



Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting (6 May 2025)

ATTACHMENTS

Number	Title
5.1	Previous LEMC Minutes – 4 February 2025
9.1	CESM LEMC Report
9.2	DEMA Report Fourth Quarter
9.3	Information on DRA
9.4	Emergency Relief and Support – 4 th Quarter 2025 LEMC update
9.5	Donnybrook LEMC Meeting DFES Report – May 2025
9.6	Main Roads Local Emergency Management Committee Report
9.7	Ranger Report – May 2025
11.1(1)	ARC Rail Corridor Correspondence
11.3	Draft Motion for WA Local Government re Telecommunications Connectivity



Minutes of Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting

Held on 4 February 2025 and commenced at 9:00am

Held at the Donnybrook SES

(80 Bentley Street, Donnybrook)

Authorised:



Ross Marshall, Director Operations

Prepared:

6 March 2025

Disclaimer:

Please note the items and recommendations in this document are not final and are subject to change or withdrawal.

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1. Declaration of Opening / Announcement of Visitors

Acknowledgement of Country:

The Chairperson acknowledged the continuing connection of Aboriginal people to Country, culture and community, including traditional custodians of this land, the Wardandi and Kaneang People of the Noongar Nation, paying respects to Elders, past and present.

The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 9:04am and welcomed the attendees.

2. Attendance

Committee Members Present:

Shire of Donnybrook Balingup	Cr Vivienne MacCarthy (Chairperson)
Shire of Donnybrook Balingup	Jess Cooper (CESM, LEMC Executive)
Balingup Progress Association	Wendy Trow
Bushfire Service	Mick Zwart
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (Wellington)	Jewell Crossberg
Department of Communities	Renee Flaxman
Dept Fire and Emergency Services	Chris Sousa
Dept. Primary Industries & Regional Development	Tyler Hall
DEMA	Erin Hutchins
Donnybrook SES	Julie Carrick
Fire and Rescue Service	Ben Anderson
Main Roads WA	Bruce Hancock
Shire of Donnybrook Balingup	Nicholas O'Connor (Chief Executive Officer)
Shire of Donnybrook Balingup	Ross Marshall (Director Operations)
Shire of Donnybrook Balingup	Susie Delaporte (Local Recovery Coordinator, SCEO)
Shire of Donnybrook Balingup	Ange Browne (Ranger Services)
St John Ambulance	Garry Davis (Proxy)
Tuia Lodge	Iona Dix
WA Country Health Service	Paige Weaver (Proxy)
Water Corporation	Steve Collins
Western Power	Andy Smith (Proxy)

2.1. Apologies

WA Police	Terry Townsend
Bushfire Service	Max Walker
Community Home Care	Jess Rudolf
Community Home Care	Susy Glenister
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (Blackwood)	Steve Ward
Department of Fire and Emergency Services	Richard Bothe
Donnybrook Hospital	Sally Shaw
Red Cross	Karen Edmeades
Shire of Donnybrook Balingup	Loren Clifford (Acting Director Finance & Corporate)
Shire of Donnybrook Balingup	Claire Palmer (Environmental Officer)
Shire of Donnybrook Balingup	Jarrad Ramsden (Principal Environmental Health Officer)
St John Ambulance	Gary Halliday
Telstra	TBA
Water Corporation	Mel Robertson

3. Declarations from the Presiding Member

The Chairperson read the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup LEMC Terms of Reference and delivered the Committee's functions as per S.39 of the *Emergency Management Act 2005*:

- 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 direct by SEMC or prescribed by the regulations.*

4. Declarations of Interest

Nil.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

5.1. Local Emergency Committee Meeting held on 12 November 2024

Minutes from the previous meeting of the Local Emergency Management Committee held on 12 November 2024 are attached (Attachment 5.1).

That the Minutes from the Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held 12 November 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

MOVED BY:	Garry Davis	SECONDED BY:	Bruce Hancock
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Carried: 20/0

6. Contact List Review

Absent Committee members will be contacted prior to the next LEMC meeting to ensure details are current.

7. Business Arising from Previous Meetings

Nil

8. Committee Member Reports

Committee members are invited to provide an update on their organisation, regarding issues, threats, amendments to plans, events and learnings to assist in the overall preparedness of the Committee in relation to Local Emergency Management Arrangements.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| 1. Shire of Donnybrook Balingup | Cr Vivienne MacCarthy (Verbal) |
| 2. Shire of Donnybrook Balingup | Jess Cooper (Attachment 8.2) |
| 3. Bushfire Service | Mick Zwart (Verbal) |
| 4. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions (Blackwood) | Attachment 8.4 |
| 5. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions (Wellington) | Jewell Crossberg (Verbal) |
| 6. Department of Communities | Renee Flaxman (Attachment 8.6) |
| 7. Dept Fire and Emergency Services | Chris Sousa (Attachment 8.7) |
| 8. Dept. Primary Industries & Regional Development | Tyler Hall (Attachment 8.8) |
| 9. DEMA | Erin Hutchins (Attachment 8.9) |
| 10. Donnybrook SES | Julie Carrick (Verbal) |
| 11. Fire and Rescue Service | Ben Anderson (Attachment 8.11) |
| 12. Main Roads WA | Bruce Hancock (Verbal) |
| 13. Shire of Donnybrook Balingup | Nicholas O'Connor (Verbal) |

14. Shire of Donnybrook Balingup	Ross Marshall (Verbal)
15. Shire of Donnybrook Balingup	Susie Delaporte (Verbal)
16. Shire of Donnybrook Balingup	Ange Browne (Verbal)
17. St John Ambulance	Garry Davis (Proxy) (Attachment 8.17)
18. Tuia Lodge	Iona Dix (Verbal)
19. WA Country Health Service	Paige Weaver (Verbal)
20. Water Corporation	Steve Collins (Verbal)
21. Western Power	Andy Smith (Verbal)

9. Correspondence

9.1. Correspondence In

From	To	Topic	Date
DEMA	CESM	Shot Hole Borer Webinar Recording Link	13/11/2024
DEMA	CESM, Director	Drought Funding information	18/11/2024
DEMA	CESM	Telstra LEMC Contact Process	4/12/2024

9.2. Correspondence Out

From	To	Topic	Date
CESM	SoDB LEMC	Shot Hole Borer Information	14/11/2024
CESM	Shire Works Staff	Shot Hole Borer Webinar Recording Link	14/11/2024
CESM	DEMA, CESM SoBG	LEMC Telstra Contact Request	4/12/2024

9.3. Information Tabled

Poor Mobile Communications Coverage Affecting Bushfire Response: Telstra 3G helpline contact information (Attachment 9.3.1)

10. Post Incident Reports

Lowden and Argyle Bushfires

A debrief with volunteers was conducted on Sunday 2/2/2025. CESM provided a brief summary.

A staff debrief was conducted on 3/2/2025. CESM and CEO provided a brief summary.

11. Post Exercise Reports

Nil.

12. Funding Nominations and Application Progress

Nil

13. Emergency Risk Management / Treatment Strategies Progress

Shire of Donnybrook Balingup Bush Fire Risk Management Plan (BRMP)

A draft version of the Shire's updated BRMP is tabled for noting.

14. LEMA Updates / Review

Presentation: Balingup Progress Association, Community Information and Social Centre. W Trow.

15. Key Achievements

DFES Fuel management Activities Report - 2023-24

Case Study: Shire of Donnybrook Balingup

Following a Mitigation Assurance review in 2024, the Shire was approached to take part in a case study regarding its approach to mitigation and the inclusion of volunteers.

The Shire provided information relating to how mitigation activities benefit the wider community, including upskilling volunteers in a practical and realistic environment.

16. Guest Presentations

Nil.

17. Emerging Issues

LEMC Committee members are encouraged to raise emerging issues or concerns in relation to Emergency Management within the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup.

Nil items were raised.

18. Information for Public Distribution

LEMC Committee Members are invited to provide information that the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup can share on their behalf, via social media or the Shire's Website.

Nil information was provided.

19. Closure

The Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 10:36 am and advised that the next Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday 6 May 2025 at 09:00AM, at VC Mitchell Park.



Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting (4 February 2025)

ATTACHMENTS

Number	Title
5.1	Previous LEMC Minutes – 12 November 2024
8.2	CESM Report
8.4	DBCA Report/Powerpoint Presentation
8.6	Dept. Communities Report
8.7	DFES LSW Report
8.8	DPIRD Report
8.9	DEMA Report
8.11	Donnybrook VFRS Report
8.17	Donnybrook St John's Report
9.3.1	Email, Mobile Communications Affecting Bushfire response



Minutes of Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting

Held on 12 November 2024 and commenced at 9:03am

Held at the Donnybrook SES

(80 Bentley Street, Donnybrook)

Authorised:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Ross Marshall", is written over a horizontal line.

Ross Marshall, Director Operations

Prepared:

15 November 2024

Disclaimer:

Please note the items and recommendations in this document are not final and are subject to change or withdrawal.

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7.	Business Arising from Previous Meetings.....	5
8.	2024/2025 Proposed LEMC Meeting Schedule	Error! Bookmark not defined.
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1. Declaration of Opening / Announcement of Visitors

Acknowledgement of Country:

The Chairperson acknowledged the continuing connection of Aboriginal people to Country, culture and community, including traditional custodians of this land, the Wardandi and Kaneang People of the Noongar Nation, paying respects to Elders, past and present.

The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 9:04am and welcomed the attendees.

2. Attendance

Committee Members Present:

Shire of Donnybrook Balingup	Cr Vivienne MacCarthy (Chairperson)
WA Police	Terry Townsend (Deputy Chairperson)
Shire of Donnybrook Balingup	Jess Cooper (CESM, LEMC Executive)
Balingup Progress Association	Wendy Trow
Dept Fire and Emergency Services	Chris Sousa
Dept. Primary Industries & Regional Development	Tyler Hall
DEMC	Erin Hutchins
Donnybrook SES	Julie Carrick
Donnybrook Hospital	Sally Shaw
Fire and Rescue Service	Ben Anderson
Main Roads WA	Bruce Hancock
Shire of Donnybrook Balingup	Nicholas O'Connor (Chief Executive Officer)
Shire of Donnybrook Balingup	Ross Marshall (Director Operations)
Shire of Donnybrook Balingup	Susie Delaporte (Local Recovery Coordinator, SCEO)
St John Ambulance	Garry Davis (Proxy)

2.1. Apologies

Bushfire Service	Max Walker
Bushfire Service	Mick Zwart
Community Home Care	Jess Rudolf
Community Home Care	Susy Glenister
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (Blackwood)	Steve Ward
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (Blackwood)	Ed Hatherley
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (Wellington)	Darren Harvey
Department of Communities	Renee Flaxman
Dept Fire and Emergency Services	Phil Bresser
Donnybrook SES	Sue Tooke
Red Cross	Karen Edmeades
Shire of Donnybrook Balingup	Loren Clifford (Acting Director Finance & Corporate)
Shire of Donnybrook Balingup	Claire Palmer (Environmental Officer)
Shire of Donnybrook Balingup	Jarrad Ramsden (Principal Environmental Health Officer)
Shire of Donnybrook Balingup	Kyle Yoko/Greg Stover (Ranger Services)
St John Ambulance	Gary Halliday
Tuia Lodge	Iona Dix
WA Country Health Service	Barry Moroney
Water Corporation	Mel Robertson
Western Power	Gary Smith

3. Declarations from the Presiding Member

The Chairperson delivered the Committee's functions as per S.39 of the *Emergency Management Act 2005*:

- 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 direct by SEMC or prescribed by the regulations.*

4. Declarations of Interest

Nil.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

5.1. Local Emergency Committee Meeting held on 14 May 2024

Minutes from the previous meeting of the Local Emergency Management Committee held on 20 August 2024 are attached (Attachment 5.1).

That the Minutes from the Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held 14 May 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

MOVED BY:	Ross Marshall	SECONDED BY:	Ben Anderson
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Carried: 15/0

6. Contact List Review

A current copy of the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup Local Emergency Management Committee Contact list is to be circulated for review.

Absent Committee members will be contacted prior to the next LEMC meeting to ensure details are current.

