



Shire of Irwin Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) Meeting

held in the Council Chambers

Wednesday, 1 December 2021

at 10.00am

MINUTES

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

Mark Teale welcomed all in attendance and opened the meeting at 10.00am.

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

(please sign the attendance register on arrival)

Members

G Crabb
T Pavelka
J Henriques
C McCartney
B Clune
A Davies
R Clarke
A Kirkbright
Cr H Palmer (*via Teleconference*)
P Herbert
N Boozanier
S Prins

Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
DEMHS
Parks and Wildlife Service
Paramedic, St Johns Ambulance
DFES Area Officer Midlands
Department of Communities
DFES
DFES
Shire of Irwin Councillor
Main Roads WA
Officer in Charge Dongara Police
DBCA

Staff

Mr S Ivers
Mr M Teale
Mrs N A M'Leane

Chief Executive Officer
Community Emergency Services Manager
Development & Executive Officer

Guests

N Done

MEPAU Operations

Apologies

Mrs J Calver
Mr Mark Lange
Mr Brendan Selly

Dongara District High School
Clough Group
Clough Group

3 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

It was supported by the Committee that Mr Mark Teale, Community Emergency Services Manager be elected as Chairperson to the Shire of Irwin Local Emergency Management Committee.

It was supported by the Committee that Mr Shane Ivers be elected as Deputy Chairperson to the Shire of Irwin Local Emergency Management Committee.

4 BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 Confirmation of Minutes 22 July 2021

COMMITTEE DECISION:	
MOVED: S Ivers	SECONDED: C McCartney
That the Minutes of the 22 July 2021 LEMC Meeting, as previously circulated, be adopted as true and accurate recording of that meeting.	

4.2 Action Items from previous minutes

4.2.1 Local Recovery Coordinator

M Teale has recently completed WALGA recovery training and will be able to support the Shire appointed Local Recovery Coordinator during/post any event. The Shire will be looking at the AWARE grant in the future to train more staff in recovery functions.

4.2.2 PPE and Evacuation Centre Box

Investigating requirements and in discussions with Department of Communities.

4.2.3 DDHS Evacuation Centre

M Teale explained how the Dongara District High School may not be the most suitable location for a backup evacuation centre given it's frequent usage. A more appropriate secondary location to be investigated for consideration.

4.2.4 LEMC Exercise & Business Plan Development

It has been advised that the requirement for annual LEMC meetings may be reduced from four to two and one exercise. For the exercise M Teale suggested a support group meeting or emergency meeting set up online.

At this point in the meeting G Crabb raised his concerns regarding communications with himself post the impacts of cyclone Seroja, it was identified that the Shire of Irwin and surrounding areas were experiencing a complete communication black out. M Teale has been implementing new programs to ensure we are prepared as possible for this in the future, e.g., satellite infrastructure already installed at the Irwin Rec Centre.

5 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY CHAIR

Nil.

6 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Identify real, perceived or potential conflicts of interest experienced by any member in relation to the items on the agenda. These should be declared now and if possible raised with the chairperson prior to the meeting to determine the appropriate way to manage the conflict.

Nil.

7 CORRESPONDENCE IN

Nil.

8 CORRESPONDENCE OUT

Nil.

9 GENERAL BUSINESS

9.1 Review of Local Emergency Welfare Plan

Andrea Davies provided the Committee with an explanation of the Department of Communities Local Emergency Welfare Plan and requested members review the document and provide any updates to content.

9.2 Cyclone Seroja Recovery Update

Anita provided an update on the recovery from Cyclone Seroja. Recovery Hubs are permanently set up in Geraldton, Northampton, Kalbarri & Morawa as well as pop up hubs in various locations.

Challenges identified to date;

- Dealing with insurance claims, struggling with outcomes and timeframes.
- Asbestos cleanup continuing.
- Residents are still living under tarps, repair works delayed due to builder shortage.

Focusing on community recovery and grant support, communities are proving to be resilient.

There are various grants available for people impacted by cyclone Seroja with Western Power, DPIRD, Water Corporation, Small Business Development Commission, Primary Producers, DOC, DFES and DPLH.

If you receive any enquiries, please put them in touch with Anita.

9.3 Preparing Australia Grant Program

Federal Government Grant available.

Specific categories identified as planning, infrastructure, and community resilience. Please provide feedback to Mark on what is working well in other locations.

9.4 COVID Discussion

The following statistics were provided for the Shire of Irwin.

- 76% double dose
- 90%+ first dose

Members informally discussed how they anticipate the opening of borders to impact our community. It was noted that the availability of rapid testing kits is being investigated. St Johns Ambulance Association have achieved 100% compliance with volunteer vaccinations, other areas of the Midwest are focused on vaccinations in aboriginal

communities. Quarantine checks are continuing with WAPOL. Department of Communities are providing emergency accommodation for COVID related requirements.

9.5 Amendments to LEMA/Contact Details

Please ensure updates to contacts are emailed to M Teale.

The Local Emergency Management Arrangements are due for review in 2022, M Teale looking into a consultant to assist with this package of work.

9.6 Agency Updates

Representatives from each department provided updates on current projects and focuses for their respective organisations.

It was noted the current lack of volunteer numbers for St Johns Ambulance, it was proposed the Shire may be able to assist with recruitment by sharing advertising. WAPOL and DFES have been assisting but also have restricted resources. WACHS and SJA have been investigating options for paid positions to assist volunteers as well as a Geraldton transport service.

DFES reported the predictions for a La Nina climate pattern for the upcoming season, potentially an increased number of cyclones is predicted north of Geraldton noting the bushfire fuel is also increased this year. DFES requested confirmation of cyclone rating for Irwin Rec Centre.

DFES advised a total solar eclipse will happen on 20 April 2023 the best place to see it will be in Exmouth, Tourism WA have estimated approximately 50,000 people to be travelling there to see it, a large majority of these people are expected to travel through the Midwest, a heads up to the emergency services to prepare for high travel volumes noting it will also be school holidays.

Resource: Travel Map on Main Roads Website

Shire of Irwin CEO S Ivers and CESM M Teale are looking into the best mechanism to rollout new WHS training to local fire brigade volunteers.

Keep close eye on high temperature days to enforce Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans.

C McCartney reported that Wafermine is now carried by ambulances and that she will be on annual leave until 5 February 2022 as relief community paramedic will be in place.

Approximately 250k in grants for bushfire risk mitigation works has been approved for the Shire of Irwin and a program identifying priority areas is being prepared.

There will be a review of the fire danger rating system in 2022 more information to come in the future.

The Irwin Recreation Centre has had satellite internet infrastructure installed as part of the Commonwealth Government's \$37.1 million Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters (STAND) Program.

9.7 Upcoming Community Events

Magic on Moreton – Moreton Terrace Revitalisation Project 3 December 2021

(St Johns Ambulance unable to provide a post).

Australia Day – Wednesday 26 January 2022

10 SETTING OF FUTURE MEETING DATES

10.1 The below dates have been accepted by the Committee at the meeting held 24 March 2021.

- Wednesday 2 March, 2022
- Wednesday 1 June, 2022

10.2 The below dates are proposed for 2022.

- Wednesday 31 August, 2022
- Wednesday 30 November, 2022

11 CLOSURE

The chairperson thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 11.49am.