May 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.*

Moved: P Van Der Merwe

Seconded: A Smith

5.0 Business Arising from Previous Minutes

5.1 Nil

Outcomes:

6.0 Correspondence

6.1 Incoming Correspondence

Yvette Grigg – 2023 AWARE funding round

Yvette Grigg – Call for LEMC Annual Report survey

Yvette Grigg – DEMA report for May/June 2023

Jo Spadaccini – Merredin Evacuation Centre annual review documents

Jo Spadaccini – DC Wheatbelt DEMC July report

6.2 Outgoing Correspondence

Sheree Lowe – Submission of LEMC Annual Report Survey

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

Moved: J Spadaccini

Seconded: J Willis

7.0 HMA and other Agency Updates

7.1 Agency Briefings pre-circulated

- Yvette Grigg – DEMA report for May/June 2023
- Jo Spadaccini – DC Wheatbelt report July 2023

7.2 Other Agency Briefings

This item was adjourned until Item 11 General Business.

8.0 Standing Items (Submitted at each Meeting)

8.1 Update of Contacts and Resources Register

Removed Shire of Merredin Deputy Chief Executive Officer.

Added Codi Brindley-Mullen as Executive Manager Strategy and Community.

Removed Lindon Mellor as Executive Manager Engineering Services and added Amer Tawfik.

Removed Melanie Irvine, Business Manager at Main Roads WA.

8.2 Change of Positions/Leave and Acting Arrangements Notification

Codi Brindley-Mullen has been appointed to the role of Executive Manager Strategy and Community (previously Deputy CEO) at the Shire of Merredin

Lindon Mellor has left the Shire of Merredin and Amer Tawfik has been appointed Executive Manager Engineering Services.

8.3 Incident Support Group Activations

Nil

8.4 Risk Profile Change

Nil

8.5 Local Emergency Management Arrangements

Nil

8.6 Local Recovery Plan

Nil

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

Kellerberrin Emergency Management Day.

The Emergency Management Day at Kellerberrin began with a presentation by Superintendent Damian Pumphrey on climate change. To summarise, Australia's climate and ocean temperature, and the frequency of extreme heat events and dangerous fire weather days has been increasing since records began. This trend will continue, and it will bring with it longer fire seasons and more cyclones coming further south and inland. We need to prepare for the unprecedented, and for more destructive events.

District Emergency Management Adviser Yvette Grigg then led group workshopping on ideas around community disaster resilience, before carrying out an exercise around a tropical cyclone hitting the region.

9.0 Documentation

Nil

10.0 Presentations or Proposed Exercises

10.1 Emergency management discussion exercise

The discussion exercise was centered around an evacuation of our vulnerable community members.

The discussion explored:

- who our vulnerable communities are (including those who may be temporarily incapacitated by drugs or alcohol)
- standard police procedures when evacuating a forecast hot zone (eg, a fire heading towards town)
- standard police procedures when evacuating a current hot zone (eg, a HAZMAT incident in town has already occurred)
- process WA Police have in place to draw in additional resources in an emergency
- what support SES could provide in the event of an evacuation
- road closure issues around emergency incidents in general (not limited to evacuations)

11.0 General Business

11.1 LEMC appointment of voting delegates and proxies

Letters have been distributed to all agencies requesting nomination of voting delegates and proxies. Most agencies have now provided delegates' and proxies' names.

11.2 Annual Review of Evacuation Centres – Jo Spadaccini

Department of Communities is conducting an audit of evacuation centres and updating their lists of contacts and facilities to gauge the suitability of each centre (for example, what facilities are available, how many showers, toilets, chairs and tables, crockery, cooking facilities, etc. Could the centre operate without power? Are the ovens/stoves electric or gas? Does it have capacity to plug a generator in?

Jo sent the forms through to the ESO, who has forwarded them onto the relevant personnel. Jo will go through the MRCLC evaluation form with the MRCLC Manager tomorrow. The other facility listed is Merredin College (but on discussion with the principal at the time). It's obviously not available during school term time but is a good resource outside of school term.

Also need to consider outlying and surrounding towns.

11.3 Around the table

Merredin Police

All is going fine at the moment. The wet and windy weather keeps the majority of the population (including the segment that keep police busy!) at home. The Wheatbelt is unfortunately leading the way in WA road fatalities, though luckily not around Merredin. Merredin Police are currently focusing on road management to help keep it that way. Merredin have recently had to send Merredin staff to Southern Cross, but Southern Cross are now fully staffed, so the requirement for that is currently not needed. There are 2 vacancies at the Merredin station that we are currently trying to fill.

Department of Communities

DoC still have staff up in the Kimberley assisting with recovery from recent floods, and could continue to be this way for a couple more years. Jo spent most of the first 3 months of the year there, then got sent up for TC Ilsa, then back to Broome. Main Roads are trying to get

the Fitzroy Crossing bridge back up, which will help ease the pressure on logistics. An unanticipated rain event a couple of weeks back set recovery back.

St Mary's School

CEWA are putting in place a new crisis management policy and St Mary's are revising their emergency policies and procedures.

DPIRD

Nothing to report.

Merredin SES

Currently have about 11 members, and will shortly be starting a recruitment drive, hoping to reach a target of 16 members. Callouts and deployments have been quiet, giving members the opportunity to focus on training (including Radio Communications, Basic General Rescue, Chainsaw Operators and Land Search). The Unit now have 2 teams for fire support or storm, 2 search teams (1 foot, 1 canine) and 3 chainsaw teams. They will shortly have a second dog to start training with Merredin, but it's currently in Perth undertaking inductions.

DFES

Predominantly preparing and planning ahead for next season.

Shire of Merredin

Amer commented on the point on fatalities on regional roads raised by the Police – there is an initiative from WALGA to upgrade regional back roads and widen shoulders. Codi is working with Sheree to help get DFES training for the Bush Fire Brigades.

Merredin VFRS

The brigade has been relatively quiet. The brigade attended a total of 45 emergency calls during the 2022-23 financial year. Attended a major truck fire recently. The current membership is strong, a really good team. They're trying to get training, but the industrial action at DFES is holding it up, which is frustrating.

12.0 Next Meeting

| Date and Time | Venue |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Thursday, 5 October 2023 at 4.00pm | Council Chambers |
| Thursday, 1 February 2024 at 4.00pm | TBC |
| Thursday, 2 May 2024 at 4.00pm | TBC |
| Thursday, 1 August 2024 at 4.00pm | TBC |

13.0 Close

The Chair closed the meeting at 1740 hours.