7. Business Arising from Previous Meetings

Item	Responsible Officer	Status
Establish proposed meeting schedule for 2024/25	CESM / DEMA / Chairperson	Complete
Recovery Plan Interim Review	CESM	Ongoing

8. Committee Member Reports

Committee members are invited to provide an update on their organisation, regarding issues, threats, amendments to plans, events and learnings to assist in the overall preparedness of the Committee in relation to Local Emergency Management Arrangements.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Shire of Donnybrook Balingup | Cr Vivienne MacCarthy (Attachment 8.1.1) |
| 2. WA Police | Terry Townsend (Verbal) |
| 3. Shire of Donnybrook Balingup | Jess Cooper (Attachment 8.3.1) |
| 4. Dept Fire and Emergency Services | Chris Sousa (Attachment 8.4.1) |
| 5. Dept. Primary Industries & Regional Development | Tyler Hall (Attachment 8.5.1) |
| 6. DEMC | Erin Hutchins (Attachment 8.6.1) |
| 7. Donnybrook SES | Julie Carrick (Verbal) |
| 8. Fire and Rescue Service | Ben Anderson (Attachment 8.8.1) |
| 9. Main Roads WA | Bruce Hancock (Verbal) |
| 10. Shire of Donnybrook Balingup | Ross Marshall (Verbal) |
| 11. Shire of Donnybrook Balingup | Susie Delaporte (Verbal) |
| 12. St John Ambulance | Garry Davis (Proxy) (Attachment 8.12.1) |

11. Correspondence

11.1. Correspondence In

From	To	Topic	Date
W Trow	R Marshall	CISCO Activation process	Various
W Trow	Cr MacCarthy	Drought, LEMC Suggestions	31/10/2024
DEMA	CESM	South West Emergency Management Calendar 2024/25	30/10/2024
J Goff	CESM	Notification of change of LEMC Membership	28/10/2024
T Stevens	CESM	Notification of change of LEMC Membership	24/10/2024
R Armstrong (WALGA)	CESM	WALGA State Hazard Plan Fire Consultation Draft	23/10/2024
R Armstrong (WALGA)	CESM	DBCA Infosheet – Vegetation die-off and Fire	11/10/2024
R Armstrong (WALGA)	CESM	Funding – Mobile Network Resilience	8/10/2024
R Armstong (WALGA)	CESM	2024/25 LG Weather Briefing	30/9/2024
R Armstong (WALGA)	CESM	Webinar – Building Resilience in Disasters	27/9/2024
R Armstong (WALGA)	CESM	Bushfires and Spontaneous Volunteers	3/9/2024

11.2. Correspondence Out

From	To	Topic	Date
CESM	DEMA/Supt LSW	SoDB CEO Contact details	30/10/2024
CESM	SoDB LEMC	Notification of LEMC Meeting	24/10/2024
CESM/R Marshall	W Trow	CISCO Activation Process	Various

11.3. Information Tabled

South West Emergency Management Calendar 2024-25 (attachment 11.3.1)

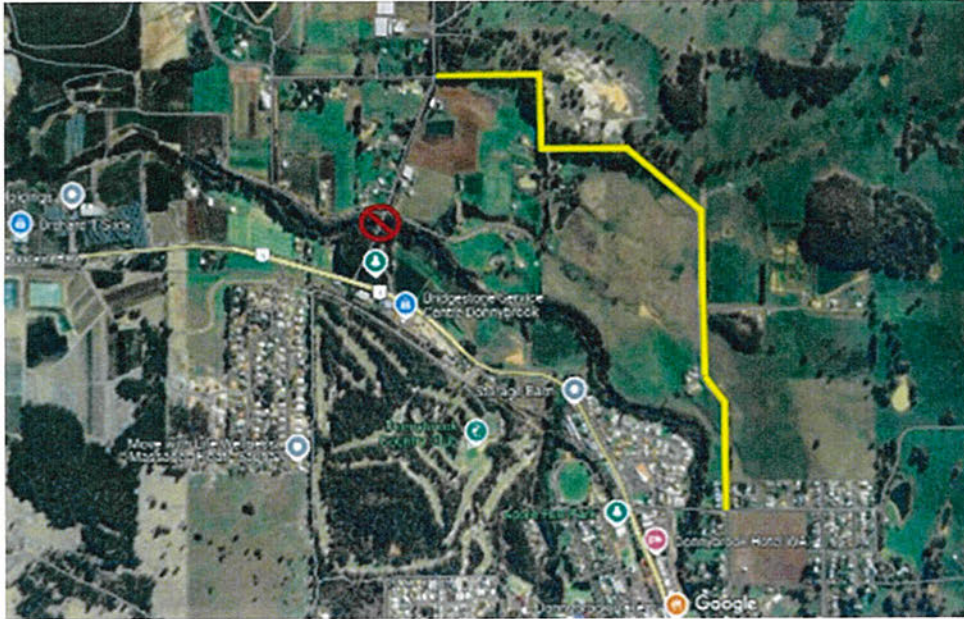
12. Post Incident Reports

On Wednesday 2 October 2024, the Irishtown Bridge was impacted by fire, causing it to be unsafe for vehicular use.

This bridge provides primary access to the locality of Irishtown, with the community now using a pre-established fire escape route to access their properties.

The Shire as been working to maintain this fire escape whilst bridge repairs are facilitated. A full restoration date is not yet known.

The cause of the fire is undetermined.



Map showing alternate route into the locality of Irishtown

A timeline of events is as follows:

2 October 2024

- Fire incident, DFES & Local Government Respond
- Bridge closed
- Access track works initiated
- Initial Main Roads inspection Conducted
- Preliminary Main Roads design inspection conducted
- Pedestrian access established
- Community meeting held

4 October 2024

- Access track works continue
- Second community meeting held

9 October 2024

- Dept. Water & Environmental Regulations Permit
- Engagement with Gnaala Karla Boodja (Aboriginal Cultural Heritage)
- Insurance Assessor inspection
- Special Council meeting to release budget for works

16 – 30 October 2024

- 15% design development

November 2024

- Final Construction Design to be completed
- Request for Tender to be released

December 2024

- Council to award tender
- Prefabrication and mobilisation works expected to commence

13. Post Exercise Reports

Nil.

14. Funding Nominations and Application Progress

AWARE 2024/25

Following the 2023 Donnybrook Complex Bushfires, it was identified that The Shire of Donnybrook Balingup would benefit from developing an *Animal Welfare in Emergencies Plan*. Ranger Services were unsuccessful in their recent application for funding consideration.

15. Emergency Risk Management / Treatment Strategies Progress

Mitigation Activity Funding

The Shire of Donnybrook Balingup was awarded \$315,180 via the Mitigation Activity Fund to perform 19 treatments of 'very high' or above risk rating.

To date, 14 of these treatments have been completed as summarised:

Treatment Address	Treatment Type	Treatment Objective	Status
Hetherington Rd, Argyle	Fire Access Track	Construct fire access track for emergency vehicles, divide reserve into smaller sections	Ongoing
Campbell St, Balingup	Mechanical Works	Maintain asset protection zone for dwellings and agricultural assets	Complete
Bovell St, Balingup	Mechanical Works	Maintain asset protection zone for dwellings and agricultural assets	Complete
Grimwade Rd, Balingup	Mechanical Works	Maintain asset protection zone for dwellings and agricultural assets	Complete
Langridge Rd, Brookhampton	Mechanical Works	Create asset protection zone for dwellings and agricultural assets	Complete
Noggerup Townsite	Mechanical Works	Reduce fuel loads on Shire-managed reserved to less than 8 tonnes per hectare, buffer zone creation	Complete
Wade Rd, Brookhampton	Chemical Works	Follow up treatment to target non-native species that may contribute to spread of fire	Complete
Wade Rd, Brookhampton	Mechanical Works	Create asset protection zone for dwellings	Complete
Airstrip Rd, Balingup	Fire Access Track	Upgrade access and create buffer zone for dwellings. Bridge asset protection zone creation.	Complete
Mullalyup Townsite	Mechanical Works	Create asset protection zone for dwellings and critical infrastructure (fire station).	Complete
Castle St, Kirup	Mechanical Works	Create Hazard separation and buffer zone for assets	Complete
SW Highway, Newlands	Mechanical Works	Maintain asset protection zone near infrastructure (Newlands Hall)	Complete
Cherrydale Way, Beelerup	Fire Access Track	Maintain/create fire access tracks for emergency vehicles, divide reserve into smaller sections in preparation for future prescribed burning	Complete
Cherrydale Way, Beelerup	Planned Burning	Reduce fuel loads in Shire-managed reserves adjacent to commercial businesses, asset protection	Ongoing
Wattle Court, Donnybrook	Planned Burning	Reduce fuel loads in Shire-managed reserve (old trotting track), asset protection for dwellings and critical infrastructure (SES Building)	Complete
Balingup Transfer Station	Mechanical Works	Create buffer zone for critical infrastructure – Transfer Station, Highway & Cemetery	Complete
Balingup Transfer Station	Planned Burning	Reduce fuel loads to protect critical infrastructure – Transfer Station, Highway & Cemetery	90% Complete
Lowden Fire Station	Mechanical Works	Create asset protection zone for Lowden Fire Station (Critical Infrastructure)	Ongoing
Russells Rd, Balingup	Planned Burning	Reduce fuel loads in shire-managed reserves to protect dwellings and critical infrastructure	Ongoing

16. LEMA Updates / Review

The Shire of Donnybrook Balingup has completed its interim review of its Recovery Plan. As the changes were minimal and did not affect any arrangements or the documents intent, it was not required to be noted by DEMC

17. Key Achievements

Nil.

18. Guest Presentations

Nil.

19. Emerging Issues

LEMC Committee members are encouraged to raise emerging issues or concerns in relation to Emergency Management within the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup.

19.1. Drought Preparedness

The following suggestions have been raised via email with the Shire:

“Communities may WANT to prepare better for drought, it will only be effective if done with the blessing and full cooperation of local government and, as a minimum, the Local Emergency Management Committee. Both of whom are often constrained by inflexible meeting procedures and concerns for risk management.

- *LEMCs should be encouraged to have a permanent community sub-committee that is free to work on issues that the community considers importantwith no constraints.*
- *The Shire would help a community group to become incorporated and obtain insurance (providing funding and assistance with applications) and the Community Emergency Services Managers would work with the group as an advisor. The CESM role would be to tell the LEMC what is going on and follow up on ideas for improvement (like the showers, laundry problems)”*

The Shire of Donnybrook Balingup LEMC is requested to consider these suggestions and discuss/provide information as appropriate.

20. Information for Public Distribution

LEMC Committee Members are invited to provide information that the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup can share on their behalf, via social media or the Shire’s Website.

21. Closure

The Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 10:38 am and advised that the next Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday 4 February 2025 at 09:00AM, at the Donnybrook SES.

Committee members were invited to participate in an Incident Situation Report exercise, using the PESTLE Analysis guide. Agencies were invited to share Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Legal and Environmental considerations in a bushfire context for the 2024/25 bushfire season.



LEMC February 2025 Activity Report

Community Emergency Services Manager



A/CESM Position	The Shire of Donnybrook Balingup has offered a 12-month A/CESM position to the preferred candidate. An announcement to be made once recruitment has been formalised.
Mitigation	<p>Bushfire Risk Management Plan: Final draft is complete following a 8-month review process. Document to be forwarded to Council for endorsement. BRMP enables eligibility for future Mitigation Activity Funding from DFES.</p> <p>Planning for next year's mitigation works to be included for funding consideration are underway.</p>
Bushfire Service	<p>2025 training plan to commence in coming weeks, dependent on A/CESM availability throughout 2025.</p> <p>Developed improved PPE Ordering processes (less reliance on CESM)</p> <p>Arson events in Balingup. Person of interest identified and reported to Police. Significant drop in incidents.</p>
Event Approvals Process	<p>Event approvals for larger events are no longer approved under delegation as was done previously. Larger events are now presented to Council for consideration.</p> <p>An event has contested a council decision via the State Administrative Tribunal. This has proved to be a lengthy and resource-intensive process.</p>

Summer
2024/25

Donnybrook
LEMC



Fire Season

Season had a mild start within ongoing rain into late Spring

Rapid aerial and ground response by DBCA and Brigade crews has kept fires small

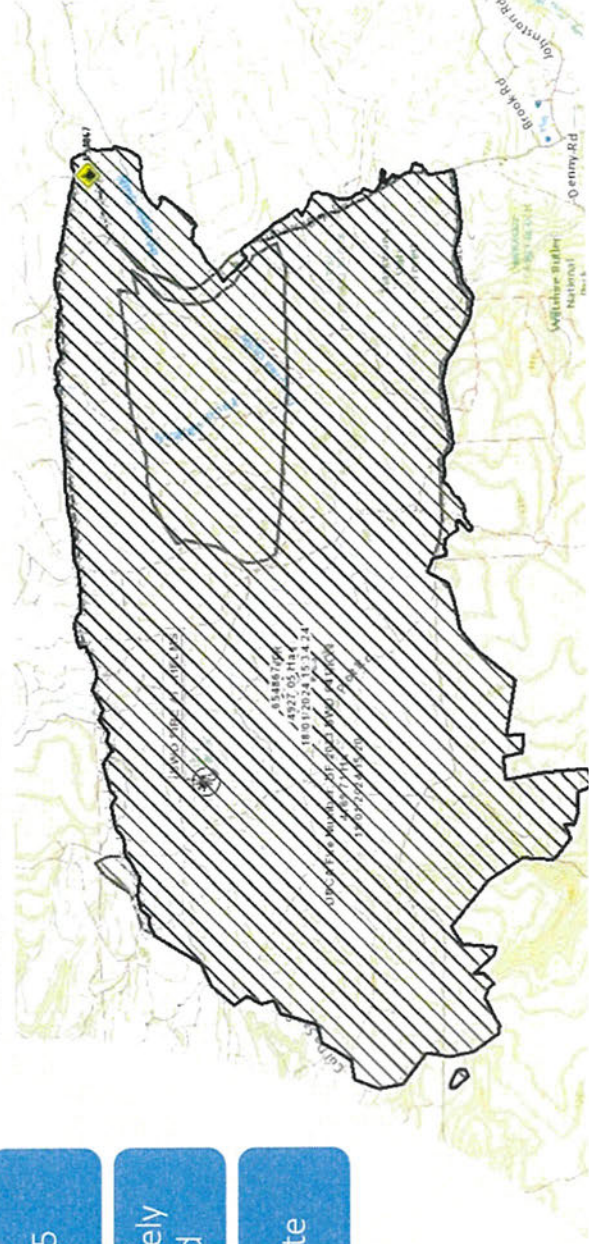
Currently at 67 fires for Blackwood District 2024/25

Arsonist in Balingup has accounted for approximately 20 fires extinguished while small and POI identified

