

Shire of Lake Grace

Local Emergency Management Committee

Minutes

11 May 2023

Meeting Commencing at 1:00 pm

Disclaimer

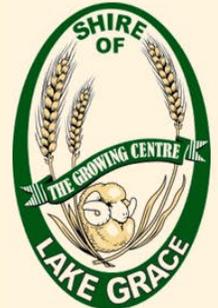
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Acknowledgement of Country

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

Agenda for the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) meeting to be held at Council Chambers, 1 Bishop Street, Lake Grace on Thursday 11 May 2023.

1.0 DECLARATION OF OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Shire President opened the meeting at 12:58pm.

(Note: Under the Terms of Reference, the Local Emergency Coordinator (OIC Lake Grace Police) is the Deputy Chair, if not available, the Committee is to appoint a member to preside at the meeting).

2.0 DISCLAIMER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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Acknowledgement of Country to be read by the Chair of the Committee

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.

3.0 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

3.1 PRESENT / APOLOGIES / OBSERVERS / VISITORS

Present:

Cr Len Armstrong	President
Alan George	Chief Executive Officer
Chris Paget	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Craig Elefsen	Manager of Infrastructure Services
Matt Castaldini	Community Emergency Services Manager
Brett Dew	Western Power
Gavin Stevens	Department of Fire & Emergency Services
Sgt Joshua Egan-Reid	WA Police
Barry Grady	St John Ambulance Community Paramedic
Rodney Thornton	WALGA Roadwise
Michele Duxbury	Department Of Communities
Mitchell Davies	Department Of Biodiversity Conservation & Attractions
Suzanne Reeves	Community Resource Centre
Alex Adams	Shire of Lake Grace
Jessica Chircop	Shire of Lake Grace

Apologies:

Lisa Pearce	WA Country Health Service
Ross Chappell	St John Ambulance Lake Grace
Kerriane Mills	Department of Education Lake Grace

In Attendance / Observers / Visitors:

Nil

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 09 MARCH 2023

Voting Requirements

Absolute majority required.

Recommendation / Resolution

Moved: Joshua Egan-Reid

Seconded: Barry Grady

That the Minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) meeting held on 09 March 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED: 13/0

5.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Nil

6.0 STANDING ITEMS

Nil

7.0 POST INCIDENT REPORTS

Nil

8.0 AGENCY REPORTS

8.1 SHIRE OF LAKE GRACE

Nil

8.2 WA POLICE

Joshua and Scott are Land Search and Rescue qualified, with plans to get Wade trained as well. Drones are being rolled out for use in scene assessments, currently they are available in Albany and there are plans to get them into Narrogin and Katanning in the future.

8.3 BUSH FIRE BRIGADES – CHIEF BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICER

Nil

8.4 LAKE GRACE VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE

Nil

8.5 ST JOHN AMBULANCE

More volunteers are needed, drivers for transfers especially. Training is readily available. Community Paramedic will be on leave for four weeks, Sally Kettle will be covering the role. All current volunteer training is up to date.

8.6 DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

As for many agencies it has been a high tempo operational period for DFES and there have been lots of changes to adapt to this season both with some unusual weather events across the country, AFDRS implementation as of 1 Sept 2022, WHS legislation, COVID continuation and a record harvest season.

2022-23 Bushfire Season Synopsis

- This year we have tackled complex blazes in the areas of Toodyay, Donnybrook-Balingup, Bridgetown-Greenbushes and Trayning and other bush and structural fires over the season.
- We were supported by the Grain Harvest strategy again seeing aerial appliances based in Narrogin and other regional centres to support on ground crews. (Graphic below)
- There was a well-publicised hazmat incident where we coordinated the search for the radioactive capsule in collaboration with a team of experts in emergency, nuclear and radiation management as well as the Department of Health and WA Police was an extraordinary outcome.

- We were one of many agencies following Ex TC Ellie in the Kimberly. We have relocated more than 250 people to safety, coordinated the delivery of over 1,300 tonnes of medical and food supplies and resettled numerous communities back on country with more on their way. We have also assessed more than 700 homes and buildings for safety and aided in the clean-up of 74 buildings with more to go. There were hundreds of staff and volunteers working on rotation in the Kimberley and we have our teams behind the scenes coordinating communications and logistics, working in the operations centres, providing corporate and business support, and delivering public information.
- Towards the end of the season, supporting DBCA at two fires in the Ravensthorpe area. During which one of our Large Air Tankers crashed while tackling a blaze in the Fitzgerald River National Park. Thankfully, the two pilots were able to walk away from the crash.

Recent & Upcoming Events;

- TC Ilsa in the last fortnight saw staff deployed to the Pilbara and Kimberley and as an organisation we have a significant commitment to Exmouth for the Solar Eclipse next week.
- This time of year, begins our busy training schedules, season reviews, industrial site inspections, start of our Storm Safe program and a key time to for staff leave to be taken.
- The change of seasons also opens up our mitigation programs for UCL UMR in townsites with Mitigation Activity Funding for round 1 2023 having closed recently.
- The Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) review will be undertaken nationally. However, feedback can be provided at anytime to afdrs@dfes.wa.gov.au and this will be included in the review.
- We are awaiting the draft exposure bill for the Combined Emergency Services legislation to be released soon and will advise of the consultation process for those interested when it is out.

