

Shire of Lake Grace

Local Emergency Management Committee

Minutes

09 March 2023

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

Agenda for the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) meeting to be held at Council Chambers, 1 Bishop Street, Lake Grace on Thursday 09 March 2023.

1.0 DECLARATION OF OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Shire President opened the meeting at 1.00 pm.

(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/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE (PREVIOUSLY APPROVED)

3.1 PRESENT / APOLOGIES / OBSERVERS / VISITORS

Present:

Cr Len Armstrong
Alan George
Craig Elefsen
Chris Paget
Suzanne Reeves
Cr Ross Chappell
Matt Castaldini
Michele Duxbury (MS Teams)

Minute Taker:

Jessica Chircop

Apologies:

Mitch Davies – DBCA
Josh Egan-Reid – WA Police
Gary Guelfi – SJA Newdegate Sub Centre
Chris Poot – CBH Lake Grace
Kaye Brownley – Lake King PS
Barry Grady – SJA Community Paramedic
Lisa Pearce – WACHS

In Attendance / Observers / Visitors

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 10 NOVEMBER 2022

Voting Requirements

Absolute majority required.

Recommendation / Resolution

That the Minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) meeting held on 10 November 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Ross Chappell

Seconded: Matt Castaldini

CARRIED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY: Carried

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

This season we have had 45 fires reported to date, with 1 traffic crash being attended to by Lake King BFB on Christmas Day.

We had several incidents that warranted public information being issued through Emergency WA resulting in some Watch & Act, Advice or a combination of both warnings being issued.

The fires we experienced had several causes noted, including harvest operations, lightning, pole-top fires, discarded cigarette, and a vehicle accident.

The Shire of Lake Grace is currently in the restricted burning period, with permits starting to be issued tomorrow. The CBFCO has requested that permits are issued in person so that the permit holder has a copy of the terms and conditions.

We have had a significant impact locally from pole-top fires this season. We experienced an event at the beginning and the end of February with both knocking out of power for Newdegate over several consecutive days.

The lead time for Western Power to attend and make safe has been getting blown out to over 10 hours, causing frustration for volunteers waiting on site.

The local CBFCOs and DCBFCOs are planning to raise this at the upcoming ROAC and are seeking the support of the local government to advocate for change through their channels.

We received funding for some mitigation works in lake king at the Telstra site on Kathleen Road, we are undertaking some preliminary investigations before progressing the works.

We are looking at undertaking training for our FCO training program this year to support the development and build capacity and capability for state-consistent incident management in our local community.

We are looking at feedback throughout the EM sector, specifically the LEMA review, to see how we can improve this forum and our LEMA to help connect existing community networks and build resilience in the Shire. This committee will be an integral part of the coordination of disaster or incident recovery following an event that causes an impact within our Shire.

From witnessing incidents that have had significant ongoing recovery impacts, any work we can do now to prepare ourselves and our community will pay dividends in recovery. This can include activities such as community education, staff training and building awareness of how emergency management works within WA and where we fit in as local government or community members.

Chris Paget: Met with DFES Supt. Sven Andersen regarding the CESM MoU as it is up for renewal. Some notes have been submitted from the other local governments which need to be reviewed by Lake Grace and DFES before signing. The MoU is including Dumbleyung for another year as a trial involving DFES.

The opportunity to engage with DFES and other local governments to employ a Bushfire Risk Mitigation Coordinator was also discussed, with an expression of interest offered, with no

commitment given. There was a lack of clarity around funding expectations on the local government for the program.

8.2 WA POLICE

Nil.

8.3 BUSHFIRE BRIGADES – CHIEF BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICER

Nil.

8.4 LAKE GRACE VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE

Nil.

8.5 ST JOHN AMBULANCE

SJA LG - We have recommenced our training program with opportunities being made available to members for skills maintenance and upskilling.

We have had several incidents, with the occurrence being sporadic. We had one instance where crews took a patient to the airstrip and were redirected to Katanning due to low cloud/ fog presenting a challenge with visibility.

8.6 DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

Nil.

8.7 LAKE GRACE DISTRICT HEALTH SERVICES

From Lisa Pearce: I have now secured the Health Service Manager (HSM) position substantively at the Lake Grace Hospital. We have nothing new to report from the Hospital. We are still under basic COVID precautions, and staffing is thin on the ground.

8.8 EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

- **Lake Grace District High School**

Nil.

- **Newdegate Primary School**

Nil.

- **Lake King Primary School**

Nil.