Only 3 DBCA managed fires larger than 10ha to date

Mudbrook jure

Taken from GH3820

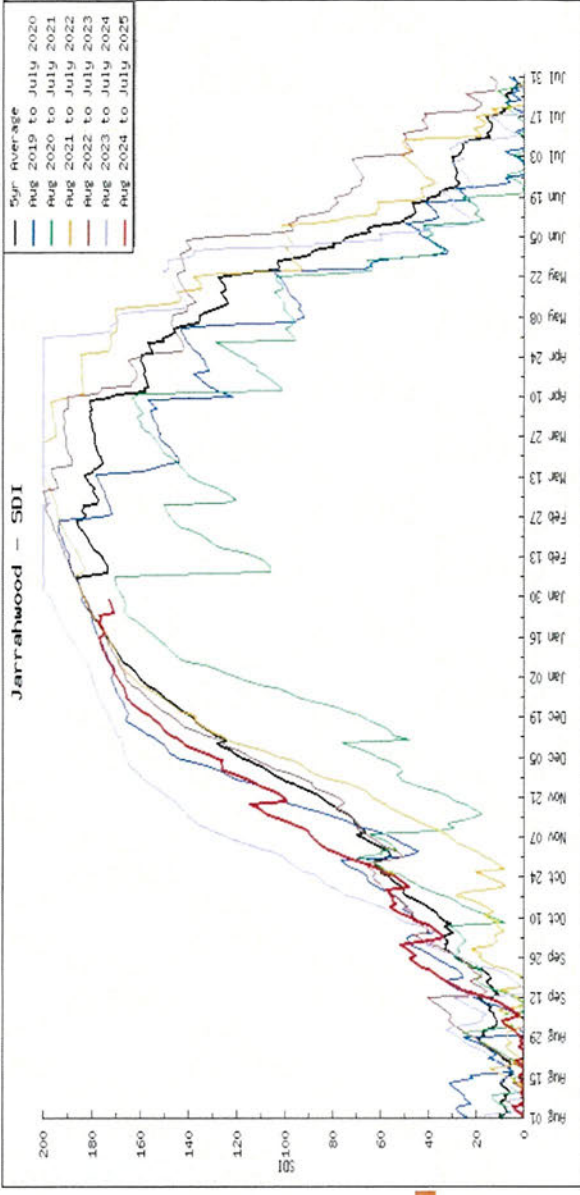
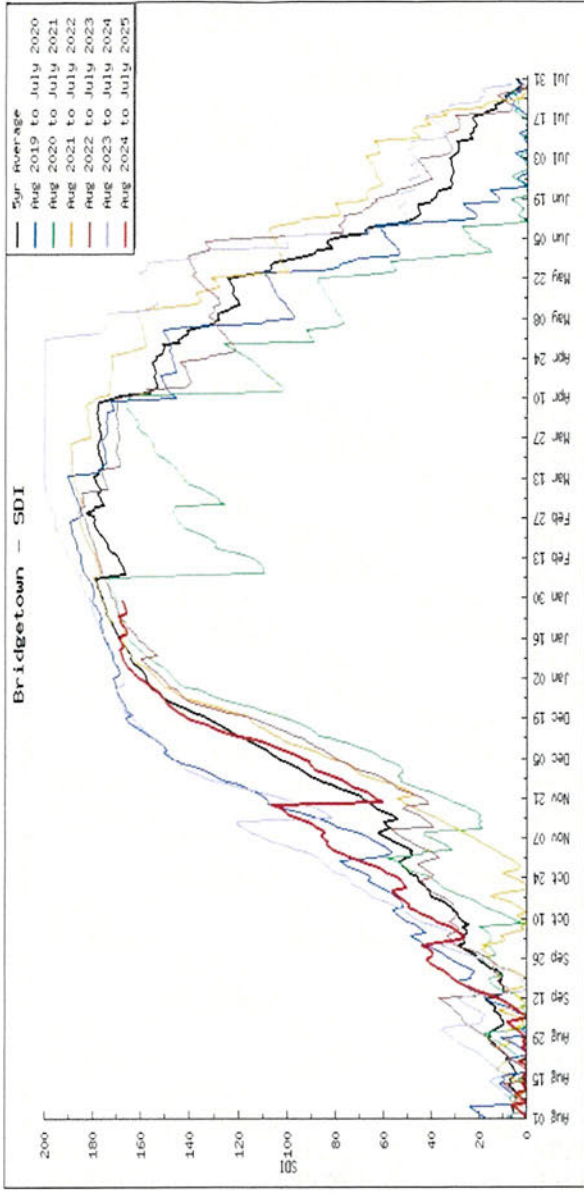


Summer conditions

Good winter rains with follow up into late Spring kept early summer fire behaviour limited

Soil moisture is currently below historical average

Experiencing normal enhanced fire behaviour conditions during west coast trough with associated lightning but this has come with some rainfall



Burning Season- Spring 2024

4 broadscale burns completed in the Shire. Kirup now surrounded by low fuels

Kirup (317ha)

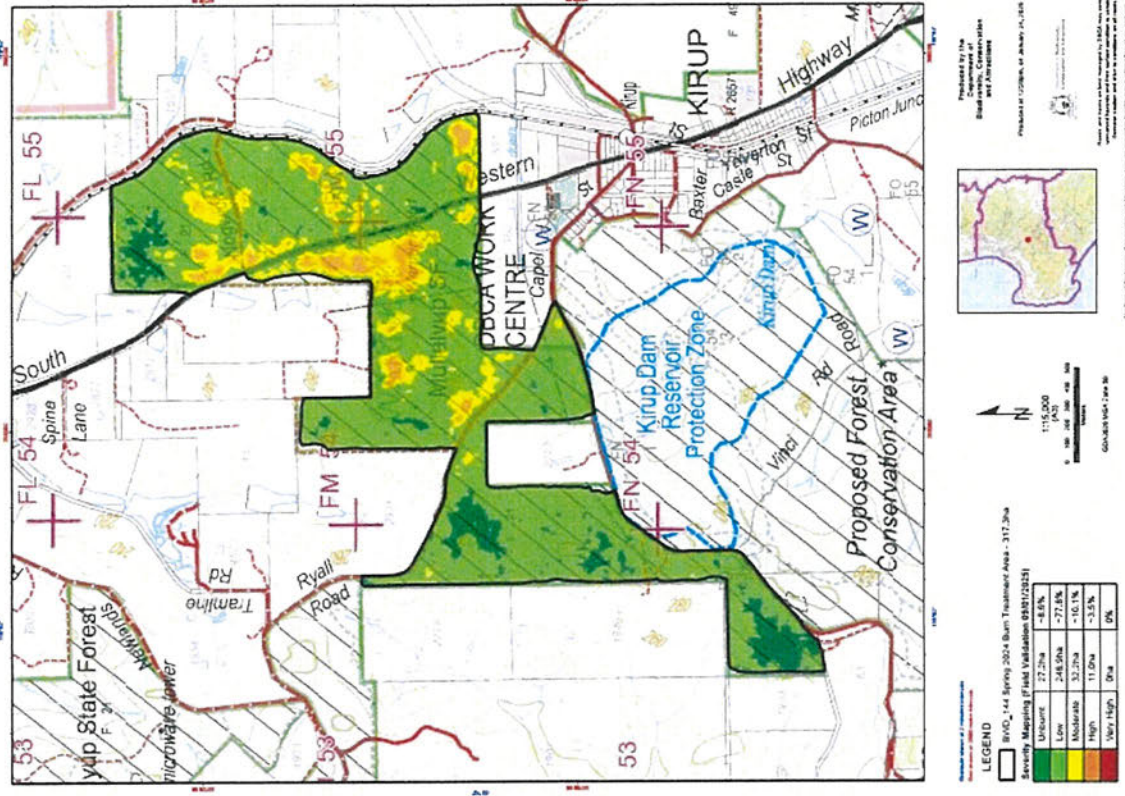
Warner (1924ha)

Warner Kelly (160ha)

Maryvale (3069ha)

Good burning season but unstable winds limited the number of larger aerial burns

BWD_144 KIRUP - SPRING 2024 SEVERITY MAP



Autumn 2025 Burn Options



Carry over of burns currently on the programme with the addition of new burns

Approximately 20 priority burns across the District

3 burns possible within the Donnybrook Shire this Autumn

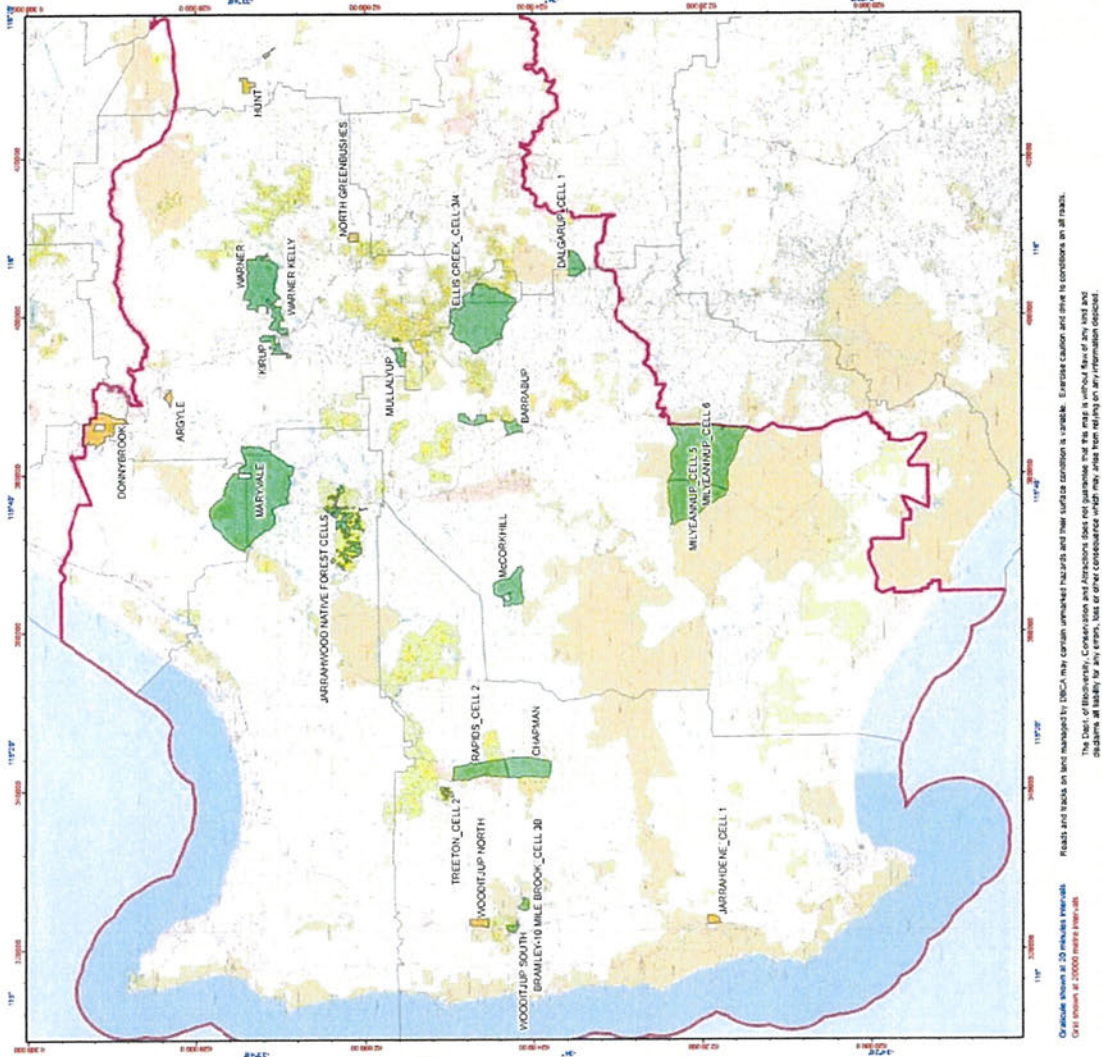


BWD_126 Warner Prescribed Burn-Spring 2024

Burn Options- Autumn 25

(Donnybrook-Balingup Shire)

- Warner Kelly (remaining)
- Argyle
- Donnybrook

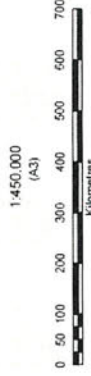


DBCA BLACKWOOD DISTRICT PROPOSED BURN PROGRAMME SPRING 2024

Legend

BURN PRIORITY

- 1
- 2
- Local Govt. Authorities (LGA)
- DBCA Blackwood District



GDA2020 MGA Zone 50



Produced by FMS Blackwood,
Department of
Biodiversity, Conservation
and Attractions

