

Shire of Lake Grace

Local Emergency Management
Committee

Minutes

14 March 2024

Meeting Commencing at 1:00 pm



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Acknowledgement of Country

I begin today by acknowledging the Ballardong people, Traditional Custodians of the land of which we meet today, and pay my respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today.

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SHIRE OF LAKE GRACE

Minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) meeting held at Council Chambers, 1 Bishop Street, Lake Grace on Thursday 14 March 2024.

Emergency Management Act 2005

39. *Functions of local emergency management committees*

(a) *to advise and assist the local government in ensuring that local emergency management arrangements are established for its district.*

(b) *to liaise with public authorities and persons in the development, review and testing of local emergency management arrangements; and*

(c) *to carry out other emergency management activities as directed by the SEMC or prescribed by the regulations.*

1.0 OPENING AND WELCOME

Shire President Len Armstrong declared the meeting open at 1.00pm and read the Acknowledgement of Country;

“I would like to begin by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, and pay my respect to their Elders past, present and emerging. I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people here today.”

2.0 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attendees:

Name	Role	Agency
Matt Castaldini	CESM	Shire of Lake Grace
Alan George	CEO	Shire of Lake Grace
Aimee Turnbull	Community Economic Development Officer	Shire of Lake Grace
Michael Phillips		Department of Communities
David Fyfe	Community Member	Fyfe Transport
Peter Stoffberg	Community Member	Roadhouse
Cr Len Armstrong	Chair – Shire President	Shire of Lake Grace
Keith Higgs		St John WA Lake Grace
Craig Elefsen	Manager Infrastructure Services	Shire of Lake Grace
Corey Alexander		CBH Group
Kylie Sugg Via TEAMS (from 1.09pm)		St John WA Lake King
Anna Erickson Via TEAMS (from 1.00pm)		DPIRD
Mitchell Davies Via TEAMS		DFES
Gavin Stevens Via TEAMS		DFES

Apologies:

Name	Role	Agency
Brett Dew		Western Power
Jo Spadaccini	DESO	Department of Communities
Charlotte Powis		DEMA
Barry Grady	Community Paramedic	St John WA

Fred Steer		Main Roads
Wade Bambling		WA Police Lake Grace
Chris Poot		CBH
Lisa Pearce	HSM	WACHS – Lake Grace
Ross Dunkeld		Nutrien Ag
Chris Paget	DCEO/ Local Recovery Coordinator	Shire of Lake Grace
Kerianne Mills	Principal	Lake Grace DHS
Mark Schorer		Department of Communities
Cr Steve Hunt	Councilor	Shire of Lake Grace

Minute Taker: Kylie Armanasco, Alex Adams

3.0 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Nil

4.0 GUEST PRESENTATIONS

Nil

5.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION / RESOLUTION

Moved: Alan George
Seconded: Aimee Turnbull

That the Minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held on 2 November 2023 be confirmed as a true record of proceedings

CARRIED

6.0 REVIEW OF ACTION LIST AND BUSINESS ARISING

Item	Owner	Status
Nil		
Nil		

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence In:
 Nil

Correspondence Out:
 LEMC Agenda

Information tabled:
 Nil

8.0 REVIEW OF LEMC MEMBERSHIP AND CONTACT LIST UPDATES

A contact list was circulated to include any updates for recording.

9.0 LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (STANDING ITEMS)

9.1. POST INCIDENT REPORTS

Discussion and note any outcomes to be actioned

9.1.1. Lake Grace North Stock Truck Rollover

The Shire was not contacted or asked to assist at the time of the incident. CEO Alan George and councilors met with two Main Roads representatives at the location to discuss what could be done to help reduce the likelihood of this kind of incident happening again. Main Roads have since put up two new road signs advising drivers of the road ahead and widening of the shoulders will be actioned.

David Fyfe stated that from having over 35 years of truck driving experience he felt that there is not enough room for road trains at that stretch of road. He believes that the lack of proper maintenance of the road is resulting in a dangerous road and driving conditions.

9.1.2. Wheatbelt Adverse Weather Event

There was discussion in relation to the power and communication outages following the destructive weather event on 19th January 2024. The loss of power, at which time it was estimated to be down for 10 days, and a potential heatwave put many elderly community members at risk medically. The Shire confirmed that vulnerable persons had been prioritised and with use of borrowed generators they were able to establish an evacuation centre at the Lakes Village Hall which was set up with seating, tables, fridges and fans to help keep the elderly comfortable and out of the heat.

The IGA and Roadhouse were able to provide community members with the ability to charge their phones and hearing aids and were commended for giving access to power to those in need.

CEO reported that without power the sewerage ponds were impacted and credited CBH for providing a generator and R Stubberfield installing it to maintain the town sewerage facility.

The outage of Telstra lines resulted in no communications within the whole Shire, impacting community members and Emergency Services. It was discussed that the Shire should have access to the generator located at the Telstra tower, allowing the generator to be refueled which in turn would keep communication lines available. However Telstra are averse to allowing anyone else to access their sites. CEO advised that Central Country Zone and WALGA are lobbying Telstra to allow Local Governments to have access to the towers.