8.9 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES

Written report attached.

8.10 WATER CORPORATION

Nil.

8.11 MAIN ROADS WA

Nil.

8.12 WESTERN POWER

Nil.

8.13 CBH GROUP LAKE GRACE

Nil.

8.14 DBCA - PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

We have had a busy bushfire season with 31 bushfires but, touchwood, it has been fairly quiet in the Shire of Lake Grace.

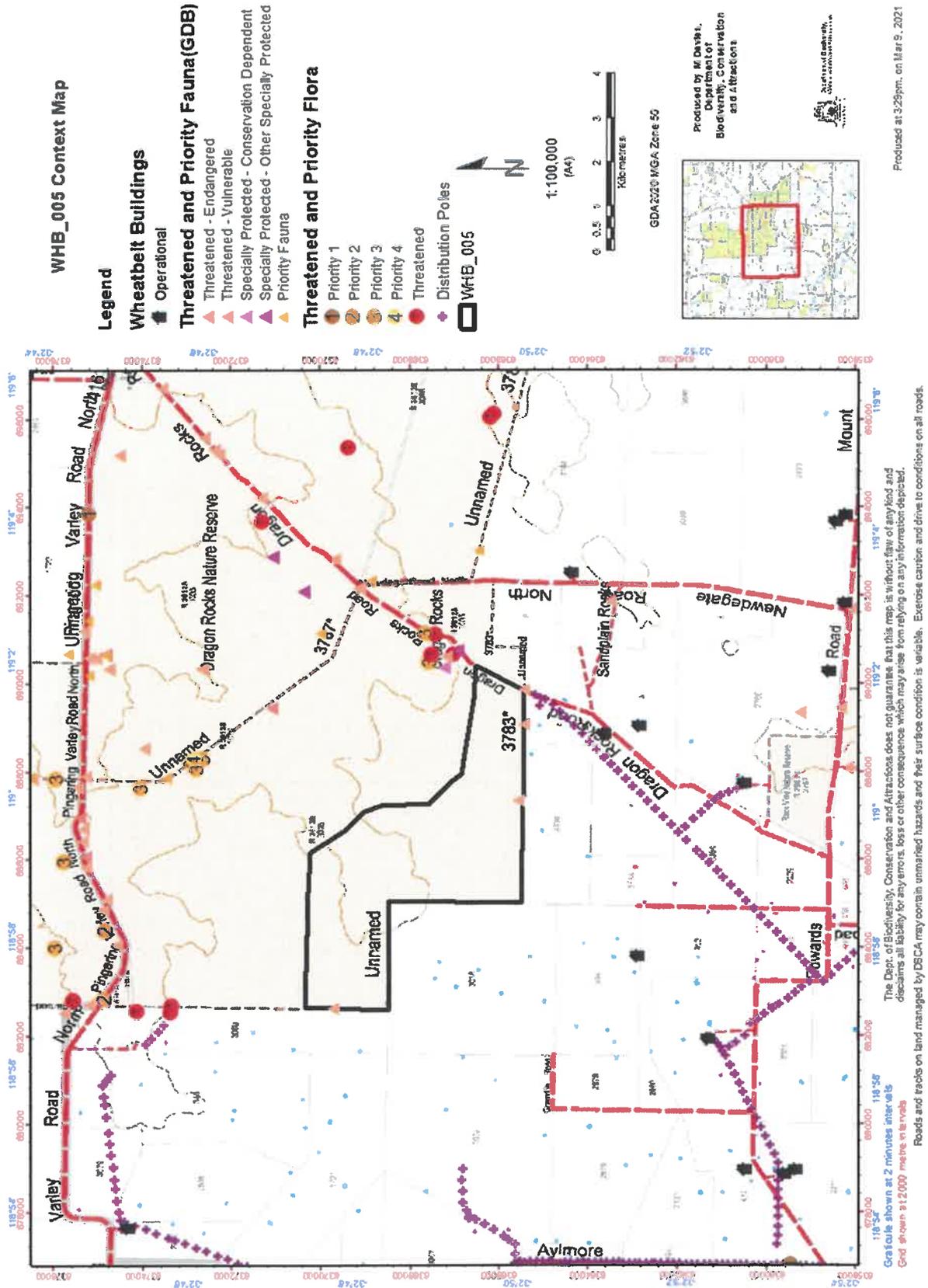
We have quite a large mitigation program planned for Autumn including the burning of scrub rolling in Dragon Rocks Nature Reserve as per the attached map. The scrub rolling is 60 metres wide and the area on the attached map is exaggerated to include any runs of fire that we may get into the reserve.

