

Shire of Lake Grace

Local Emergency Management
Committee



Minutes

24 February 2021

Meeting Commencing at 1.00 pm

Disclaimer

No responsibility whatsoever is implied or accepted by the Shire of Lake Grace for any act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council/Committee meetings or during formal/informal conversations with staff. The Shire of Lake Grace disclaims any liability for any loss whatsoever caused arising out of reliance by any person or legal entity on any such act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council/Committee meetings or discussions. Any person or legal entity who acts or fails to act in reliance upon any statement does so at that person's and or legal entity's own risk.

In particular, and without derogating in any way from the broad disclaimer above, in any discussion regarding any planning application or application for license, any statement or limitation or approval made by a member or officer of the Shire of Lake Grace during the course of any meeting is not intended to be and is not taken as notice of approval from the Shire of Lake Grace. The Shire of Lake Grace warns that anyone who has an application lodged with the Shire of Lake Grace must obtain and only should rely on WRITTEN CONFIRMATION of the outcome of the application and any conditions attaching to the decision made by the Shire of Lake Grace in respect of the application.

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING & ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Presiding Member opened the meeting at _
(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 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES

2.1 PRESENT

Cr L Armstrong	Chairperson
Mr C Paget	Deputy Chief Executive Officer – Shire of Lake Grace
Ms S Lees	CESM – Shire of Lake Grace
Mr G Hansen	Department of Fire & Emergency Services
Sgt T Taylor	WA Police
Mr M Davies	DBCA
Mr N Blackburn	Department of Communities Emergency Coordinator
Ms L Pearce	Lake Grace District Health Service
Ms S Johnstone	St John Ambulance – Lake Grace
Mr R Chappell	St John Ambulance – Lake Grace
Mr G Guelfi	St John Ambulance – Newdegate
Mrs C Chappell	Minute taker
M Slarke	Visitor

2.2 APOLOGIES

Mr A George	CEO Shire of Lake Grace
Mr B Watson	CBFCO Shire of Lake Grace
Mr A Smith	DFES DEMA
Ms J Spadaccini	Dept. Communities
Mr S Tapper	Dept. Education – LG District High School
Ms Garlick	Dept. Education – Newdegate Primary School
Ms K Brownley	Dept. Education – Lake King Primary School
Ms K Sugg	SJA Lake King
Mr T Peplow	Main Roads WA

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLUTION

Moved Mr N Blackburn

Seconded Mr Chappell

That the Minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) meeting held on 25 November 2020 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

4 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 NIL

5 STANDING ITEMS

5.1 CONTACT DETAILS

Contact details to be verified by member.

5.2 POST INCIDENT REPORTS

Nil

5.3 INCIDENT SUPPORT GROUP (ISG) ACTIVATIONS

Nil

5.4 POST EXERCISE REPORT

Nil

5.5 FUNDING NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

- Drought Communities Programme (DCP) Extension – update from Shire President: Two projects are completed, the two tanks at Lake King Airstrip and one tank at Lake Grace. Lake Bidy dam has been cleaned out and catchment is cleaned, it will help to supply water to the community of Newdegate.

Due to the Facebook post from Manager of Infrastructure that the Shire could no longer water the ovals in Lake Grace and Newdegate, GWN contacted Shire President. Consequently, there was a segment on the GWN regarding no water at Newdegate to water the oval and people do not like to see their oval dead. This caused the Department of Water and Water Corp to ring the CEO. Following the news segment, ABC also rang and I had a 10-minute interview on radio.

It is the Environmental Regulations which is causing the issues as the over grown catchment can't be cleared. The consequence of both the GWN and ABC interviews is that Newdegate has now been issued \$300,000 to clear their catchment and dam.

- Animal Welfare in Emergencies Grant Program – update presented by Michelle Clarke: Work has commenced on contacting critical contacts and service providers. The first group to be contacted is the local stock transport companies. We will work on gathering the number of livestock in the Shire, from these statistics we will have a register of stock that could require transport locally, stock feed or evacuation during an emergency. The number of family pets will also be registered for care and housing during an emergency. There will be community consultation with farmers and residents. The plan will form part of the LEMA and will be subject to change.

5.6 RISK TREATMENT STRATEGIES PROGRESS

The planned review of the Shire of Lake Grace Risk Register will be deferred to the next meeting.