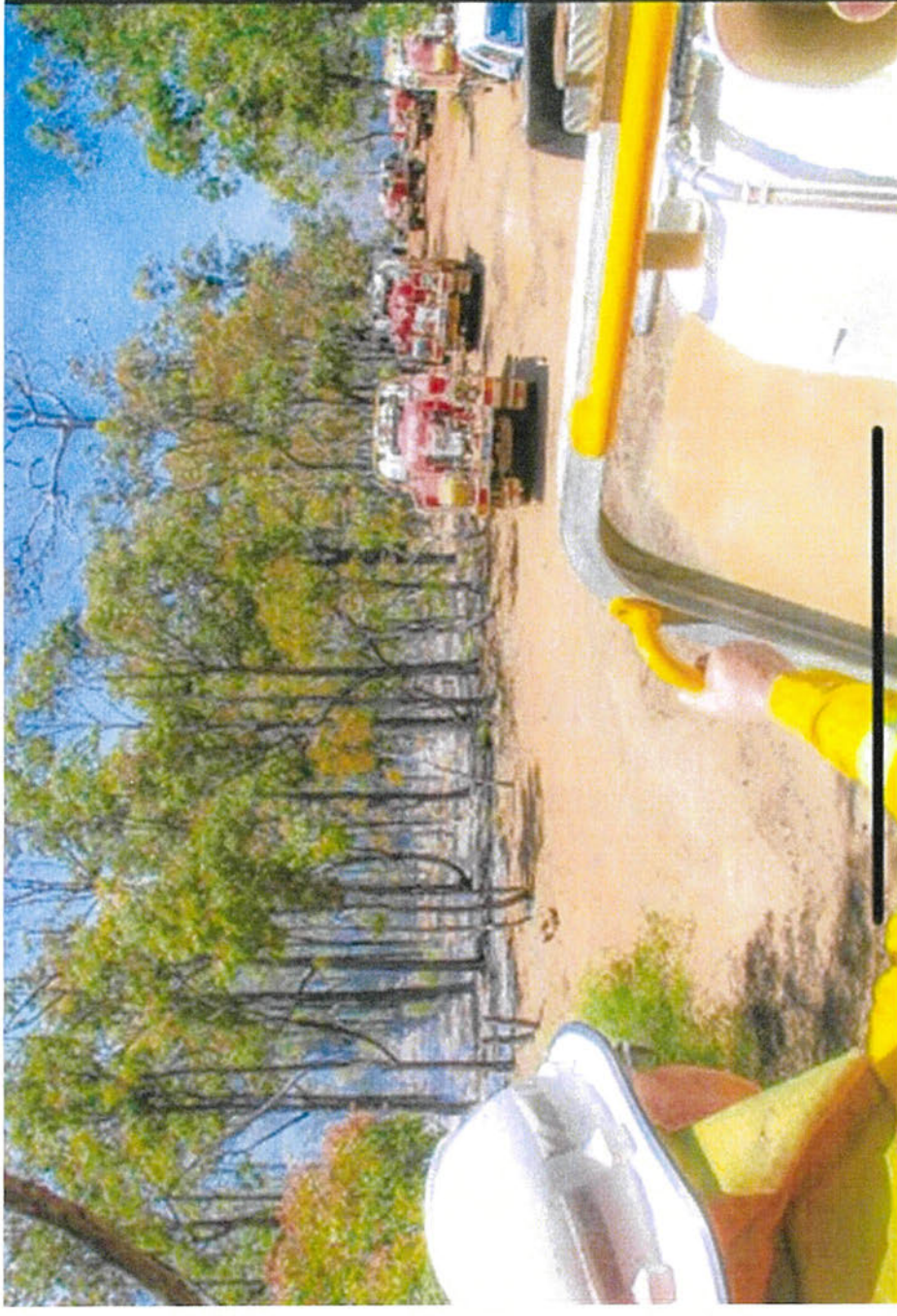


Product: July 2024

Geocode shown at 50-metre intervals. Roads and tracks on map managed by DBCA may contain unmarked hazards and their status condition is variable. Exercise caution and drive to conditions on all roads. The Dept. of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions does not guarantee that this map is without error of any kind and disclaims all liability for any errors, loss or other consequences of their use, other than relying on any information obtained.

Other issues

- Styles tower has reached the end of operational life – DBCA management currently considering funding for replacement
- Respirators provided to all DBCA crews and staff with fire related role



Questions



Emergency Relief and Support

LEMC REPORT FOR DISTRIBUTION

3rd quarter 2024 - 2025

Local ERS contacts

Activation via Communities Emergency Operations Coordinator

M: 0418 943 835 and Email: emergencyservices@communities.wa.gov.au

Regional Manager:	Mark Schorer
Regional Coordinator:	Renee Flaxman
Regional Officer:	Jo Spadaccini
Local Government:	Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup

Preparedness

- ERS is continuing to monitor the risks of the high threat season, combined with ongoing preparedness activities that support the event activation process.
 - As part of ERS seasonal preparedness, we have identified new locations for the pre-positioning of ERS equipment trailers to support rapid ERS deployment and response capabilities.
 - ERS continues to review local support services, such as accommodation providers and well-being services, that can be called on to support the needs of those people impacted by an emergency
 - The team will re-commence ERS Evacuation Centre training from Quarter 4 (April) across most regions. LEMC members are asked to identify staff or partners that may benefit from this training.
- The Local Emergency Response and Support Plan LERSP details the operational management and coordination of ERS under the Western Australian (WA) Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMAs).
 - The LERSP has been revised to ensure the content is more concise, and the structure more aligned to the State Support Plan.
 - All local governments will / have been asked for feedback and inputs to the LERSP prior to being tabled at the LEMC for endorsement.
- Preparedness lessons learnt and future opportunities

Local ERS contacts

- Continued monitoring of high risk weather conditions particularly in those seasonal high tourism locations and the impact on availability of accommodation providers.
- Development of a variety of opportunities for the pre-positioning of ERS equipment across LEMC areas taking into consideration LGA or commercial options.
- Evacuation Centre Audits – with a view to supporting LGAs with DRF applications. DRF can be utilised to upgrade Evacuation centres with work such as:
 - Improvements to local evacuations centres including support to improved electrical connectivity for power sources and the purchasing of generators.
 - Upgrades to kitchens, bathrooms and ablutions to support capacity requirements.
 - Installation of NBN satellite connection devices and;
 - Cyclone rated upgrades.
- Exercising with LEMC partners more in 2025 and leading discussions around the utilisation of evacuation centres by mining companies, schools, aged care facilities.

Response

Activations Quarter 3 November to 23 January 2025

- Pilbara Storm –Tom Price | November
- Wedge Island Bushfire – Jurien Bay | November
- Mount Adams Bushfire – Port Denison | December
- Carter Road Bushfire - Northam | January
- Green Range Bushfire - Albany | January
- Donnybrook Bushfire - Capel | January
- Myrup Bushfire - Esperance | January
- Karrakup Bushfire – Serpentine Jarrahdale | January

The **State Support Plan – Emergency Relief and Support** (SSP ERS) was approved by the State Emergency Management Committee at their meeting on 4 December 2024 with Statement of Fact changes.

This change includes information on Plan Activation for Level 1 Incidents.

For Level 1 Incidents: “Communities may be tasked by a HMA and/or Controlling Agency to provide ERS services to people impacted by this level of event within a single government or district area”.

Local ERS contacts

Aerodrome Learnings

- The use of regional airports for in flight responses and diversions is becoming more frequent.
- The Department of Communities Emergency Relief and Support can be activated by the HMA, WA Police in the case of an air crash (State Hazard Plan Crash Emergency 4.2.1).
- The welfare of the passengers is the responsibility of the Airline unless the crash is declared by the HMA to be a level 2 or 3 incident.
- Aircraft mechanical faults, diversions, extended delays, and cancellations that affect passengers remain outside of Department of Communities ERS remit.
- Further information on ERS activation, deployment responsibilities and remit within the State Hazard Plan Crash Emergency is available from the Regional Coordinator.

Recovery

Kimberley Floods Recovery Program

- During Quarter 3 and 4 of the final year of the Kimberley Floods Recovery Program, Communities' key focus remains on supporting the Return to Home Journey for impacted community members.
- In addition to the Return to Home Journey, we continue to support impacted community members with financial assistance claims and practical, personal and wellbeing supports that have been sourced from local providers.
- ERS continues to deliver consistent messaging to impacted community members and referrals to support services.

Bunbury Storms Recovery Program

- During Quarter 3 and 4 of the final year of the Bunbury Storms Recovery Program, Communities' remains focused on delivering financial assistance to allow impacted persons to replace essential household goods that were damaged during the storms.
- The Recovery Team also continues to support ongoing referrals for personal and wellbeing support services.

Western Australian Post-Disaster Cultural Outcomes Framework.

- The Framework includes a list of specific indicators that can be used to measure whether cultural outcomes are being achieved through the recovery process and can be used to support early recovery planning, as well as the evaluation of recovery programs.
- The Framework includes outcomes that are applicable across different communities, and can be adapted to the circumstances, needs and priorities of individual communities.

Recovery

- It can be used by anyone working in an Aboriginal community after a disaster, and can be implemented by local and State government, as well as non-government organisations.



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Fire & Emergency Services**



Shire of Donnybrook Balingup LEMC DFES Report – February 2025

The DFES Lower South West Region has been fortunate to date with below average fire occurrences to date with no incident escalating beyond local control. This has been an excellent result by all fire agencies to quickly attend to fires when they have started. With at least another 3 months of the declared bush fire season still to run its course, we look forward to continuing working with Local Shires and Brigades with the same vigilance in protecting the community.

Unfortunately, there continues to be an increase in injuries and accidents by firefighting personnel attending incidents across the state. Those attending incidents must continue to ensure their own safety is paramount when responding.

DFES Community Preparedness are promoting the “**Got 15 Minutes to Burn**” campaign, encouraging all residents to take 15 minutes to prepare a plan in the event of a bush fire via <https://mybushfireplan.wa.gov.au/>

The new **Emergency WA App** was launched in December 2024 and is available for both Apple and Android devices. The App offers the fastest, most reliable access to alerts and warnings for hazards across Western Australia and allows users to set custom watch zones, tailor notifications and listen to emergency broadcasts.

Mechanical and chemical mitigation works on Unallocated Crown Land (UCL) within townsites has been undertaken throughout the Shire by contractors. Burns planned for the Autumn season are being finalised by DFES Bush Fire Risk Management Officers.

Finally, I wish to convey our congratulations to Garry Davies for receiving the Shire’s Community Citizen of the Year Award for his dedication and commitment to the town’s emergency services. A very deserving recipient.

Chris Sousa
District Officer Nelson
0447 362 006

AGENCY REPORT

Local Emergency Management Committee

Agency	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
Prepared by	Tyler Hall
Position	DPIRD LEMC Representative – Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup
Date	9 th January 2025

List of emergency management prevention and preparedness activities your agency has completed since the last meeting?

- DPIRD is monitoring the Avian Influenza outbreaks in the eastern states. A huge amount of work has been conducted Nationally and with industries and other state agencies to ensure we are prepared to respond to a potential outbreak in WA.
- Incident and Emergency Management Branch actively advertising 2025 training calendar for improved response and larger DPIRD pool of capable responders.

Any emergency management response (level 2 or 3) activities conducted or supported since the last LEMC meeting?

DPIRD is continuing its management of 5x level 2 incidents:

- Polyphagous Shot-Hole Border (PSHB) (LINK: [PSHB](#))
- African Black Sugar Ant (LINK: [ABSA](#))
- Browsing Ant (LINK: [Browsing Ants](#))
- Red Dwarf Honey Bee (RDHB) (LINK: [RDHB](#))
- Queensland Fruit Fly (Qfly) (LINK: [Qfly](#))

Note: none have been detected in the south-west.

Any emergency management recovery activities conducted or supported since the last LEMC meeting?

[Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements](#) offered to those affected by:

- Category D: Ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie across LGAs of Broome, Derby, Kimberley, Halls Creek, Wyndham
- Category B: Heavy rainfall across the Geraldton region

Any other notable activities/information?

As the executor of the State Support Plan for Animal Welfare in Emergencies (AWiE), DPIRD encourages all LG's to have a Plan for Animal Welfare in Emergencies (PAWE) in place.

It is an important part of all-hazard planning as research has shown that animals will influence people's decision-making and behaviour during emergencies.

LG's can reach out to our Incident and Emergency Management Branch if they require advice and support for the development of their PAWE (contact emergencymanagement@dpiird.wa.gov.au).

Visit www.agric.wa.gov.au/animalwelfare/animal-welfare-emergencies for resources, support, and contacts.

DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISOR REPORT
3rd Quarter 2024-2025

STATE NEWS

The last meeting of the **State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC)** was held on the 4 December 2024. SEMC Communiqués can be found [here](#).

2025 SEMC MEETING SCHEDULE

- 13 March 2025
- 8 May 2025
- 7 August 2025
- 9 October 2025
- 4 December 2025

CONSULTATION REQUESTS

- State Recovery Arrangements – public consultation period to be announced in 2025

You can view all current and past consultations on the [Engage WA EM consultation homepage](#)

SEMC STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

It is expected that a draft Strategic Plan will be presented to SEMC for consideration in 2025.

LEMA IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

- The LEMA Improvement Program is a sector-led reform to address the findings and recommendations of the [LEMA Review Project](#).
- The aim of the Program is to design and develop new processes and tools to streamline and enhance the efficiency of preparing LEMA, ensuring they are more suitable for local governments.
- The LEMA Improvement Program Board provides strategic oversight and consists of representation from across State government and the WA Local Government Association (WALGA).
- The project team comprises a Project Officer employed by WALGA and a Director, Project Manager and supporting staff from DFES.
- The [Local Emergency Management Arrangements \(LEMA\) Guideline](#) was recently updated to comply with State guidelines for publishing accessible digital documents. This update does not reflect the work of the LEMA Improvement Program and will be further updated when the Program is complete.
- Local governments are not required to take action due to the LEMA Guideline update.
- WALGA will commence piloting newly proposed LEMA tools and templates in 2025, via an expression of interest.
- Work has also commenced to develop a LEMA maturity assessment model to provide local governments with a pathway to develop and improve their emergency management capability and maturity.
- It is anticipated that new resources will be available in the first half of 2026.
- Until the reform of LEMA, if your local government's LEMA is scheduled for review, proceed as planned to maintain your obligations under the *Emergency Management Act 2005*.
- Keep up to date by visiting the [SEMC website](#) or the [WALGA website](#).



- WALGA has received valuable feedback from Local Governments, which has informed the LEMA Improvement Program. WALGA extends their gratitude to all members for their contributions.
- WALGA is facilitating a LEMA Working Group with representatives from 10 local governments who are providing advice to the project team and will co-design new templates and supporting resources.
- The project teams and local government LEMA working group have been working collaboratively to design and develop new LEMA tools to streamline and enhance the efficiency of preparing LEMA, ensuring they are more suitable for local governments.

Pilot Program for LEMA Tools:

The proposed tools for LEMA approaches will be piloted with the broader Local Government sector. This will help inform the SEMC’s rollout of a more fit-for-purpose LEMA model.