Lake Grace Hospital reported that their satellite phones were only able to be used outside which impacted their use of the Emergency Telehealth Service. The security of the hospital was also reduced due to being unable to use the intercom system to open the front doors so they had to remain open. Staff within the hospital and Shire were using foot messengers out within the

community and relevant businesses and local St John Ambulance and Police were unable to be contacted for emergencies.

Actions:

	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY
GENERATORS	Source four generators for the following locations: Shire Office Lake Grace Town Hall Lake Grace Pavilion Doctor's Surgery	Shire administration
EVACUATION CENTRES	Lake Grace Pavilion & Newdegate Pavilion have been assessed by Department of Communities for suitability Add the Newdegate Pavilion and Lake Grace Pavilion to Evacuation Centre mapping system.	Department of Communities
	Source grant funding to enable evacuation centres to be properly equipped.	Shire administration
COMMUNICATIONS	Shire wi-fi network has been updated and linked with the Visitors Centre. There is now improved free community wi-fi.	Shire administration
	Investigate purchase of extra 2-way radios	Shire administration
	Investigate purchase of Starlink to enable communications when Telstra network fails.	Shire administration

9.1.3. Dragon Rocks Nature Reserve Bushfire

The Dragon Rocks Nature Reserve fire burnt through 4400 hectares. With the Telstra tower down, there were issues reporting the fire through 000 and communications within the volunteer fire fighters were difficult and/or unavailable. With assistance from DBCA, water bombers, community members and machinery, the fire was put out with no loss of life and minimal damage to surrounding properties.

It was later discussed what improvements can be made or procedures put in place to be better equipped and prepared. CESM advised the radio channel used was 45km from the location of the fire, when there was another tower closer at just 23km away that would have provided a better signal. The refueling process of the water bombers could be improved and access to machinery will be of great benefit. CESM also stated that there needs to be communication and awareness that the fire appliances should be either a 2 or 3 inch cam lock, otherwise an adapter is required.

Due to the number of personnel required for the incident a support trailer and gazebos could have been considered to provide a place of rest and shade to crews. More awareness that food and refreshments provided and/or eaten during incidents are to be from a registered business to prevent any risk of illness resulting from possible food poisoning. Providing medical support with the option of an Ambulance on standby would allow immediate care in the instance of an injury

of a responder. Many of the members of the brigades felt that more training would be of significant benefit to them, as well as better utilisation of PPE.

Actions:

	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY
CAM-LOCKS ON APPLIANCES	Ensure all fire trucks have appropriate adaptors to be able to draw water and be filled from camlock fittings	CESM
LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS	Update LEMA and educate on best practice for large incidents	SHIRE ADMINISTRATION CESM
PPE & TRAINING	Shire to issue PPC/E to active members and complete appropriate training based on hazards.	CESM
INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TRAINING	FCO training on incident management	CESM

9.1.4. Near-miss – Heatwave, LG Town Water Supply

On 20 February 2024 the Water Corporation advised water level was low in the Standpipe, however CEO Alan George stated he didn't receive any communication from the Water Corporation about the issue.

David Fyfe commented that all pumping stations require water supply restrictors and they should be checked, as the amount of water used should not have been as much as it was. CESM stated that there needs to be better communication from the Water Corporation in future.

9.2. Post Exercise Reports

Discussion and note any outcomes to be actioned.

9.2.1. Recovery Exercise

CESM: At the November LEMC we held a discussion exercise about Recovery. Attendees were guided through a desktop scenario encouraging input and raising awareness of the roles and responsibilities of the Local Government and supporting agencies in recovery. The second objective was to identify improvements to the LEMA (Local Emergency Management Arrangements) or LRP (Local Recovery Plan) which highlighted that we needed to include more community representation in the LEMC and as key contacts to effectively support the Shire community in a recovery situation.

Another aspect of the discussion was the diversity of recovery and that it is broader than the typical fire, flood or storm. Local Government Recovery covers impacts on the following four 'environments'; Social/Community, Built, Economic and Natural.

Actions:

	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY
LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS	Update Local Emergency Management Arrangements	SHIRE ADMINISTRATION CESM
LOCAL RECOVERY PLAN	Review and update Local Recovery Plan	SHIRE ADMINISTRATION LOCAL RECOVERY COORDINATOR CESM

9.3. Exercise

discuss objectives (what needs to be achieved) and dates.

9.3.1. No practical exercises planned.

9.3.2. Focus Hazards or LEMA areas to aid planning future exercises (standing item)

- Hazardous material (Spill / Truck with fire)
- Bushfire
- Electric Vehicle / Charging Stations and Lithium Battery Fire

9.4. Review Local Emergency Management Arrangements

updates as required.

The recent events have identified that our LEMA and LRP are not fit for purpose and we need to invest more time into these arrangements and plan to facilitate consistent support and results for our Shire community. Shire President Len Armstrong suggested that the council members discuss areas that the Lake Grace Shire staff could work on, allowing a broader community view.

The Shire intends to seek funding through an upcoming AWARE grant to engage a consultant to review and renew key Emergency Management documents. Feedback is welcome from committee members for inclusion before the above-proposed review.