5.7 LEMA AMENDMENTS/UPDATES

NIL

6 AGENCY REPORTS

6.1 SHIRE OF LAKE GRACE

The Shire is still concentrating on the water deficiency with phone calls to Water Corp and Department of Water.

Letter of support ?

Water for firefighting and the amount of non-potable water available within the Shire
Where there are strategic water supplies

Location for a Fire Fighting facility in Lake Grace as they only have a town unit which is not equipped to fire bush fires.

CESM Report:

- This fire season has been uneventful compared with last year, thanks to relatively mild weather conditions. Shire of Lake Grace brigades have responded to 17 fires to date.
- The Shire is currently in the restricted burning period, which continues until 15 March.
- The Newdegate Town Brigade has taken delivery of high season Fast Attack appliance on loan from DFES.
- The Shire of Lake Grace has received an AWARE grant to fund the development of a Plan for Animal Welfare in Emergencies. This project is progressing well with the appointment of a consultant to assist with documenting the plan. The CESMs will work closely with the consultant to complete the Plan by 30 June.
- Council has provided in-principle support for the excise of a portion of land situated between the Sportsmans Club and the St John Ambulance Sub-centre for the possible development of a bush fire facility. The land is currently leased by the Sportsmans Club. The outcome will depend on whether a DFES LGGs Capital Grant application is successful.
- The CESM attended the pilot of the Rural Firefighting course in Woodanilling last week. This course is being designed to provide a basic level of safety awareness to "farmer response" firefighting.
- The CESM co-presented a DFES Fire Control Officers training course this week, and was pleased with the good attendance numbers.

6.2 WA POLICE

WA Police has attended eight fatalities in the last six weeks. All motor vehicle accidents occurred on gravel roads in the Shires of Kulin and Narrogin.

6.3 BUSHFIRE BRIGADES – CHIEF BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICER

NIL

6.4 LAKE GRACE VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE

NIL

6.5 ST JOHN AMBULANCE

6.5.1 NEWDEGATE –

- It was been relatively quiet regarding ambulance callouts.

- The Newdegate Sub-centre has an opportunity to purchase an ex-mechanical workshop and dwelling for the cost of \$300,000. It was brought to the Sub-centre's attention by Trish Medlen. SJA believe it has good potential to make a good Ambulance depot. It will accommodate two vans immediately. There is space for a good training room space with renovations. The dwelling could possibly accommodate temporary sleeping quarters for the volunteers and the Community Paramedic.

6.5.2 LAKE GRACE –

- Training has restarted.
- Two people have completed their VDO training, now we have three people who can train the volunteers.
- Currently we have eleven officers on road.
- The Shire has been able to source extra funding of \$65,000 plus another \$45,000 for the lighting at the Lake Grace Airstrip. The airstrip lights will be a big project to get the airstrip and lights up to compliance to make it safe for the Royal Flying Doctors to land on the strip in any weather.

6.5.3 LAKE GRACE –

- The Lake Grace SJA Sub-centre will be responsible for the maintenance of AED batteries and pads around town. The Sub-centre will register and maintain the AEDs in Lake Grace in future.
- Training is underway.
- Volunteer numbers are
- Lake Grace has had 32 callouts in the last three months
- Newdegate has had six and Lake King has had six.
- COVID-19 – stock levels of masks were depleted, we have now ordered more. We have been lucky there has been no COVID-19 or transfer from the infected areas.

6.5 DFES

6.5.2 UPPER GREAT SOUTHERN

- It has been quite uneventful.
- There were ten trucks sent for five days to Wooroloo fire near Perth.
- The Wooroloo fire highlighted the importance of having a Plan for Animal Welfare in Emergencies.
- Lake Grace Town Fire Station is due for an upgrade. For health and safety reasons, there will be a separate dressing room from the machinery storage area.

6.5.3 OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Nil

6.6 LAKE GRACE DISTRICT HEALTH SERVICE

- The Lake Grace Hospital has been steady.
- Covid-19 testing has dropped off recently
- Staff are working on how the rolling out of the vaccine is going to work.
- Phase 1 - emergency services, nurses, police.
- Phase 2 - 60 and overs.
- Possibly daily clinics; will be finalizing in the next week.

6.7 DEPT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

DPIRD is currently responding to a number of incidents including recovery activities for the Wooroloo Fires.