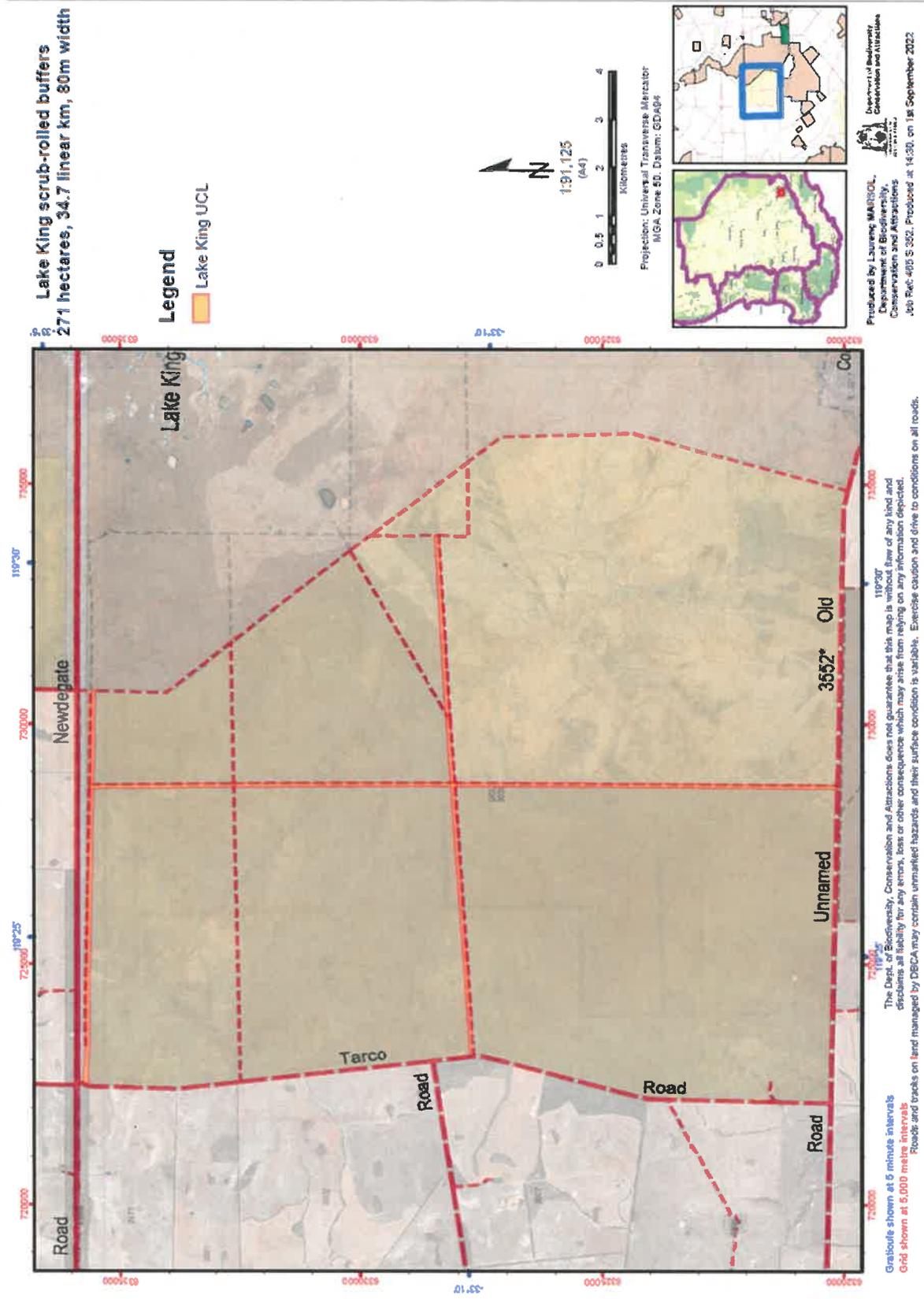
There is also new scrub rolling to 80m in the UCL adjoining Tarco Road. Some of this is retreatment of existing scrub rolling but some are new. The new scrub rolling we will look at burning next Spring or Autumn.