9.5. Risk Management

CESM: The most recent risk register we have on file was reviewed in 2020. The risk register should be considered a live document and as such it will need to be reviewed and updated to reflect revised hazard occurrences.

Another point to note is that several items have been flagged to be treated, however, we have not located a treatment plan to be able to monitor and review progress. Aimee Turnbull from the Shire of Lake Grace advised that a grants application is being made to action the Treatment Plan.

Once the risk register is updated, it will be circulated for comment by LEMC members.

Actions:

	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY
RISK REGISTER	Update Risk Register	SHIRE ADMINISTRATION CESM

9.6. Review LEMC business plan

CESM: We are required to develop a business plan for our LEMC as detailed in the LEMC handbook produced by SEMC. This is in progress and will be tabled when completed.

9.7. Review Funding Opportunities

potential projects for Funding Applications (AWARE Grant and Natural Disaster Resilience Program)

9.7.1. Aimee Turnbull advised that the Shire will be applying for the Disaster Relief Fund to allow the Shire to be better prepared for future community emergencies. Peter Stoffberg from the Lake Grace Roadhouse commented that the grant process takes too long, that the community should be able to be self-reliant and the Shire should look at its budgets to be able to make improvements now. CEO Alan George informed Peter Stoffberg that the Shire has done a budget review and found savings available that will be used to purchase generators and 2-way radios.

9.7.2. Suggestions for Future Grant Applications - Nil

9.8. Agenda Items

9.8.1. Endorsement of the Updated Members list

The current membership list in the terms of reference does not match the actual membership of the committee and has been identified to be non-representative of the Shire community.

RECOMMENDATION / RESOLUTION

Moved: Matt Castaldini
Seconded: Alan George

That the Committee endorse the tabled membership list as a true and accurate record, welcoming participation from key community stakeholders for the provision of community-centric emergency management.

CARRIED

9.9. Review of LEMC Terms of Reference

Attachment is a draft Terms of Reference for the LEMC. Members are asked to review the document and recommend any additions or alterations.

RECOMMENDATION / RESOLUTION

Moved: Matt Castaldini

Seconded: David Fyfe

That the Committee endorse the reviewed and updated Terms of Reference as tabled.

CARRIED

10.0 AGENCY/MEMBER REPORTS

10.1. DFES – Department of Fire and Emergency Services

See attachment

10.2. DBCA – Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

See attachment

10.3. Department of Communities

See attachment

10.4. WACHS Lake Grace Hospital

Lake Grace Hospital Report – Lisa Pearce

No changes, continued tight staffing.

Challenges faced with January storms

- Hospital had power due to generator which allowed for provision of care to our residents
- Nil or minimal ICT
 - Unable to communicate with Emergency Telehealth (ETS)
 - Sat phones only worked outside which greatly limited their effectiveness, also 1800 emergency numbers cannot be dialled with sat phones
 - Increased staff required to send as messengers to GP, SJGA when required.
 - Minimal communication with WACHS command centre to escalate needs
 - GP agreed to stay in town on call with nil access to ETS
 - Great Southern Fuels unable to provide fuel for generator. Pete Stoffberg offered to monitor and fill tanks
 - Reduced security as front doors required to be open during the night as intercom did not work without phones

Looking forward

- WACHS looking to place aerials on the roof so sat phones can work indoors
- Installation of starlink
- Full review of our BCP

10.5. St John Ambulance

Lake King Sub Centre

Kylie Sugg joined via TEAMS and advised that the Lake King Sub Centre has been busy, with three accidents at the intersection of Collie-Lake King Road and Brookton Highway in Lake King. The first accident resulted in a truck taking out some road signs creating confusion for motorists and increasing the likelihood of more accidents.

MIS Craig Elefsen contacted Main Roads with pictures of the location showing the issue of the road signs and is awaiting their response.

Kylie Sugg mentioned that they would be seeking to have a landing pad constructed for the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Lake Grace Sub Centre

Keith Higgs on behalf of Ross Chappell made comment that the Lake Grace Sub Centre is doing well however still not enough drivers available.

11.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

CESM: Request for an Agency to do a brief presentation at the next meeting. Topics could include an explanation of day-to-day agency activities, specific capabilities, agency emergency management.

Department of Communities: Evacuation Centre training for the Shire of Lake Grace Staff.

CEO advised Department of Communities of the lack of housing available within the Lake Grace Shire. WACHS need more properties to house more nurses; there are currently eight empty properties within Lake Grace. People need housing and the Shire has offered to maintain the properties in question to help get the houses filled, however nothing has come of previous discussion or offers. CEO also advised that there is land and housing plans waiting to be approved to be able to create more housing within the Shire of Lake Grace. Michael Phillips stated that this is an issue he has heard at many meetings in regional areas and is prepared to discuss further.

12.0 NEXT MEETING

LEMC calendar

Date	Activity	Venue
Thursday 9 May 2024	LEMC Meeting	1 Bishop Street, Lake Grace
Thursday 8 August 2024	LEMC Meeting	1 Bishop Street, Lake Grace
Thursday 31 October 2024	LEMC Meeting	1 Bishop Street, Lake Grace

13.0 MEETING CLOSURE

Shire President Len Armstrong declared the meeting closed at 2:24pm.

