



**WYALKATCHEM
LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE
15 February 2017
MEETING
MINUTES**



Date: Wednesday, 15 February 2017

Time: 5:00pm

Venue: Council Chambers, Shire of Wyalkatchem, Honour Avenue

Attendance: Craig Harris, Trent Tyler, Gary Stenhouse, Emma Holdsworth, Lee Burges, Jay Hammond, Peter Wood, Cliff Simpson, Owen Garner, Ian McCabe, Quentin Davies, Glen Stoddart, Rachel Nightingale

Apologies: Justin Corrigan – DFES, Jo Spadaccini - CPFS, Marcus Reilly - DCBFCO, Duncan Jones - SJA

Purpose of Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) Meetings

The purpose of the LEMC is to:

- 1.0 Foster effective communication between stakeholders to ensure that emergency management for Wyalkatchem is in place;
- 2.0 Assist the Shire of Wyalkatchem comply with the requirements of the Emergency Management Act.

1.0 Opening of Meeting: 5pm

2.0 Apologies

Chair announces apologies & requests any further apologies

3.0 Confirmation of Previous Meeting Minutes (12 October 2016) Moved –

Peter Wood **Seconded** – Ian McCabe All in favour

That the Minutes of the LEMC meeting of 12 October 2016 be confirmed.

4.0 Business arising from previous Minutes- None

5.0 Stakeholder Reports to report on relevant activities

5.1 Bush Fire Brigades – A few header fires occurred this harvest. Great turn out from volunteers for two lightning strike fires that occurred towards end January. The

SMS text system worked well. Trent advised that there had only been three harvest bans for the whole season

- 5.2 Volunteer Fire and Rescue – They have 13 active members with another currently going through the process. They have attended two Motor Vehicle Accidents on the Trayning road and two scrub fires (Swan/Piesse street and Korrelocking). The VFRS are also to start their training for the year, this includes BA refreshers and general training.
- 5.3 St John Ambulance – Jay explained that they have received a grant for their new building in Koorda. SJA may do some information nights. They are hoping that the new building will attract some attention and encourage more volunteers to sign up.
Quentin asked about the timeline on the building being completed. Jay advised hopefully by the end of 2017.
Jay advised that they have 14 volunteers in Wyalkatchem and 4 in Koorda. Ian suggested that Koorda SJA approach the Koorda shire for help with recruiting volunteers. One suggestion was that perhaps payment could be made to a sporting club should one or more of their members sign up as a volunteer. The SJA in Wyalkatchem and Koorda are doing approximately 180 jobs per year. The continuation Education Program (CEP) training starts this week for the volunteers.
Peter Wood advised that he went to Wongan Hills with Duncan Jones to train seven officers in Level 1. Peter Wood suggested a letter was sent to Anthony Ryan congratulating him on his appointment as a St John Volunteer.
- 5.4 Police – Glen advised that new OIC (Tracey Print) would be starting in Wyalkatchem 15/3/17. This will be Tracey's first posting as sergeant. Glen explained that they have been putting regular police updates on the Twitter page. Glen explained that between the various towns the police will be patrolling five days a week. Glen explained that boredom amongst some of the kids is causing them to exhibit bad behaviours. Glen is hoping that some holiday activities may help to reduce this.
Glen advised that he is making regular visits to the school and has become a liaison between the school kids and the police. Glen explained that some cyber bullying is occurring between families. Some cyber bullying packages are being sent to Wyalkatchem. Glen will present these to the 12-15 year olds at the school. Owen Garner asked whether there was a number that the public could call to report poor driving. Glen said yes 131444.
- 5.5 District High School – Gary advised that they have 84 kids at the school and 5 new staff. New staff have been busy completing their inductions and going through the Emergency Management plans.
- 5.6 Wyalkatchem Koorda District Hospital – no report
- 5.7 Shire of Wyalkatchem – Floods January/February 2017. Extensive road damage to the South East of town. Significant damage to fencing, drains and internal roads on farmer's properties in the Yorkrakine area.
Craig explained that WANDRRA funding has been sought for the damage to the Shire roads which at this stage equates to over \$500,000. Ian advised that the Shire have to contribute 25% to the damage before WANDRRA funding can be accessed. Ian advised that the shire have re-visited the 2016/2017 budget and have cut projects to pay for the damage.
Ian mentioned that Rachel was finishing up with the Shire and Ella McDonald would be taking on the role.
Cr Davies that WANDRRA for primary producers was disappointing in that you

could get a reduced interest rate loan, \$1,000 for counselling and a rebate on stock feed.