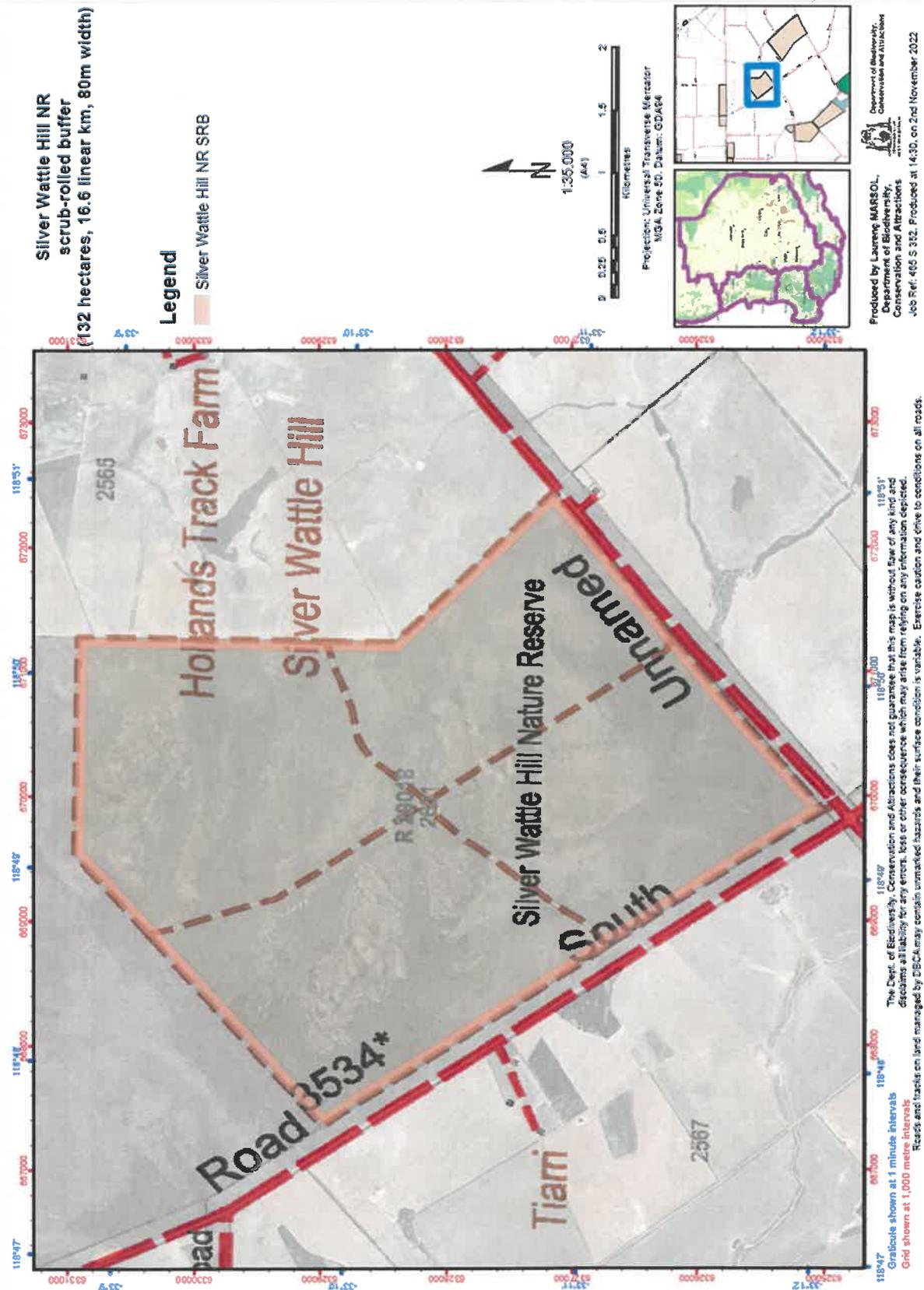
We are also doing some scrub rolling on the boundary of Silver Wattle NR. This will be 40 metres wide and we plan to burn this Autumn.