14.0 CERTIFICATION

I, _____, certify that the minutes of the LEMC meeting held on 14 March 2024 as shown were confirmed as a true record of that meeting.

Signature

Date

LEMC Terms of Reference

Adopted:**Last Reviewed:****Review Date:** Every 5 years or as required**Associated Legislation:** Emergency Management Act 2005**Associated Documents:** State Emergency Management Policy and Procedure

1. Name

Shire of Lake Grace Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC).

2. Aim

The Local Emergency Management Committee aims to collaborate with local support organisations, hazard management agencies and community and industry representatives, to collectively build a resilient community that is prepared to respond and recover from an emergency or disaster.

3. Objectives

- Develop local emergency management arrangements that are practical to all stakeholders and service agencies
- Ensure that arrangements are contemporary and relevant to the community and addresses all possible risks and scenarios.
- Participate in inter-local government relations to further emergency management cooperation within the Emergency Management District.
- Engage the community through safety and awareness campaigns, and by disseminating information through social media, media outlets, and public events.
- Participate in interagency training exercises that improve the capabilities and knowledge of the committee, local stakeholders, and hazard management agencies.
- Exercise the emergency management arrangements to test their effectiveness in practical applications, and actively strive for continuous improvement.
- Share meeting minutes, committee member experiences and proposed actions with local government elected members, State agencies and the local community.
- Recommend strategies on ways to mitigate potential emergencies and to improve recovery arrangements.
- Secure grant funding to improve disaster resilience within the Shire.

4. Duties and Responsibilities

- Advise and assist the Shire of Lake Grace in ensuring that local emergency management arrangements are established for its district.
- Liaise with public authorities and other persons in the development, review and testing of local emergency management arrangements.
- Carry out other emergency management activities as directed by the State Emergency Management Committee or prescribed by the regulations.
- Perform at least one emergency training exercise a year to assist improve the capabilities of their community to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies.
- After the end of each financial year, each local emergency management committee is to prepare and submit to the district emergency management committee for the district an annual report on activities undertaken by it during the financial year.

5. Membership

The LEMC membership consists of local support organisations, hazard management agencies, community and industry representatives. The committee membership is tabled in Schedule 01.

Membership notes: -

- Special guests may be invited to attend committee meetings as determined by the LEMC;
- New members may join the LEMC via resolution of the committee.
- Each voting member must nominate a proxy within their agency or organisation to attend if the appointed member is absent.
- Members representing agencies and organisations that can no longer participate in the committee shall advise the Executive Officer of their resignation and nominate an alternative representative for membership.
- Committee membership will be reviewed quarterly to ensure that it is representative of the community and the potential risks and scenarios.
- Non-attendance at meetings of voting members without a justifiable apology, or that have not been represented by their proxy will be asked to provide an explanation to the Chairperson. Repeated non-attendance may result in the Chairperson notifying the District Emergency Management Committee.
- Key local stakeholders also form part of the Committee as non-voting members. These members are welcome to participate in discussions during meetings.

6. Meeting Management

6.1. Chairperson

The Chairperson shall be an elected member of Council. Council is to appoint the Chairperson and an elected member as the Chairperson's proxy. In the absence of the Chair, the appointed proxy will act as the Deputy Chairperson.

6.2. Deputy Chair

The Local Emergency Coordinator shall be appointed as Deputy Chair.

6.3. Executive Officer

The LEMC Executive Officer shall be the Community Emergency Services Manager.

6.4. Quorum

A quorum for the committee will be at least 50% of its voting membership.

6.5. Minutes / Agendas

- The Executive Officer shall be responsible for preparing agendas and minutes of all business transacted at each meeting.
- An administration assistant may be appointed to assist as required to prepare all meeting documentation.
- A draft agenda will be emailed to members three (3) weeks prior to the meeting. Members have two weeks to include agenda items and/or comments. The final agenda will be issued to members one week prior to the scheduled meeting.
- Copies of the meeting minutes will be made available to Council by way of information at least one month after the committee meeting. Meeting minutes will be forwarded to Committee members two (2) weeks post the meeting.

6.6. Schedule

- Meetings will be held quarterly throughout the financial year and scheduled by the Chairperson. (Meetings are typically the 2nd Thursday of each quarter March, May, August, October/November*)
- Additional meetings will be convened if and as required at the discretion of the Chairperson.

6.7. Authority

- The LEMC shall not have the authority or power to commit the Council or the Shire of Lake Grace or any association, organisation, group or individual to expenditure without the Shire's endorsement.
- The LEMC shall be required to gain Council approval if the Committee wishes to alter these Terms of Reference.