Expression of Interest for Pilot Participation:

- The pilot will be advertised as an expression of interest via WALGA communications
- Initial selection criteria will include:
 1. One Local Government from each band.
 2. LEMAs that are overdue or due for renewal.
 3. Local Governments that have not received AWARE funding for LEMA review.
 4. Local Government commitment and capacity to support the pilot and progress to council endorsement.
- Keep an eye on the WALGA webpage and their network links for updates. The trial is expected to last 3 to 4 months.
- For additional information, please contact Catherine Feeney in the Emergency Management Policy team at WALGA or via the DEMAs.

DISTRICT NEWS

The next **District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC)** will be held on **Tuesday 18 March 2025**.

LOCAL NEWS

LOCAL OPERATIONAL RECOVERY PLAN (LORP) EXERCISE

A Local Operational Recovery Plan (LORP) is an action plan developed by local governments after an emergency, which identifies the outcomes and activities required to effect recovery in an impacted community.

A LORP is:

- Unique to each incident.
- Operational in nature.
- Flexible, based on changing recovery needs.

A LORP can assist local governments with their coordination of recovery activities by:

- Providing a process for considering known impacts and planning activities.
- Ensuring that recovery efforts are not duplicated across recovery partners/agencies.
- Fostering collaboration across internal local government teams and externally with community members/groups and recovery partners/agencies.

If you would like the opportunity to draft a LORP with relevant Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) members and Local Government staff, as well as meet your annual exercising responsibilities, please reach out to me to schedule it in 2025.

SECTOR UPDATES

EMERGENCY WA MOBILE APP

The State Government and Department of Fire and Emergency Services has now launched the new Emergency WA mobile app. The Emergency WA app will deliver faster, personalised emergency information, empowering you to make decisions to protect yourself, your property and your family. With the app, you can:

- Create customised watch zones to receive notifications about relevant alerts and warnings straight to your devices.
- Access and listen live to ABC emergency broadcasts.
- Use a read aloud tool to listen to warnings.
- Upload and store documents in one place, such as your Bushfire Plan.

The app will be the fastest and most accurate way for the Western Australian community to get trusted alerts and warnings for hazards across the State. A [toolkit](#) is available with shareable resources.

Below are some helpful resources to help you understand the app and its features:

- [Introduction to Emergency WA](#)
- [Creating a Watch Zone](#)
- FAQs located in the app, under 'More information'

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to statepublicinfo@dfes.wa.gov.au.

UPCOMING DISASTER READY FUND – ROUND THREE

The Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) Round Three is now open for applications. Project Proposals must be submitted via the online [application portal](#) on the DFES website by 5 pm (AWST) on **2 April 2025**. **Late submissions will not be accepted.**

The DRF is offering \$200 million in funding nationwide and is currently the most significant funding source for Local Government disaster resilience and risk reduction projects. The DRF will focus on building community resilience through disaster prevention, rather than response and recovery. It will support the planning and construction of infrastructure and systemic disaster risk reduction projects.

WA Local Governments were successful in securing funding for 26 projects in Round 2 of the DRF, ranging from community safety Australian Fire Danger Rating signs to supporting community connectivity in times of disaster and evacuation centre upgrades and redevelopments.

As part of DRF Round Three, NEMA introduced a [number of changes](#). Please read the Round Three Guidelines in their entirety to ensure you are familiar with all the requirements before submitting a Project Proposal. For further information and examples of previously successful projects please visit the [DFES website](#).

PREMIERS NATURAL DISASTER RECOVERY FUND

- In partnership with Lotterywest, the new Premier's Natural Disaster Recovery Fund aims to provide timely relief for communities impacted by emergencies

- Up to \$20,000 available for households, community groups and local businesses following an emergency and will bridge the gap between immediate emergency assistance and insurance payouts, which are often provided at a later stage.
- In addition to the existing Premier's Relief Payments

Funds will be distributed by partners Australian Red Cross and the Western Australian Council of Social Service.

Information on the *Premier's Natural Disaster Recovery Fund* is available at WA.gov.au/premiersrecoveryfund.

VIDEO GUIDES FOR DISASTER RECOVERY FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA

DFES has produced videos to help Local Governments and State agencies understand how Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements for Western Australia (DRFAWA) work and the different types of assistance available. Access the video modules by filling out this registration form.

If you are already a MobiliseME account, email DFES to have the module assigned to your profile.

Contact the DFES Recovery Team on drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au or 1800 920 659 for DRFA assistance.

Compiled by:
District Emergency Management Advisor – South West
Department of Fire and Emergency Services
As at 24 January 2025.



State Emergency Management Policy Communique

The purpose of this communique is to provide an update on the comprehensive review and publication of State emergency management (EM) documents in Western Australia.

The key messages below may be used to brief relevant stakeholders. Emergency Management Agencies and supporting organisations are responsible for providing information and awareness of these key policy changes to their own internal staff and advisory groups. All current State EM documents can be found on the [State Emergency Management Committee website](#).

Key Messages

Accessibility review of the LEMA Guideline

- On 7 May 2021, the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) approved amendments to improve the inclusivity and accessibility of the State EM documents (resolution number 32/2021). At the time, the accessible redesign of the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) Guideline was put on hold to align with an ongoing LEMA review project.
- The State EM Policy Branch prioritised an accessibility review of the LEMA and Model following stakeholder notification that the Word template of the Model LEMA published on the SEMC webpage was significantly out of date. The existing guideline and template did not comply with State guidelines for publishing accessible digital documents.
- The publication of the revised LEMA Guideline and Model in an accessible format allows for these documents to comply with existing guidelines for accessible digital documents aims to assist with the ongoing review and consultation of the LEMA. The accessibility review was progressed following consultation with members of the LEMA Program Advisory Group.
- Local governments do not need to amend current LEMAs to match the revised LEMA Guideline and Model template.
- On 22 January 2025, the Deputy SEMC Executive Officer approved minor amendments to the LEMA Guideline to reflect the accessibility review.
- Amendments were issued to correct errors, provide consistency with other State EM documents and to provide clarity through the simplification of language and document structure. Substantive information and prescriptive directions were not reviewed or amended.
- A detailed list of amendments to the documents can be found on the [emergency management review schedule and document amendments page](#) of the State Emergency Management Committee website.

Comprehensive review of the LEMA Guideline

- The accessibility review does not aim to replace the comprehensive review of the document, which remains on hold to align with the ongoing LEMA Improvement Program Management Plan and LEMA Pilot Program.

The State EM Policy Branch of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) administers the review and consultation of the State EM documents. Please contact the State EM Policy Branch at semc.policylegislation@dfes.wa.gov.au if you have any questions regarding this accessibility review.

Proposed New Model for State Involvement in Recovery

The State Emergency Management Policy includes a proposed new *Model for State Involvement in Recovery*, which details the coordination arrangements and the roles and responsibilities of local and state governments, depending on the complexity of the recovery process and the capacity and capability of local government.

	R1	R2	R3	R4
Complexity of Recovery	Low to medium	Medium to high	Very high	Extraordinary
Government Capacity	Recovery is within capacity of local government.	Local government requires some support to manage recovery.	Local government needs significant State support to manage recovery.	Recovery exceeds capacity of local government and requires additional arrangements for the State.
Recovery Coordination Arrangements	Recovery is managed and coordinated by the local government.	Local government manages and coordinates recovery with State support.	The State leads recovery coordination. Local government manages local activities.	The State directs and coordinates recovery. Local government manages local activities.
Recovery Lead	Local Recovery Coordinator	Local Recovery Coordinator	[Event] Recovery Coordinator	[Event] Recovery Controller

Please note: there is no relationship between recovery levels (R1 - R4) and incident response levels.





Published February 2025

State Emergency Management Framework

Overview of proposed revised recovery arrangements

This summary provides an overview of the proposed revisions of recovery arrangements in the recovery chapters of the State Emergency Management (State EM) Policy, Plan and Procedure.

Topic	Description
<p>State Strategic Recovery Priorities</p>  <p>Reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy section 6.1.9 	<p>The amendments introduce four State Strategic Recovery Priorities in the State EM Policy, to replace the recovery objectives in State EM Plan s6.1.</p> <p>The Priorities contemporise the former recovery objectives and incorporate the principle of 'build back better'. The Priorities provide guidance to government about what is important when making decisions about the planning and delivery of recovery operations in WA.</p> <p>The approach of using Strategic Priorities is consistent with the approach adopted in the State EM Policy for Response operations (Chapter 5) which provides for State Strategic Control Priorities.</p> <p>The Priorities have been informed by the National Principles for Disaster Recovery outlined in the Australian Disaster Recovery Framework (October 2022).</p>

<p>Model for State Involvement in Recovery</p>  <p>Reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy sections 6.1.4, 6.4 & Appendix 1 Plan section 6.2.2 	<p>The new model introduces a four-tiered framework to guide State involvement in recovery. As the complexity of recovery increases the level of State involvement will escalate. To avoid confusion with the Response Operations categorisation of incidents (Level 1-3), the Recovery Levels are referred to as R1-R4.</p>
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Policy



Plan



Procedure



Topic	Description
	<p>The model is supported by the Recovery Level Assessment Support Tool (see below) which together, replace the Escalation Factors for Recovery in Appendix G of the current State EM Plan. The State Recovery Coordinator will use the model and tool when assessing recovery complexity and providing advice to the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner on the level of State involvement required for a recovery.</p> <p>The model was successfully trialled in recent recoveries following the Mariginiup Bushfire 2024 and Bunbury Storms 2024 and is similar in principle to approaches used in Tasmania, South Australia and New South Wales.</p>

Recovery Level Assessment Support Tool



Reference:



- Plan section 6.2.2
- Procedure section 5.6

The Recovery Level Assessment Support Tool has been developed to support the Model for State Involvement in Recovery and assist the State Recovery Coordinator to assess recovery complexity and advise the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner on the State support arrangements required.



The tool considers the scale of disruption to community function from the emergency, level of coordination effort required for recovery efforts and capacity and capability of affected local government(s) to manage recovery.

The tool will replace the Escalation Factors for Recovery in Appendix G of the current State EM Plan.



Topic	Description
<p>Minister for Emergency Services is lead minister for Recovery</p>  <p>Reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Policy section 6.1.5	<p>During the Machinery of Government changes in 2017, the State recovery team was transferred to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, including the function of State recovery coordination and administration of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Western Australia (DRFAWA). State recovery as a function, role or responsibility is not defined in the existing State EM Policy however Government has some clear expectations of the function.</p>
<p>and</p>	
<p>Department of Fire and Emergency Services is the lead agency for recovery</p>  <p>Reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Policy section 6.1.6 & Appendix A	<p>The proposed amendments will recognise the Minister for Emergency Services as the lead minister and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services as the lead agency for recovery.</p> <p>The Minister for Emergency Services is responsible for overseeing recovery preparedness and operations and providing coordinated cross-government advice on recovery to the Premier and State Government.</p> <p>The Department of Fire and Emergency Services responsibilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· maintaining a standing State Recovery Coordinator;· provide coordinated cross-government reporting and strategic advice to government about recovery including strategic risks and issues;· host an Event Recovery Coordinator/Controller and supporting taskforce / business unit as required; and· coordinate monitoring, evaluation and learning activities for recovery.
	<p>A provision is also included to enable the delegation of some of responsibilities of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services to another agency in a specific recovery, where that agency has specific expertise, resources, knowledge or stakeholder networks. For example, the Department of Premier and Cabinet hosted the Covid-19 Controller and Taskforce.</p>



Topic	Description
<p data-bbox="225 315 501 387">Greater emphasis on engaging community</p> <div data-bbox="244 409 555 499"></div> <p data-bbox="225 521 363 551">Reference:</p> <ul data-bbox="240 562 564 712" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="240 562 564 633">• Policy section 6.1 (State Strategic Recovery Priorities)<li data-bbox="240 685 491 712">• Plan section 6.2.2	<p data-bbox="635 315 1366 589">A new provision has been included that specifically requires local and state governments to engage communities to understand community needs and priorities, and in the planning, design and governance of recovery. This provision is intended to ensure the State Strategic Recovery Priority to 'enable community-centred recovery' is achieved.</p> <p data-bbox="635 640 1286 790">The amendments do not prescribe a specific engagement model, rather enabling a model to be developed that suits the specific recovery needs of community and local government.</p> <p data-bbox="635 842 1329 1081">Possible options could include convening a community working or advisory group. A similar model, the Fitzroy Valley Flood Recovery Working Group was self-formed by the Fitzroy Valley community themselves during the Kimberley Floods Recovery and was (and continues to be) a powerful voice for the community.</p>
<p data-bbox="225 1167 564 1196">Three phases of Recovery</p> <div data-bbox="244 1218 555 1308"></div> <p data-bbox="225 1330 363 1359">Reference:</p> <ul data-bbox="240 1370 587 1442" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="240 1370 587 1442">• Plan sections Introduction, 6.1, 6.2 & 6.3	<p data-bbox="635 1167 1366 1406">The three phases of recovery have been introduced to assist with structuring recovery planning, operations and delivery. This approach is similar to other jurisdictions including NSW and QLD and aligns with the four aspects of emergency management – prevention, preparedness, response and recovery (PPRR).</p> <p data-bbox="635 1458 1339 1648">The Preparing for Recovery phase occurs before an emergency to improve capacity and capability for recovery. It involves preparing for recovery through the development and maintenance of policies, planning, systems, training and exercising.</p>



Topic	Description
	<p>The Response and Early Recovery phase covers the period during and immediately after an emergency (usually days to weeks but may extend longer depending on the nature of the hazard). As per the current arrangements, early recovery activities are initiated and coordinated by the Hazard Management Agency and then transitioned to the local government (or State Government depending on the circumstances). Activities in this phase focus on mitigating the immediate impacts and alleviating suffering and distress, determining the level of state support required and establishing recovery governance structures.</p> <p>The Recovery Operations phase commences when responsibility for recovery has transferred from the Hazard Management Agency. This aim of this phase is to address recovery needs and assist the community restore a stable level of function across the four functional areas of social, built, environment and economy. Activities in this phase include recovery needs assessment, community engagement, planning and implementation of recovery programs, as well as monitoring and evaluation.</p>

Responsibilities of Hazard Management Agency



Reference:



- Policy section 6.2 & 6.6
- Plan section 6.2.1

Hazard Management Agencies have an existing legislative function to initiate and support recovery.