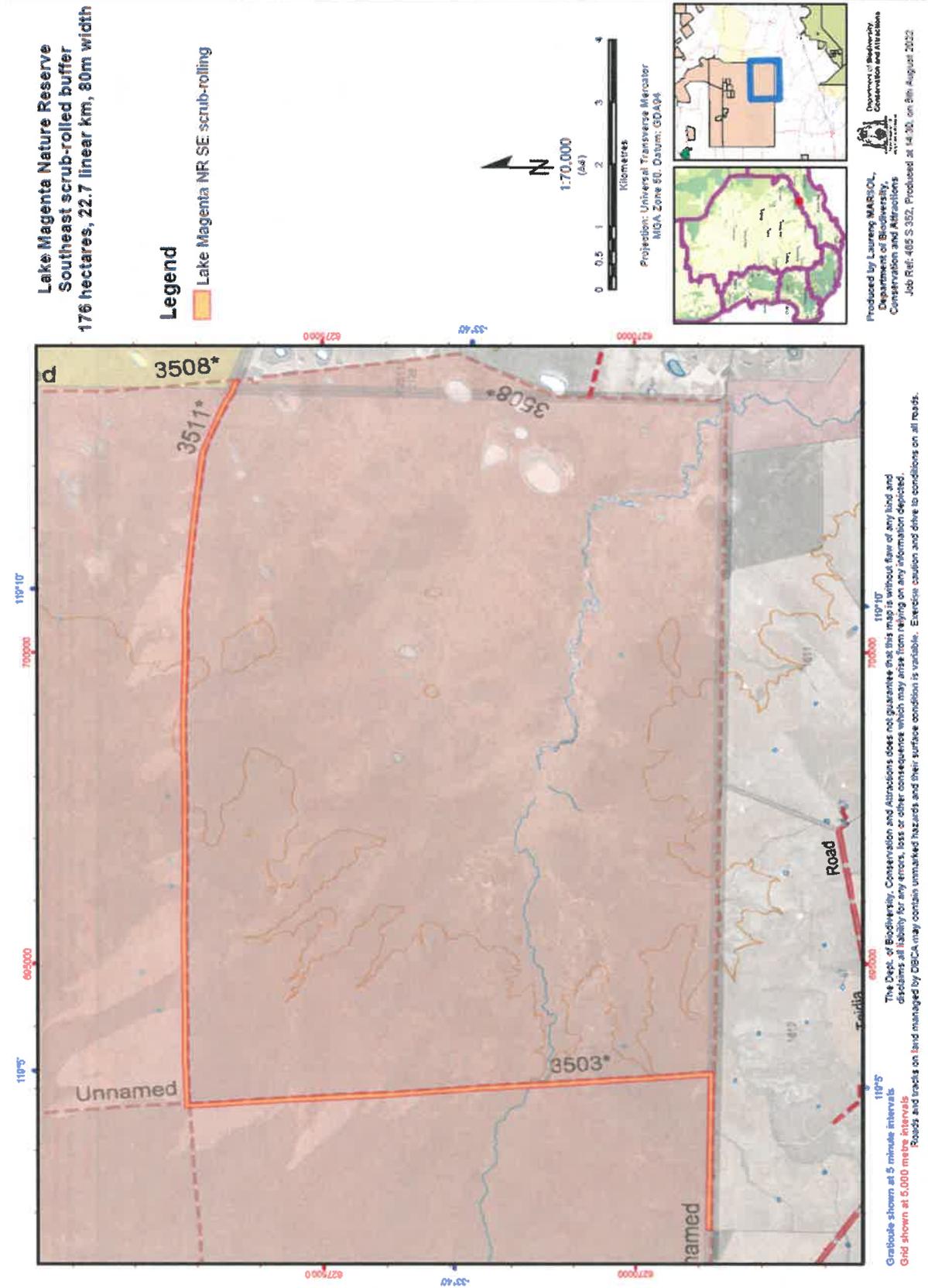
Finally, we are retreating some scrub rolling in the SE corner of Lake Magenta Nature Reserve. This is actually in Kent shire but may be of interest to Lake Grace Shire.

It would be good to get some local brigades involved in our burning this Autumn if they are interested but appreciate it usually clashes with seeding.









8.15 DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Nil.

8.16 OTHER GROUPS / MEMBERS

Road Wise

Suzanne Reeves: Police are seeking cameras for local surveillance to assist with evidence gathering.

Alan George: The Shire of Lake Grace has previously purchased Trail Cameras and provided them to the Police for this purpose.

Suzanne Reeves: The new speed bumps in front of the school are working effectively to slow down or deter traffic.

9.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil.

9.1 FUNDING NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

We were successful in receiving an AWARE grant to make EM training available. We are currently working towards a subscription for the Shires of Lake Grace, Kent and Dumbleyung for 1 year to allow all staff to complete 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/course fees 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 11 May 2023

Thursday 10 August 2023

Thursday 02 November 2023

11.0 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Shire President closed the meeting at 1:24 pm.

12.0 CERTIFICATION

I, Ken Armstrong, certify that the Minutes of the LEMC Meeting held on 9 March 2023 as shown were confirmed as a true record of that meeting.



Signature

11 MAY 2023

Date