7. Schedule 01- Membership

Community/Agency LEMC Members (Voting)	
Bush Fire Service – CBFCO / DCBFCO	David Roberts / Brad Watson
Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions	Mitchell Davies
Department of Communities - DESO	Joanne Spadaccini
Department of Education – Lake Grace DHS	Kerianne Mills
Department of Education – Newdegate PS	Judy Garlick
Department of Education – Lake King PS	Dominic Daly / Kaye Brownley
Department of Fire and Emergency Services – Area Officer Narrogin East	Gavin Stevens
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development	Dr Anna Erickson
Main Roads WA	Fred Steer / Cathy Morey
St John WA – Community Paramedic	Barry Grady
St John WA – Lake Grace Subcentre	Lois Dickens
St John WA – Newdegate Subcentre	Gary Guelfi
St John WA – Lake King Subcentre	Kylie Sugg
St John WA – Varley Subcentre	Nikki Slabbert
Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service – Captain	Chad Stanton
WA Country Health Service – Lake Grace	Lisa Anne Pearce
WA Police – Lake Grace	Wade Bambling
Water Corporation	Tony Peplow / Gareth Evans
Western Power	Brett Dew

Local Government LEMC Members (Voting)	
Chief Executive Officer	Alan George
Shire President	Len Armstrong
Community Emergency Services Manager	Matt Castaldini
Deputy CEO / Local Recovery Coordinator	Chris Paget
Manager Infrastructure Services	Craig Elefsen
Community Economic Development Officer	Aimee Turnbull

Key Stakeholders (Non-Voting)	
Department of Fire and Emergency Services - District Emergency Management Advisor	Charlotte Powis
Lake Grace Plaza / IGA	Murray Stanton / Chad Stanton
CBH Group – Lake Grace	Chris Poot / Harold Main
CBH Group - Esperance	Corey Alexander
Lake Grace & Districts Seniors Group	Rosemary Bywaters
Great Southern Fuels – Lake Grace	John O'Neill
Lake Grace Roadhouse / Motel	Peter Stoffberg
Lake Grace CRC	Suzanne Reeves
Lake Grace CWA	Suzanne Reeves
Newdegate CRC	Lucy King
Newdegate Field Days	Hope Newman
Newdegate IGA / General Store	
Newdegate Stock and Trading	
Lake King Agencies	
Lake King Progress Association	Lousie Teale
Varley Progress Association	
Pingaring Progress Association	Lina Varone / Dean Wyatt



Lake Grace LEMC Report

14 March 2024

BUSHFIRE SEASON SUMMARY – to date

- The WA Large Air Tanker was scheduled to begin operations on 1 December but was brought forward to 4 November.
- The two Black Hawk helicopters based in Serpentine and two Helitaks based in Gingin were activated almost three weeks ahead of schedule while Helitaks in Busselton were activated a month early. The State Government funded aerial fleet consists of more than 30 rotary and fixed-wing suppression and aerial intelligence aircraft and is jointly managed by DFES and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.
- There have been 3757 bushfires across the State since October, an increase of 33 per cent for the same period last season (2816 bushfires between 1 October 2022 – 24 Feb 2023).
- In Our Region we had some early significant fires at Corrigin, Shire of Pingelly and Cuballing including a run of deliberately lit fires commencing early in October 2023.
- Grain Harvest Strategy with forward basing of fixed wing bombers into Narrogin was once again successful – DBCA will discuss the results.
- Header Fires record through Incident Reporting System this season in Upper great Southern stand at 15 with a further 11 from other machinery. A correlation to a brand or cause is not evident in our data
- The regional staff and volunteers supported many deployments during this season. These were for fire, cyclone and flood events. Especially towards the Metropolitan area, Great Southern, Kimberly's and Midlands/ Goldfields.
- Closer to Lake Grace was the Dragon Rocks Fire, Grillis Rd Fire, Esperance fires and Green Range fires in Albany. Local crews, those many who support including the CESM Matt are to be congratulated on for their comprehensive work and partnership with agencies to keep the community safe.

Key Learnings/ Considerations

Three areas of learning for us as an LEMC to consider post this season

- **Safety** – There was a tragic incident resulting in loss of life in Esperance and in our own region several injuries. The importance of good training, PPE and safe practise to keep all responders safe is continued to be significant.



Lake Grace LEMC Report

14 March 2024

- **Weather Event – Power disruption** – there was a significant event earlier this year that caused us to consider emergency communications and their importance when power and comms are lost for long period of time and how that plays on service delivery.
- **Fire Risk season continues:** It is probable that April 2024 is hotter than normal, and likely that it is drier than normal based on seasonal outlook even though we have had some patches of rainfall in the UGSR.

Other Bushfire Statistics of interest

- DFES' aerial fleet has flown more than 1640 hours across 152 incidents, dropping 12,262,946 litres of water and retardant on firegrounds.
- Large Air Tankers have flown 74 hours and dropped 856,372 litres of water and retardant on firegrounds this season

Upcoming Events

Storm Season: Storms can happen anywhere, any time. Make sure you know the risks and understand the importance of preparing for storms. <https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/hazard-information/storm>

Newdegate Field Day Sept 2024: Partnering with the Shire of Lake Grace Display from a community preparedness perspective but aware of the influx of roadway movements.