The proposed amendments provide more clarity as to these responsibilities which include planning and preparing for recovery, ensuring early recovery activities are commenced and planning the transition between response-led and recovery-led operations. In some circumstances, the Hazard Management Agency may delegate some responsibilities to another Controlling Agency.

Hazard Management Agencies should update the recovery arrangements in State Hazard Plans to better reflect these responsibilities and other amendments to the framework.





Topic	Description
<p data-bbox="217 315 520 389">Transition between response and recovery</p> <div data-bbox="237 409 549 495"></div> <p data-bbox="217 521 360 551">Reference:</p> <ul data-bbox="237 562 483 633" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="237 562 483 591">• Policy section 6.2<li data-bbox="237 600 483 633">• Plan section 6.2.1	<p data-bbox="632 315 1342 465">The proposed amendments will reduce the emphasis on an Impact Statement as a 'trigger' for transition of responsibility for coordinating recovery from the Hazard Management Agency to the local or State Government.</p> <p data-bbox="632 521 1358 672">The new process will better accommodate complex emergencies where there is no 'hard finish' of response and prolonged emergencies where response and recovery occur concurrently for extended periods of time.</p> <p data-bbox="632 723 1310 873">In a R1 and R2 recovery, the transition arrangements must be agreed with the local government(s) before responsibility of recovery coordination is passed from the Hazard Management Agency to local government.</p> <p data-bbox="632 925 1350 1075">In a R3 and R4 recovery the Hazard Management Agency, local government(s), State Recovery Coordinator and where appointed an Event Recovery Coordinator / Controller, must jointly prepare a written transition plan.</p>
<p data-bbox="217 1128 576 1202">Requirement for an Impact Statement</p> <div data-bbox="237 1223 549 1308"></div> <p data-bbox="217 1335 360 1364">Reference:</p> <ul data-bbox="237 1375 541 1491" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="237 1375 541 1404">• Policy section 6.2.2<li data-bbox="237 1413 541 1442">• Plan section 6.2.1<li data-bbox="237 1451 541 1480">• Procedure section 5.3	<p data-bbox="632 1128 1318 1234">The current wording setting out the requirements for an Impact Statement requires amendment to improve clarity and avoid confusion.</p> <p data-bbox="632 1285 1326 1435">The amendments will clarify that an Impact Statement is required in all Level 2 and 3 incidents, unless an exemption has been granted by the State Recovery Coordinator.</p> <p data-bbox="632 1487 1350 1704">The State Recovery Coordinator may grant an exemption if there are no impacts to the social, built, environment or economic functional areas which require recovery activities. When deciding whether or not an Impact Statement is required, the State Recovery Coordinator must consult the local government(s).</p> <p data-bbox="632 1756 1358 1973">An Impact Statement will not be required per se following a Level 1 incident. However, if there are impacts that are expected to result in recovery activities then the State Recovery Coordinator may direct that one is completed. This may occur following a request from the local government.</p>





Topic	Description
<p>New State-level coordinator position – Event Recovery Coordinator</p> <p>and</p> <p>Clarified responsibilities, powers and accountability of the three state-level coordinator positions</p>  <p>Reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Policy section 6.5• Procedure section 5.5 (appointment)	<p>The updated arrangements clarify the responsibilities and reporting arrangements for the State Recovery Coordinator and for a Recovery Controller or Coordinator where one has been appointed for a specific recovery event.</p> <p>Under the new Model for State Involvement in Recovery, the State Recovery Coordinator will provide overall coordination of state-level recovery activities in R1 and R2 level recoveries, including setting the strategic direction and coordinating funding proposals.</p> <p>In more complex R3 and R4 recoveries, an event-specific Recovery Coordinator (R3) or Controller (R4) will be appointed. These positions will assume responsibility for coordinating state-level recovery activities from the State Recovery Coordinator and have greater 'powers' than the State Recovery Coordinator to advise/recommend the priorities, approach and resources of state agencies. Unless the Minister or Premier determines otherwise, these positions will generally report to the Minister for Emergency Services via the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner.</p> <p>Similar event-specific coordinator positions were successfully trialled in recent recoveries with the appointment of the Kimberley Floods Recovery Coordinator and Covid-19 Recovery Controller.</p>
<p>State Agencies – general duty and functional recovery roles</p>  <p>Reference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Policy section 6.7 & Appendix 2	<p>The updated arrangements confirm the responsibility of all state agencies to support recovery activities based on their portfolio areas of responsibility and/or expertise. The State Recovery Coordinator and [Event] Recovery Coordinator/Controller may also request agencies to assist with information, data and expertise.</p> <p>All state agencies involved in the delivery of recovery programs will be also required to facilitate data sharing and contribute to whole of government recovery reporting.</p> <p>The amendments will also assign some agencies with specific functional roles on the State Recovery Coordination Group, State Recovery Domains and to assist with specific recovery activities such as clean up and temporary accommodation.</p>




Topic	Description
<p data-bbox="213 309 533 510">Membership and responsibilities of State Recovery Domains and State Recovery Coordination Group</p> <div data-bbox="236 528 545 618"></div> <p data-bbox="213 640 357 674">Reference:</p> <ul data-bbox="229 680 555 797" style="list-style-type: none">• Policy section 6.8• Procedure section 5.1 & 5.2	<p data-bbox="625 309 1334 546">The amendments clarify the responsibilities of the State Recovery Coordination Group and State Recovery Domains and assigns some agencies with specific functional roles on these groups. These arrangements are already in place informally and worked successfully in recent recoveries.</p> <p data-bbox="625 595 1340 712">Having these arrangements in place will facilitate faster activation of the groups and enable early recovery planning.</p> <p data-bbox="625 761 1327 999">The Departments of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Water and Environmental Regulation and Communities will be assigned as Chairs of the State Economic, Environment and Social Recovery Domains respectively. The Department of Fire and Emergency Services will chair the Built Domain.</p> <p data-bbox="625 1048 1295 1205">These agencies will also form the core membership of the State Recovery Coordination Group along with Department of Treasury, Department of Finance and Department of Premier and Cabinet.</p>

<p data-bbox="213 1245 517 1323">Executive Government Forum</p> <div data-bbox="236 1344 545 1433"></div> <p data-bbox="213 1456 357 1489">Reference:</p> <ul data-bbox="229 1496 504 1529" style="list-style-type: none">• Policy section 6.8.8	<p data-bbox="625 1245 1359 1525">Where there are complex policy issues or matters in a recovery event that require additional strategic oversight and direction by the executive level of government, the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner may refer an issue or matter to an existing cross-government executive forum (e.g. the Public Sector Leadership Council) or convene a Chief Executive Officer-level forum.</p> <p data-bbox="625 1574 1359 1653">A similar forum was utilised successfully in the Kimberley Floods Recovery and is also used by Queensland.</p>
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Topic	Description
<p data-bbox="225 315 528 389">Public information and communications</p> <div data-bbox="240 412 555 501"></div> <p data-bbox="225 521 363 555">Reference:</p> <ul data-bbox="225 562 491 595" style="list-style-type: none">· Policy section 6.11	<p data-bbox="635 315 1369 517">The proposed amendments will update public information and communications arrangements to match current practice - coordinated by DFES in capacity as the lead agency for state recovery and not the State Emergency Public Information Coordinator.</p> <p data-bbox="635 562 1289 678">All state agencies are required to consult with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services before releasing information.</p> <p data-bbox="635 723 1358 1010">This is similar to the arrangements in place during response operations where public information and communications is managed by the Incident Controller and will ensure that it is managed and disseminated in a timely, accurate and credible manner and in accordance with requirements under the joint WA – Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.</p>
<p data-bbox="225 1048 576 1164">Transition from recovery arrangements to business-as-usual service delivery</p> <div data-bbox="240 1187 555 1276"></div> <p data-bbox="225 1296 363 1330">Reference:</p> <ul data-bbox="225 1337 491 1413" style="list-style-type: none">· Policy section 6.13· Plan section 6.3.3	<p data-bbox="635 1048 1353 1227">Local and State Government recovery arrangements should be de-escalated or stood down when recovery services can be delivered through business-as-usual operations of the local and state government and extra-arrangements are no longer required.</p> <p data-bbox="635 1272 1353 1377">It is important the transition process is planned and managed in a coordinated and orderly fashion to ensure there are no gaps in service delivery for the community.</p> <p data-bbox="635 1422 1326 1554">The State Recovery Coordinator is responsible for planning and coordinating the de-escalation of state involvement from R3/R4 to R1/R2 as the need for state recovery coordination arrangements diminishes.</p>



Topic	Description
<p data-bbox="220 315 593 472">Amendment to terminology from 'recovery environments' to 'functional areas'</p> <div data-bbox="240 483 552 573"></div> <p data-bbox="220 584 363 618">Reference:</p> <ul data-bbox="236 622 512 656" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="236 622 512 656">• Plan - introduction	<p data-bbox="635 315 1326 461">The current arrangements refer to 'recovery environments of social, built, natural and economic' to assist with organising planning and design of recovery activities.</p> <p data-bbox="635 501 1353 613">To avoid confusion with the terminology for the State Environment Recovery Domain, the four areas have been renamed as 'functional areas':</p> <ul data-bbox="651 618 1369 1256" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="651 618 1369 763">• The social functional area focuses on the health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities, including safety, security and shelter, health and psychosocial wellbeing.<li data-bbox="651 768 1369 913">• The built functional area focuses on physical infrastructure, including essential services, commercial and industrial facilities, public buildings, assets and housing.<li data-bbox="651 918 1369 1144">• The environment functional area focuses on land-based, aquatic, coastal and marine ecosystems, and environmental values that are of cultural, local and/or national significance. This area includes the management and disposal of waste and management of environmental health issues.<li data-bbox="651 1149 1369 1256">• The economic functional area focuses on the economy (local and state-level), including jobs, businesses and industries. <p data-bbox="635 1301 1337 1368">The scope of the four standing State Recovery Domains aligns with the scope of the four functional areas.</p>



SEMC
STATE EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

DFES
Department of Fire &
Emergency Services



3 February 2025

Review of State Recovery Arrangements Emergency Management Framework

Update for Local and District Emergency Management Committees (LEMC and DEMC)

PUBLIC CONSULTATION NOW OPEN

Public consultation on proposed changes to the State Recovery Arrangements in the State Emergency Management Framework is open from **3 February to 2 May 2025**. Visit the State Emergency Management Committee website www.engagewaem.com.au/recovery to find out more information, download the proposed amendments and register for an information session.

Since 2020, WA has faced an increasing number of large and complex disasters requiring higher levels of State Government support for recovery. Our current recovery practices have evolved and the recovery arrangements in the existing State Emergency Management (EM) Framework no longer reflect the needs of WA communities or our recovery capabilities.

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) asked the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) to review the recovery arrangements in the EM Framework. As a result of this review, DFES has recommended comprehensive amendments to contemporise the recovery chapters in the EM Policy, Plan and Procedure.

The proposed amendments more clearly define the recovery arrangements, roles and responsibilities of State government, and provide greater clarity for local government about when and how the State Government will become involved in a recovery. The amendments:

- introduce a four-tiered (R1-R4) model where State involvement in recovery increases depending on the complexity of recovery and capacity and capability of local government;
- enable the State Government to appoint a recovery coordinator for a R3 recovery, and a controller for a R4 recovery;
- establish a mechanism for the State to provide support to a local government where a recovery coordinator or controller is not appointed but the local government needs some additional support (an R2 recovery);
- clarify the role of Hazard Management Agencies to initiate and coordinate early recovery activities during the response and early recovery phase;



- require the transition of recovery coordination from Hazard Management Agency to local (or State) government to be agreed and planned, with reduced emphasis on the Impact Statement as a 'trigger for handover';
- require local and State government to engage Community members to understand community needs and priorities, and in the planning, design and governance of recovery; and
- require the de-escalation of State involvement and transition back to 'business-as-usual' service arrangements to be planned and agreed between State and local government.

The proposed amendments do not alter the roles and responsibilities of local government under the Emergency Management Act 2005 or the arrangements for funding provided by the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Western Australia (DRFAWA).

Public consultation on the proposed amendments to the State Emergency Management Framework is being undertaken from **3 February to 5pm on 2 May 2025**.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services is offering information sessions and briefings to local governments and state government agencies. To register for an event visit www.engagewaem.com.au/recovery or contact DFES at recoverypolicy@dfes.wa.gov.au.

For further information, or to provide feedback on the proposed amendments, visit the SEMC website at www.engagewaem.com.au/recovery.



Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC)

Donnybrook Fire & Rescue Report

Meeting Date: 4th February 2025

Meeting Location: Donnybrook SES

Jobs since last meeting: (November 2024) - **22 Jobs**

Mobile Property Crash – Vehicle Accident	8	36%
Tree - Grass - Scrub Fire	5	23%
Direct Brigade Alarm (DBA)	4	18%
Structure Fire	2	9%
Called off En-Route	2	9%
Rubbish fire - Green Waste	1	5%

Activities:

- Trail of the new Light Rescue Tender went well & it will replace the rescue trailer in about 12 to 18 months.
- Been a busy 6 months. Brigade has done 50 jobs so far.
- Assisting the local BFB brigades at the larger jobs.
- Dual response zone is up & running for the hi threat period.
- Area Officer's visit in January
- Visted blue moon packing shed in Kirup with Kirup BFB to do a pre plan of the building plus training on how the booster system works.