On a final note out Superintendent has changed with Sven Andersen going to Bushfire Risk Management in Belmont and we have been fortunate to have Mr Craig Smith previously Superintendent Midwest Gascoyne accept the role here in Narrogin.

8.7 LAKE GRACE DISTRICT HEALTH SERVICES

Nil

8.8 EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

- **Lake Grace District High School**

Nil

- **Newdegate Primary School**

Nil

- **Lake King Primary School**

Nil

8.9 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES

Date: From – April 2023 to June 2023 inclusive

INCIDENTS:

Nil

EXERCISES AND TRAINING:

Please see notes below.

24 MAY	Evacuation Centre Training	Mt Barker Primary Evacuation Centre
11 JULY	Evacuation Centre Training	Dumbleyung Town Hall

Additional Comments/Suggestions:

- **TC Ilsa**

On 12 April 2023, Communities was activated as the support organisation providing emergency relief and support for Severe Tropical Cyclone Ilsa.

- Severe Tropical Cyclone Ilsa crossed the coast as a Category 5 system, around midnight on Thursday 13 April 2023, with an estimated intensity of 213 kmph.
- On Thursday 13 April, Communities opened four evacuation centres, which were closed on the 14 April 2023.
- In total, Communities accommodated 68 people in evacuation centres, and upported 10 people to return to country.
- Communities will continue to respond to requests for assistance as required. This will be managed through Communities staff on the ground and the Disaster Response Hotline.

- **Kimberley Floods**

The Department of Communities (Communities) is providing emergency welfare services to residents impacted by the Kimberley Floods from January 2023.

As of 26 April 2023:

- 17 people are in Communities' supported commercial accommodation in Broome and Derby.
- 88 people are in Phase 1 Temporary Accommodation utilising Humanihuts in Fitzroy Crossing and Bungardi community, and in the Derby Hostel.
- Since the Disaster Response Hotline (DRH) opened on the 11 January 2023 until COB 24 April 2023, Communities has responded to a total of 1,792 calls.
- Communities has assisted 171 residents to apply for the Premier's Grant via the DRH and hubs in Broome, Derby and Fitzroy Crossing.
- Review of the State Support Plan – Consultation feedback for the State Support Plan – Emergency Welfare has closed. Communities is currently reviewing feedback.
- Capability Audit – Communities has procured Nous Group to conduct an audit of Western Australia's emergency relief and support capability.
- Local Emergency Management Plans (LEMP's) are always being reviewed, if you see any information that is not current, please advise michele.duxbury@communities.wa.gov.au
- Training: Please advise if you would like training conducted for local government staff, this can be an introduction to opening an evacuation centre, to cover the first couple of hours as Communities staff are on route. Happy to work with Shires to ensure little impacts to normal operations. Please e-mail michele.duxbury@communities.wa.gov.au to request training.

Happy to discuss at any time.

8.10 WATER CORPORATION

Nil

8.11 MAIN ROADS WA

Nil

8.12 WESTERN POWER

There was a recent widespread outage in Lake Grace shire. There was a recent issue with burnt wire on a switch near Kondinin which took some time to rectify. Currently testing out different insulators and other strategies to reduce the incidents of pole top fires and following up discussions with Bushfire Volunteers about the conductivity of poles and the issues they cause.

Low staff numbers is an issue.

8.13 CBH GROUP LAKE GRACE

Nil

8.14 DBCA - PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Mitigation programs are well under way, prescribed burning has been done in the Northern Wheatbelt and Hyden. Local burning will be done over the coming weeks, with Tarin Rock being looked at for tomorrow and Dragon Rocks soon after.

8.15 DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Nil

8.16 OTHER GROUPS / MEMBERS

- **Community Resource Centre**

Link West are looking for community feedback on WACHS for health services in Lake Grace and Surrounds.

- **WALGA Roadwise**

So far this year there have been 50 state wide fatalities;
26 were in regional WA
9 in the Wheatbelt
4 in Wheatbelt South.

There is only a population of 22,000 in Wheatbelt South, therefore the numbers reflect a very poor record. And it is local people who are dying on the roads in the wheatbelt.

9.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

9.1 FUNDING NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

We were successful in receiving an AWARE grant to make EM training available. WALGA have advised there are some updates being applied to the training and have delayed our access to the EM Fundamentals Course.

There is additional funding for Key staff/ interested councillors to undertake recovery centric training. The plan is to host either one or two courses in Lake Grace and invite other local governments to attend. We can cover the tuition fee for the course under our grant.

9.2 INCIDENT SUPPORT GROUP (ISG) ACTIVATIONS

Nil.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Please see the dates for upcoming meetings;

Thursday 10 August 2023
Thursday 02 November 2023

11.0 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Shire President closed the meeting at 1:25pm.