Many thanks,

Gavin Stevens

Area Officer Narrogin East

0475 224 640

AOEastUpperGreatSouthern@dfes.wa.gov.au



Report for Lake Grace Shire LEMC March 2024

Bushfire Season Preparedness

Bushfires

We have had 52 bushfire incidents in the DBCA Wheatbelt Region this season to date that have required DBCA reporting. Highest number of fires in recent years and number has increased again due to the presence of water bombers in the region during harvest.

26 of the 52 bushfires were caused by lightning, 17 associated with harvest, 2 vehicle accidents, 1 deliberate, 4 unknown and 2 false alarms. 19 fires commenced on PP, 17 on DBCA managed land, 9 on other crown land, 5 UCL. There was 29 water bombers deployments across the Region.

Total area burnt is 18,249 hectares which includes all tenure.

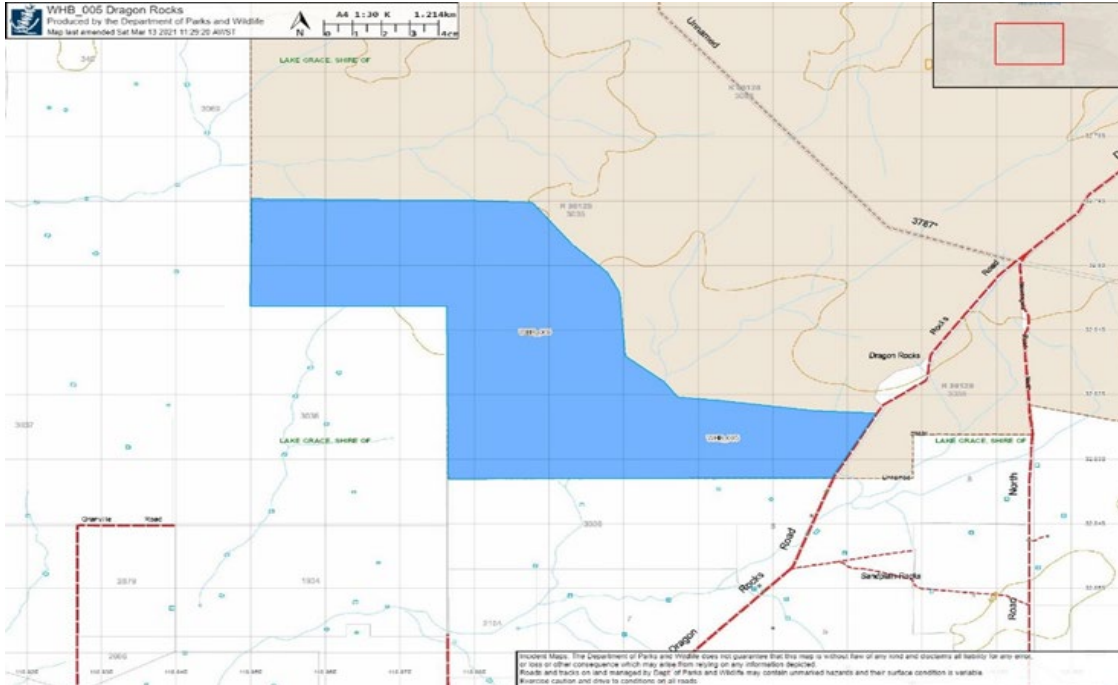
The only incident in the Lake Grace Shire was the Dragon Rocks fire. Started from lightning in the Kulin Shire before spreading into the Lake Grace Shire. Thanks for everyone's efforts in managing the bushfire particularly Matt who provided great planning and support to the IC.

Bushfire Mitigation - Prescribed Fire

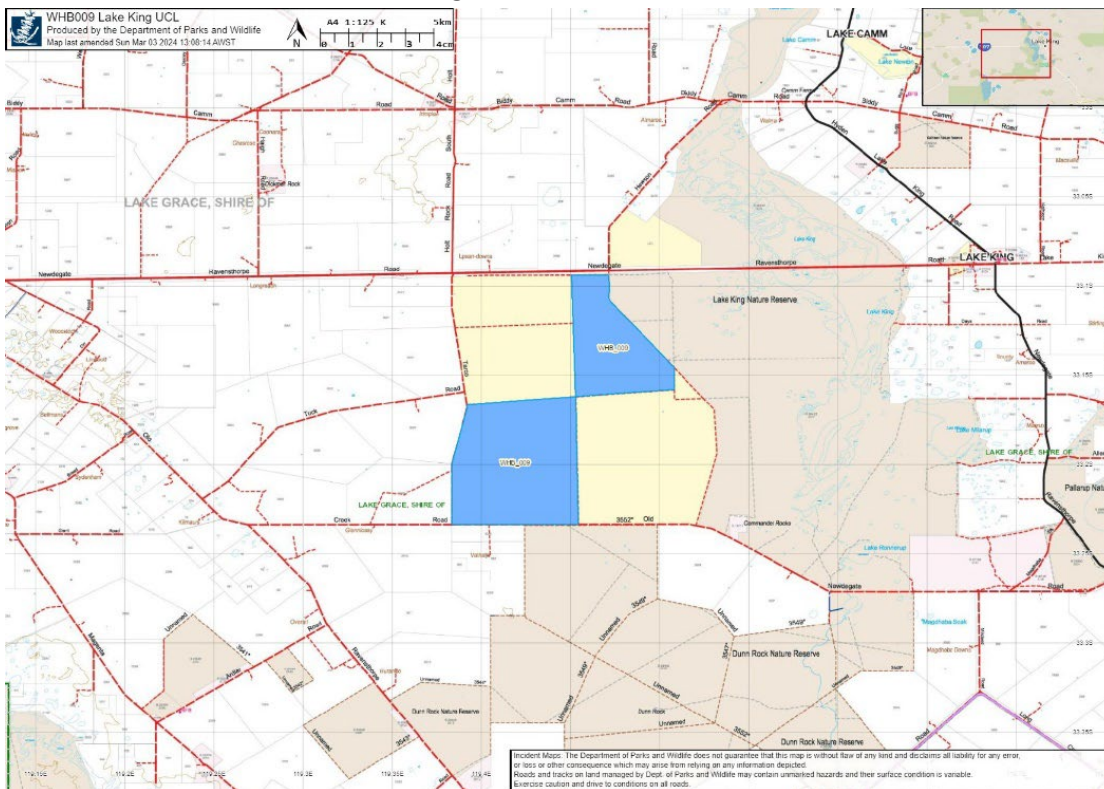
The Autumn burn program for the southern Half of the Wheatbelt consists of 13 burns. Burning is likely to commence mid April depending on weather.