On the Horizon:

- Possible deployment of 2 crew to assist in Victoria.
- Preparing for the upcoming mitigation burns.
- Monthly training
- Argyle BFB training on the hydrant booster system at IGA

LEMC Report St John Ambulance Donnybrook Sub Centre

4 2 2025

Members

14 Emergency Medical Technicians

6 Emergency Medical Assistants

St John now have further paramedic support coming in to support local Priority 1 cases.

A new management structure is also in place for the sub centre and district.

We crewed for a night shift at the recent Argyle fire.

Training begins for 2025 Wednesday 5 2

Cross-training with Donnybrook Volunteer Fire and Rescue will continue in 2025. In 2024 we had cross-training in CPR, Severe Trauma in road Rescue as well as a Motor Bike Trauma session.

We have also purchased a RaiZer Lift chair cable of lifting patients unable to get up. A common call we have. This is very efficient and is working well.

A visit to the Men in Sheds is being organised for a CPR and Defibrillation session.

Garry Davis proxy for Ian Telfer

Jess Cooper

From: Ross (Rosco) Marshall
Sent: Monday, 3 February 2025 8:54 AM
To: Jess Cooper
Cc: Executive
Subject: Poor Mobile Communications Coverage Affecting Bushfire Response

Hi Jess

Could you please forward this message to all concerned and request proactive engagement with Telstra using this new portal. It would also be good to know who has made submissions so that we can keep track of Telstra's response.

Starting from today, we're launching a new 3G helpline for customers to get more support so they can make the most of the network. Customers can call 1800 990 853 between 8am to 7pm Monday to Friday AEDT. <https://www.telstra.com.au/exchange/telstra-3g-network-shutdown--accessing-support-and-transitioning>

Regards,



Ross (Rosco) Marshall - Director Operations

P: (08) 9780 4200 / 0419 947 460 E: ross.marshall@donnybrook.wa.gov.au
W: www.donnybrook-balingup.wa.gov.au A: Mon - Fri, 8:30am - 4:00pm



[Keep Australia Beautiful - Tidy Towns Awards 2021 Category Winner](#)

A proud community enjoying our rural lifestyle, cultural heritage, and natural environment.



LEMC May 2025 Activity Report

Community Emergency Services Manager



A/CESM Position	I have accepted a 12-month contract with the Shire as Acting CESM, I look forward to working with our Bush Fire Brigades, SES, Staff and the public in relation to Emergency Services.
Mitigation	<p>Bushfire Risk Management Plan: The BRMP was endorsed by council the OCM held on 26 Feb 2025, Thanks to Jess for her efforts in getting this together.</p> <p>Next financial years mitigation works have been submitted for funding we will hear back in the next financial year of what is approved.</p>
Bushfire Service	<p>2025 training plan is underway, training will include Bush Fire Safety Awareness, Fire Fighting Skills and Incident Reporting Systems.</p> <p>I will also be promoting higher level courses run by DFES as they come up.</p> <p>Developed improved PPE Ordering processes (less reliance on CESM), to continue roll out over throughout the year.</p>
Committee member reports	If possible, could committee members please provide their reports as soon as possible after receiving their invite, this will allow reports to be circulated with the agenda. A summary of the report may still be given on the day.

DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISOR REPORT
4th Quarter 2024-2025

STATE NEWS

The last meeting of the **State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC)** was held on the 13 March 2025. SEMC Communiqués can be found [here](#).

2025 SEMC MEETING SCHEDULE

- 8 May 2025
- 7 August 2025
- 9 October 2025
- 4 December 2025

STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

AMENDMENTS LIST MARCH 2025

On 13 March 2025, the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) approved amendments to **State Hazard Plan – Human Biosecurity** (resolution number 17/2025) following a comprehensive review undertaken by the Department of Health. A new version was published on 27 March 2025.

On 13 March 2025, the SEMC approved amendments to **State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies** (resolution number 18/2025) following a comprehensive review undertaken by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. A new version was published on 24 March 2025.

The **State Hazard Plan - Fire** was also approved for a comprehensive review extension until August 2025 to allow for further consideration of consultation feedback (resolution number 11/2025). A minor version number update has been allocated to acknowledge the review extension; however, all content remains the same.

Amendments are summarised in the attached. Due to the comprehensive nature of both of these reviews and a large number of amendments, specific tracked changes are unable to be shown. Please email semc.policylegislation@dfes.wa.gov.au to provide feedback or comment.

Comprehensive Review Schedule

The following State EM documents are planned for comprehensive review and broad consultation in 2025:

- WA Community Evacuation in Emergencies Guideline
- Local Recovery Guideline
- Impact Statement Guideline and Template
- State Hazard Plan – HAZMAT Annex B Space Re-entry Debris (SPRED)
- State Hazard Plan – Cyber Security Incident
- State Support Plan – Freight and Supply Chain

You can view all current and past consultations on the [Engage WA EM consultation homepage](#)

Radiation Escape from Nuclear Powered Warship – Change of Hazard Management Agency

Currently, the Hazard Management Agency (HMA) for Radiation Escape from a Nuclear Powered Warship (NPW) is the Commissioner of Police. In response to the future AUKUS arrangements, the SEMC endorsed the transfer of HMA responsibility to the Fire and Emergency Services (FES) Commissioner. A working group has been established with membership from across State government to plan for AUKUS and to ensure the State Hazard Plan is fit-for-purpose.

SEMC STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

The SEMC Strategic Plan for 2025-28 features six measurable, strategic objectives and has been independently reviewed to ensure it reflects priorities identified by the SEMC and is consistent with similar jurisdictions.

Once approved by the Minister for Emergency Services, the Plan will be published on the SEMC website and shared with stakeholders. The SEMC Business Unit will then work with emergency management stakeholders, including the SEMC subcommittees, to implement the strategy.

This will inform DEMC and LEMC Business/Work Plans and capture how their outcomes and focus areas contribute to the overall strategic direction of emergency management in Western Australia.

LEMA IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

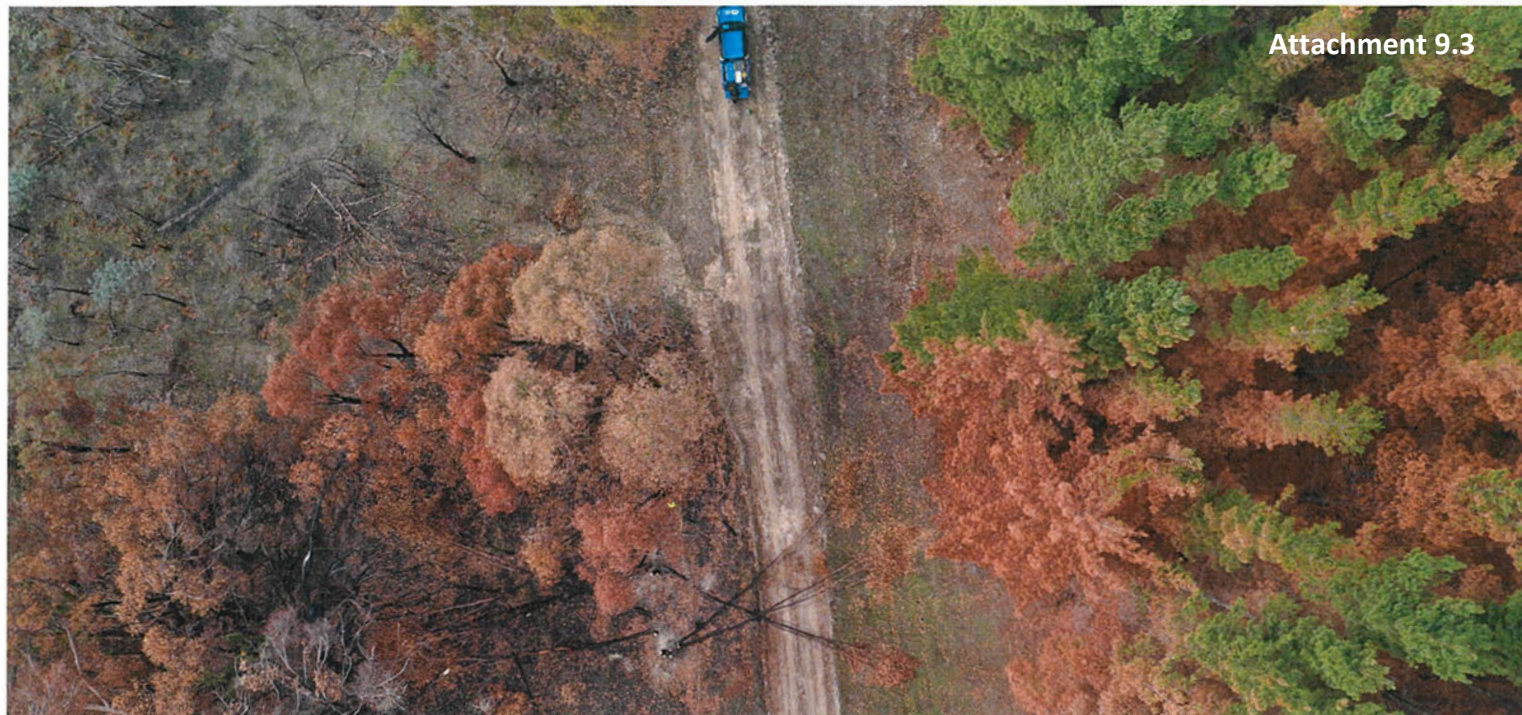
- The LEMA Improvement Program is a sector-led initiative responding to findings from the [LEMA Review Project](#). Its goal is to develop streamlined processes and tools to improve LEMA preparation, making them more relevant for local governments.
- The LEMA Improvement Program Board, consisting of State government and WALGA representatives, oversees the program.
- The project team includes a WALGA Project Officer and staff from DFES (Director, Project Manager, and support).
- The [Local Emergency Management Arrangements \(LEMA\) Guideline](#) was updated to meet State digital accessibility standards, but this update is separate from the Program's work and will be revised later. Local governments are not required to take action based on the Guideline update.
- WALGA is piloting new LEMA tools and templates with selected local governments.
- A LEMA maturity assessment model is being developed to help local governments enhance emergency management capabilities.
- New resources are expected in the first half of 2026.
- Local governments should continue their scheduled LEMA reviews to comply with the Emergency Management Act 2005.
- WALGA thanks local governments for their feedback, which has helped shape the Program.
- A LEMA Working Group, with 10 local governments, is advising on new templates and resources. The Program is collaborating with the Working Group to design tools that make LEMA preparation more efficient for local governments.
- The new tools will be piloted sector-wide to inform the SEMC's updated LEMA model.
- Keep up to date by visiting the [SEMC website](#) or the [WALGA website](#). For more details, contact **Catherine Feeney at WALGA** or via the DEMA.

DISTRICT NEWS

The next **District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC)** will be held on Tuesday **21 October 2025**.

Compiled by:
District Emergency Management Advisor – South West
Department of Fire and Emergency Services
As at 15 April 2025.





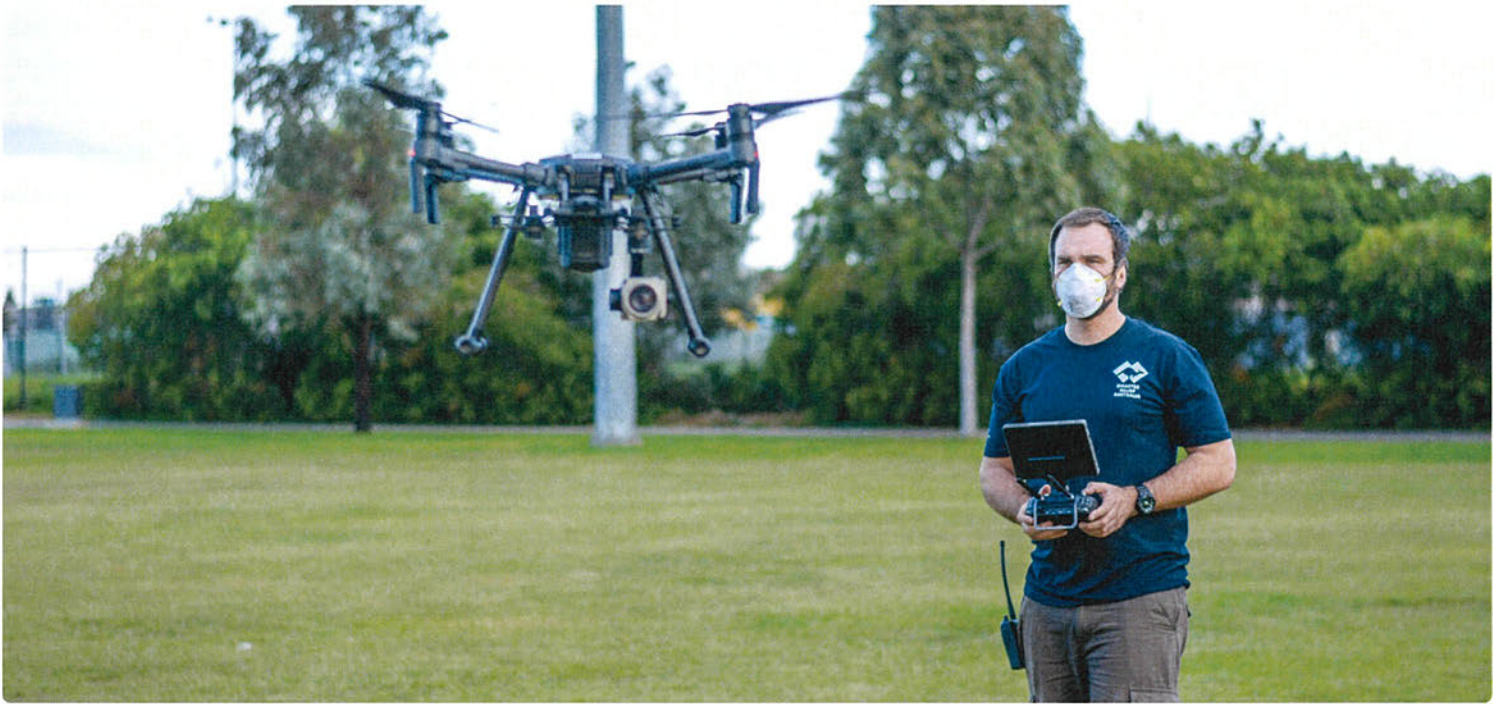
Aerial mapping and assessments

Disaster Relief Australia (DRA) is a lead agency for the provision of localised post-disaster aerial imagery and mapping data.