The fires were the first time that DPIRD stood up the State Support Plan for Animal Welfare in Emergencies, which involved a number of organisations including DPIRD providing support to two local governments, the assessment of injured animals, both domestic and native, and a range of other activities.

- Dry Seasonal conditions and water – so many areas of the wheatbelt and south-coast are moving into their 4th year of below average rainfall. Last year's yields and tonnages, achieved on the lack of rainfall WA received, was outstanding.
- DPIRD continues to monitor the on-farm water situation. As you would all be aware, in many circumstances on-farm supplies are totally depleted or extremely low, with water carting the norm not the exception. This has placed the whole system under pressure.
- Lake Grace shire has received some falls over summer which has seen the water carting to many water deficient declared areas been placed on hold and resuming when on-farm supplies have again run dry. This is being done in consultation with impacted landholders, DWER, Water Corporation and DPIRD. We are also monitoring other areas of concern attempting to be proactive in identifying areas as early as possible.
- Last year Russian Wheat Aphid was found at Esperance – currently DPIRD are monitoring surrounding areas, including the shires of Lake Grace, Jerramungup and Kent to see if they have travelled further and can be found in any green-bridge.
- Fall army worm has also now been found as far south as Gingin – the spread and impact will continue to be monitored
- Other incidents include –
 - Two Fruit Fly outbreaks in Perth,
 - Grain insect pest with significant market impacts in conjunction with the Federal government,
 - Dog tick disease in the Kimberly recently found in dogs in northern part of South Australia, already found in NT.

6.8 PARKS & WILDLIFE SERVICE

- It has been a quiet season with nine bushfires DBCA has attended in our region.
- Two fires in the Shire of Yilgarn required multiple shifts to suppress.
- Only fire in the Lake Grace Shire was a report of a lightning strike in the Lake King Nature Reserve, however could not locate it.
- Mitigation Program is a little behind schedule but includes:
 - Dunn Rock second rotation scrub rolling
 - Prescribed burn at Dragon Rocks Nature Reserve:
 - We have also been working with the Dept. of Water to desilt the old Burngup Dam. We have completed EIA and approvals and work should commence shortly.

6.9 CBH GROUP LAKE GRACE

- President Armstrong reported - The new service road into the CBH site on the hill west of Newdegate is now complete and operational.

6.11 EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

6.9.1 LAKE GRACE DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

Nil

6.9.2 NEWDEGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Nil

6.9.3 LAKE KING PRIMARY SCHOOL

Nil

6.10 DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES

- COVID-19 guidelines have been widely distributed and sent out for comment
- Welfare Centres wearing face masks
- Social distancing is being practiced.

6.11 WATER CORP

Nil

6.12 MAIN ROADS WA

Nil

6.16 WESTERN POWER

Nil

6.13 OTHERS

Nil

7 EXERCISE UPDATE

7.1 EXERCISE

The LEMC will need to undertake an exercise during the May LEMC meeting.

8 GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 SECOND ROUND OF DFES WATER TANK FUNDING

- The second round of DFES funding for water tanks is now open. Only funding for water tanks of shire property.
- The Shire of Lake Grace has few suitable buildings available and would like to see the guidelines of the grant extended to include installation on private property such as disused CBH properties.
- This matter may be discussed at the WALGA Zone meeting Friday 26 February.

8.2 NEW WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY (WHS) LEGISLATION

CESM presented an overview of some the provisions included in the new legislation that may have possible implications for the management of local government bush fire brigades. This purpose was for raising the awareness of possible future implications only. (See Attachment 1).

8.3 FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MOBILE NETWORK HARDENING PROGRAM

Update on local mobile base stations to be included in Stage 1 of the program. There are four mobile phone base station locations that are on the list to have back-up battery life extended to 12 hours that are located in or near the Lake Grace district:

- Lake Magenta
- Ravensthorpe North
- Tarin Rock
- Varley

8.4 RISK ASSESSMENT – FOR PLAN FOR ANIMAL WELFARE IN EMERGENCIES.

A short risk assessment regarding animal welfare in emergencies was conducted. (See Attachment 2).

9 URGENT BUSINESS BY DECISION OF THE MEETING

Nil

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

10.1 LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

The next meeting of the Local Emergency Management Committee will take place on Wednesday 25 May 2021.

11 11.0 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Presiding Member closed the meeting at 2:50pm.