Three prescribed burns within the Lake Grace Shire as per maps below.

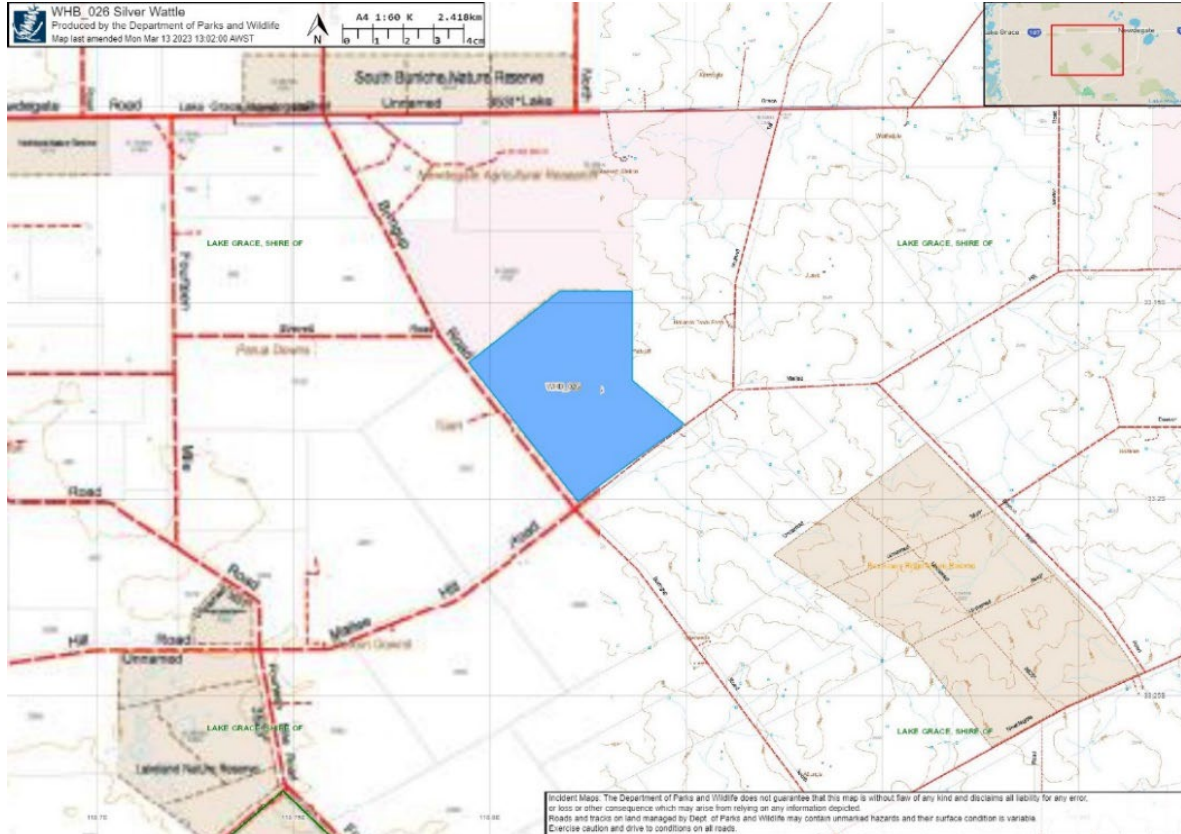
Shire of Lake Grace WHB_005 Dragon Rocks



Shire of Lake Grace WHB009 Lake King UCL



Shire of Lake Grace WHB026 Silver Wattle NR





Emergency Relief and Support

LEMC Background Information – 3rd quarter 2023-2024

ERS Capability Audit

- Department of Communities (Communities) recently engaged Nous Group to audit the capability and capacity of the Emergency Relief and Support (ERS) sector across Western Australia (WA) to ensure that it can meet the relief and recovery needs of WA people now and in the future.
- The project focused on establishing a baseline of how well equipped the State is to prepare for, respond to, and recovery from emergencies and critical events in the six functional areas of ERS that Communities is responsible for.
- The findings have presented valuable insights and opportunities to increase the current emergency relief and support services to respond during an emergency event more effectively.
- A new internal capability framework is being developed to assist with bridging some of the gaps identified from the audit.