Stage 3 (clear up portion) of WANDRRA has not yet been declared.

5.8 Water Corp – No report

5.9 Main Roads – No report

5.10 Roadwise – Cliff Simpson spoke about the dangerous roads within the Wheatbelt and explained that most of the money is getting put into the Great Eastern Highway and the Chidlow road. Cliff advised that there is a formula used by Main Roads as to where money gets spent. This includes the number of kilometres travelled, the population of the area and the number of crashes. The Wyalkatchem/Merredin Road does not fall in to the funding category. Cliff suggested that the Shire spoke to other Shires along the same stretch of road to put a case together for an upgrade to the road and then present it to Main Roads.

5.11 DFES – No report

6.0 General Business

6.1 Trent outlined the process of putting on harvest bans. Trent explained that prior to every harvest ban being put on, conversations are had with DFES, FCO's, the DBFCO and the shire as well as regular monitoring of weather sites including the Cunderdin weather station. These conversations and this monitoring takes place regularly throughout the day. Trent advised that DFES's weather charting is phenomenal. Trent advised that the CBFCO, DCBFCO and FCO's are all volunteers in their roles and on days or in weeks where a large proportion of people are away on holidays (ie January), bans will be put in place due to a lack of resources available. Trent advised that during fires, he touches base with DFES every 30 minutes. DFES are then on standby to help when needed. After a fire DFES will call the next day to check that re-ignition has not occurred. Ian asked about the Fire Danger Ratings (FDR's) and the lowering of them for weekends. Trent advised that this was brought in to play after Nalkain moved at their annual bush fire meeting to lower FDR's at weekends due to lack of people around. Quentin added that Trent had done a great job this fire season and added that the Harvest ban he put in place the day prior was fantastic and allowed people to plan their shift workers well. Quentin advised that Trent would get full support from the shire in his role.

6.2 LEMA document – seeking endorsement from the LEMC

Trent moved that the Local Emergency Management Arrangements be endorsed.
Seconded: Owen Garner

6.3 Support for watering WA grant in putting tanks in North Korrelocking

Trent advised that he would be happy to provide a letter of support on behalf of the bush fire brigades for the grant application should it be proceed.
Owen Garner advised that VFRS would be happy to do the same

- 6.4** Mobile Phone tower battery back-up – Discussions were had re – poor mobile coverage, and poor landline services. Power outages have highlighted that the mobile phone battery back up service is poor. Glen Stoddart advised that there was no power to their base station which meant they had no radio or phone to operate out of the hospital during the recent power outage. We have contacted Telstra who advised that the batteries are operating at 95%. They explained that the batteries should power the site for between 0.5 hours and 3 hours or until a Telstra technician arrives to turn on the generator. Rachel advised that this has been raised at DEMC and will be escalated to a State Level.
- 6.5** Rachel mentioned that the Automatic Transfer Switch was being fitted at the Medical Centre. This will mean that when there is a power outage the generator should automatically kick in.

7.1 Meeting Schedule 2017

- Wednesday, 12 April 2017
- Wednesday, 16 August 2017
- Wednesday, 11 October 2017

Meeting Closed: 18.20pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Glen Stoddart', written in a cursive style.

8.0 Status Report

Task No.	Task	Responsible Person	Comment	% Comple	Last update
1.	Training requirements for FCO's and Volunteers	AO CFCO	Bushfire policy is being updated. "Recommended that all those attending a fire have at a minimum completed the 'introduction to bush firefighting'. DFES offer training for FCO's and BFB volunteers	100%	8/10/14
2.	Assessment of Shire Weather Station to ensure continuity	AO SFO	Weather station is not on the server	80%	Fixed, needs putting on admin roof
3	Develop an unallocated crown land and unmanaged reserves program in relation to fire and risk protection	MOW GEO	Identification of reserves has commenced	80%	
4.	Speak with other Shires along Nungarin-Merredin Road	MOW GEO CEO	Put a case together to present to Main roads for upgrades to the road		
5.	Harvest and Total Fire Bans		Pre-season awareness (September/October)		
6.	Battery back-up mobile phone tower	GEO MOW CEO	Letter to be sent to Telstra re mobile phone battery back up.		Rachel and Ella attended DEMC. This matter was discussed and will be raised to a state level. Letter of support to be received from GECZ. Mia will be copied in on correspondence.