Kimberley Floods

Overarching

- Following Ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie in January 2023, the Fitzroy Valley experienced a 1-in-100-year flood event.
- Department of Communities continues to support Fitzroy Valley residents impacted by the January 2023 floods under the State Emergency Management arrangements, across Social and Built Recovery Domains.

Social Domain

- Department of Communities, Emergency Relief and Support Team leads the people component of Recovery, classified in the State Recovery Structure under the Social Domain.
- Department of Communities has undertaken preparedness activities to increase resilience of temporary accommodation infrastructure including:
 - Ensuring that all Humanihut accommodation in Bungardi and Tarunda are at the one-in-50-year flood level.

Kimberley Floods

- Working with Humanihut in the preparedness phase to strengthen evacuation procedures in Bungardi and Tarunda, and
- Supporting the transition of individuals in Phase 1 temporary accommodation into Phase 2 temporary accommodation or to return to their home

Built Domain

- Department of Communities supports Government agency partners Main Roads WA and Department of Finance under the Built Domain.
- Department of Communities has established a housing works program to repair and rebuild flood damaged dwellings that are government-owned or managed or on Crown reserves managed by the Aboriginal Lands Trust or other management bodies.
- Department of Communities is supporting families whose homes require either major refurbishment or rebuild with transitional accommodation ahead of the wet season.
- Transitional accommodation includes more family friendly demountable accommodation that allows more space between families and is built to the 1-in-50-year flood level.
- Each transitional accommodation unit comprises a custom-built amenity module, a bathroom/bedroom module and a deck/veranda module. As of 30 August 2023, based on community consultation the Department of Communities is providing 44 transitional accommodation units across Bungardi, DarIngunaya, Loanbun, Burawa, Galeru Gorge, Karnparmi and Yurabi Road.

ERS new permanent structure

- Communities received sustained funding to enhance Emergency Relief and Support capacity across WA. The funding was critical to enable Communities to meet its legislated responsibilities under the State Emergency Management Arrangements.
- The changes will help improve service delivery, with a focus on additional resourcing to regions within WA.
- The ERS Directorate structure is comprised of three functional streams and ERS Executive Services:
- ERS Executive Services
- Stream 1 is responsible for Regional Response and Coordination
 - Immediate Response
 - Metropolitan and Regional Preparedness
 - Stakeholder engagement

ERS new permanent structure

- Regional Training
- Locally led Recovery
- Special Projects

- Stream 2 is responsible for Strategy and Capability
 - Capability Mapping, Intelligence and Reporting
 - Monitoring and Evaluation
 - Stakeholder Engagement and Specialist Practice
 - Training and Development
 - Recovery
 - National and State Level Committees
 - DRFA and Special Projects

- Stream 3 is responsible for Business Services
 - Human Resources including the coordination of Emergency Response Teams and Surge Workforce personnel
 - Finance
 - Business Support and Administration
 - ERS Systems
 - Procurements, Grants, and Contracting
 - Logistics
 - Disaster Response Hotline
 - DRFA Acquittals

Local EM Information

In the event of an emergency please call the ERS State On-Call Coordinator on 0418 943 853, this number is manned 24/7.

- The new permanent structure is being established in the Wheatbelt. Amended contact details are:
 - Regional Manager ERS – Mark Schorer
mark.schorer@communities.wa.gov.au 0429 108 226
 - Regional Coordinator ERS – Michael Phillips
michael.phillips@communities.wa.gov.au 0477 763 077
 - Regional Officer ERS – Jo Spadaccini
joanne.spadaccini@communities.wa.gov.au 0429 102 614

- Please amend your contact registers and email distribution list to include all of us for meetings, exercises or information requests, so we can ensure Communities attendance at LEMCs and exercises, and timely replies to other emails.

Local EM Information

- Evacuation Centre Audits – Please contact us if you are having issues with completing your audits. Thank you to the Shires who have completed and returned them.
- Local Emergency Welfare Plans (LEWP) transitioning to Local Emergency Relief and Support plans (LERSP) – To ensure the new LERSP contains accurate details for your Shire, please provide any changes to the current LEWP to be included in the new LERSP.
- Training Requests – Evacuation Centre training is available for Shire staff and LEMC members and can be planned around a LEMC or as a standalone session. Our training calendar is filling up, if you are interested in scheduling training this year, please email the team and we be in touch to book you in.

Regards

Jo Spadaccini

Regional Officer, Wheatbelt

Emergency Relief and Support

Department of Communities

Wheatbelt

T: 0429 102 614

E: joanne.spadaccini@communities.wa.gov.au