We combine military and civilian intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) expertise with experience gained from post disaster flights across Australia and the Asia-Pacific.

DRA utilises a fleet of remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS) operated by trained specialists to safely conduct post disaster aerial assessments. RPAS operators, combined with experienced Geographic Information System (GIS) Analysts, can rapidly deploy in teams of two or three to gather accurate information regarding impacted properties and locations.





DRA provides

- An immediate disaster response capability available at short notice 365 days of the year.
- Provision of actionable, timely data and intelligence to aid in decision making by communities and national and state level emergency management agencies.
- An increased efficiency capability for disaster response and recovery operations through the utilisation of new aerial and GIS technology.
- A national asset with highly trained veterans and volunteers providing intelligence to Australian agencies, both at home and abroad.

Our capabilities



Drone RGB and thermal imagery capture



Real-time imagery transfer to Incident Management Teams (IMTs)



2D and 3D mapping



Digital elevation models



Creation of volumetric reports



360-degree panoramic imagery



Nearmap aerial imagery access and integration



GIS imagery integration, analysis, web applications and data creation



DRA's "Battle Map" Project Resilience



Spatial data interoperability





Big Map

DRA's 'Big Map' is an important capability for at-risk communities that sits at the heart of our preparedness, relief and recovery operations.

About us

Established in 2016, Disaster Relief Australia (DRA) is a veteran-led not-for-profit that unites the skills and experience of veterans and other dedicated volunteers to help communities prepare for and recover from disaster.

About Big Map

DRA's Big Map exercise brings together community members, leaders, policymakers and emergency services agencies to walk a big aerial map of their region. It raises awareness of risk profiles, helps develop community resilience and disaster management strategies, and ways to proactively build capability to prepare for the unexpected.

Big Map offers an opportunity to simulate and share stories about how fires, floods and other disasters can and have impacted local people, infrastructure, and the environment.

For a community running a Big Map exercise before a disaster, it offers a chance to build resilience. For a community impacted by a disaster, it can be a cathartic moment that helps aid important conversations about building back better.





A community that is heard and valued is a community more likely to take ownership of their own preparedness, relief and recovery.

At a community level, individuals, families, and specific organisations are key components of community resilience. A resilient community is greater than the sum of its parts.

Benefit to the community

Developing strategies for building and enhancing community resilience requires an understanding that vulnerability at any level translates to an increased vulnerability in other areas of the larger system.

Participants are invited to walk the map, identify their property and local landmarks and start to form a deeper understanding of the geography, built structures and governance that contributes to their community's risk profile.

This process combines local knowledge with DRA's disaster management expertise to build a community risk profile based on their exposure within an all-hazard environment.





Corporate Volunteer Program

Established in 2016, Disaster Relief Australia (DRA) is a veteran-led not-for-profit that unites the skills and experience of veterans and other dedicated volunteers to help communities prepare for and recover from disaster.

Unlike emergency services which provide immediate disaster response, our focus is on either side of the emergency in the preparedness and recovery phases. We work with communities to identify risks, develop disaster management strategies, and build their capability to face future challenges.

When disaster strikes, we shift our focus to recovery. In the aftermath of a disaster, we provide essential cleanup and support to help communities pick up the pieces and rebuild their lives.

Together with our volunteers, we're on the ground clearing out flood-damaged homes, recovering belongings from debris, removing fallen trees after storms, and so much more. Be it flood, bushfire, cyclone or storm, we're there to support people on some of their toughest days, helping them take the first steps on the road to recovery.

Corporate volunteering

Our generous supporters provide resources that enables our organisation to sustain disaster relief and support operations in times of need. Corporate team volunteering is a great way for your staff to develop new skills, build relationships and give back to communities impacted by natural disaster.

It benefits your company and employees, all while helping our teams on the ground assisting communities impacted by natural disaster.

Corporate volunteering is a great way for businesses to engage with staff, clients and suppliers and make a tangible difference by sharing their skills, knowledge, and time.

“Volunteering with DRA is very rewarding. The Australian Spirit!”

Bec Farrell, Keno





Benefits

There are many reasons to get involved with DRA's Corporate Volunteer Program.

- Develop strong team dynamics and improve staff motivation and morale.
- Increased company pride and loyalty by staff.
- Provide personal and corporate development opportunities for staff.
- Heightened and positive recognition by customers and consumers of your contributions to communities who are rebuilding after a natural disaster.
- A more positive corporate image.
- Promote a sense of community within your organisation by engaging clients and suppliers.
- Providing a cost-effective strategy to help reduce employee absenteeism and improve recruitment and retention.

Get involved

There are many ways to make a positive contribution and bring hope to others. If you're interested in providing support through volunteering, corporate partnerships, donations, or employment opportunities, use the QR code to visit our website for more information.



Donate

Provide monetary donations, equipment, professional services, meals, facilities or promotional opportunities.



Volunteer

Through access to your networks, help us recruit employees and engage volunteers to participate in disaster preparedness, relief and recovery operations.



Connection

Provide technology or transport solutions.





Capabilities and services

Established in 2016, Disaster Relief Australia (DRA) is a veteran-led not-for-profit that unites the skills and experience of veterans and other dedicated volunteers to help communities prepare for and recover from disaster.

What we do

Unlike emergency services which provide immediate disaster response, our focus is on either side of the emergency in the preparedness and recovery phases. We work with communities to identify risks, develop disaster management strategies, and build their capability to face future challenges.

When disaster strikes, we shift our focus to recovery. In the aftermath of a disaster, we provide essential cleanup and support to help communities pick up the pieces and rebuild their lives.

Together with our volunteers, we're on the ground clearing out flood-damaged homes, recovering belongings from debris, removing fallen trees after storms, and so much more. Be it flood, bushfire, cyclone or storm, we're there to support people on some of their toughest days, helping them take the first steps on the road to recovery.



DRA offers a variety of capabilities and services to effectively prepare for and manage disaster recovery efforts.



Community preparedness exercises

Our approach to mitigation and preparedness activities assists communities identify risks, consider courses of action and supports individuals to become better prepared and make informed decisions when disasters occur. In this way, DRA proactively and reactively help communities recover from devastation and learn, innovate and adapt in the aftermath of disaster events.



Damage and impact assessments

DRA's damage and impact assessment systems enable us to rapidly gather real-time data about an affected area or event and process it into relevant, actionable information. This includes reporting on community welfare, physical damage, route clearances and risks to communities or other agencies, as well as the level of reconstruction and recovery activities in an area.



Incident management

DRA's Incident Management Team (IMT) can integrate into existing emergency management frameworks or deploy independently to provide command, control, coordination and other disaster management activities. These services can support government, community organisations and a variety of other stakeholders.



Work order management

DRA uses a customised system to facilitate end to end work-order management from task identification, to assessment, assignment, execution, completion and reporting.



Logistics management and aid delivery

DRA logistics works both within disaster impacted communities and from strategic distribution hubs to provide end to end supply chain services. These range from procurement and warehousing to transportation and distribution, as well as project management services, training and strategic advice on logistical matters.



Debris removal and restoring access

Debris accumulated after a disaster often represents a resident's life, their personal belongings, furniture and heirlooms. DRA volunteers can be deployed to help move debris from a home, alleviating the emotionally challenging task. Equipped with PPE and tools to restore access and egress to properties, they also support management plans for debris by LGA's or other statutory authorities.



Aerial damage assessments and mapping

DRA is certified by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) to conduct aerial mapping and damage assessment using Remotely Piloted Air Systems (RPAS). Using qualified and trained DRA volunteers to perform post-disaster wide area mapping, the information is combined with specialist software to generate timely intelligence for response and recovery activities.



Volunteer management

DRA provides command and control functions to effectively manage volunteers on behalf of a range of stakeholders, including government. Volunteers include the general public (spontaneous volunteers), business and industry (corporate volunteers) and community groups or clubs (community volunteers).



Basic home repairs

DRA volunteers are trained and equipped to conduct basic home repairs to minimise the impacts of disaster on home and business owners and facilitate reoccupation. Tasks include water and debris removal, fencing and more.



Chainsaw operations

DRA chainsaw operators are qualified to nationally recognised levels 1-3, as well as with pole saws. Arborist subcontractors are used when and where required.





Emergency Relief and Support

LEMC REPORT FOR DISTRIBUTION 4TH Quarter 2024 – 2025

Regional Emergency Relief and Support contact

Activation of Emergency Relief and Support (ERS) services is via
Communities Emergency Operations Coordinator (EOC)

M: 0418 943 835 and Email: emergencyservices@communities.wa.gov.au

Regional Manager:	Mark Schorer
Regional Coordinator:	Renee Flaxman
Regional Officer:	Joanne Spadaccini

ERS Preparedness

- As we transition between the high and lower threat season, ERS continues to monitor and prepare for event activation.
- In addition, ERS will utilise this period to improve preparedness including:
 - Collating and analysing the lessons learnt from recent activations and developing procedures to streamline our practises.
 - Identifying opportunities for locations of pre-positioning of ERS equipment trailers to support an efficient and timely deployment and response capability.
 - Continued mapping across the state for local support services and partners that can support the provision of the ERS functional domains
 - Provide ERS Evacuation Centre training with local government and Communities staff, across the regions.
 - Finalise the endorsement of the refined Local Emergency Response and Support Plan (LERSP) in each of the LEMCs. The LERSP details the operational management and coordination of ERS under the Western Australian (WA) Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMAs).
 - Developing exercising to test the LERSP across local government areas
 - Supporting local government LEMA exercising and providing feedback to LEMA reviews.
 - Continuing annual evacuation centre audits for each of the 380 evacuation centres in the state.

Response

Activations January 2025 – April 10, 2025

- Carter Road Bushfire - Northam | January

- Green Range Bushfire - Albany | January
- Donnybrook Bushfire - Capel | January
- Myrup Bushfire - Esperance | January
- Karrakup Bushfire Complex - Serpentine Jarrahdale | January
- Marble Bar Storm | January
- Northam Bushfire - Northam and Bruce Rock | January
- Arthur River Bushfire Complex | January
- Dalyup Bushfire – Esperance | February
- Tropical Cyclone Zelia – Pilbara | February
- Dunsborough Bushfire – Busselton | February
- Bindoon Bushfire – Chittering | February
- Perth Hills Storm | February
- Chesapeake Bushfire – Manjimup | March
- Ledge Point Bushfire – Lancelin | March
- Nilgen Bushfire – Lancelin | March

In addition, ERS enacted alert phase preparedness and planning to support pre-positioning of staff and resources for:

- Tropical Cyclone Sean – Pilbara | January
- Shothole Canyon Bushfire – Exmouth | March
- TL 28U Kimberley | March
- Jurien Bay Bushfire | April

Recovery

Social Recovery Reference Group

- The Emergency Relief and Support Directorate is a key member of the National Social Recovery Reference Group. This group has been established to guide and support the review process of the National Principles for Disaster Recovery to ensure they remain relevant, effective, and responsive to contemporary challenges, emerging trends, and diverse community needs in disaster recovery contexts.
- These principles are designed to serve as a guide to best practices in recovery efforts across the nation, ensuring a consistent and scalable approach to disaster recovery.

Marble Bar Recovery Program

- Communities' remains focused on supporting impacted persons of both the Marble Bar Storm and Cyclone Zelia with financial assistance to replace lost household goods and personal wellbeing support.

Kimberley Floods Recovery Program

ERS continues to engage with stakeholders, impacted community members and local Aboriginal organisations and community leaders to address recovery concerns and provide support regarding the return to home journey process.

Recovery

- ERS continue to support impacted community members with practical supports to move home:
 - Supporting with replacement of essential household items under financial assistance measures, with over \$740k provided to date.
 - Referrals to wrap around personal, practical, psychosocial and wellbeing services.
 - Engaging across staff from Recovery Program agencies and Local Government to ensure consistent messaging for impacted community members and referral pathways for support services.
 - Communicating with impacted residents and chairpersons of communities.

Since the Return to Home Journey began in September 2024, ERS have facilitated and supported moving 37 families into their long-term homes and/or other residences, with a total of 26 Temporary Accommodation Units (TAUs) vacated to date.

Bunbury Storms Recovery Program

- The DFRAWA Recovery Support program for the 2024 Bunbury Storms will officially close on 30 June 2025. During this time, Communities' will continue to deliver financial assistance to support impacted persons with the replacement of essential household items damaged during the storms and with financial assistance for essential building repairs to impacted residential properties.
- Communities' will also continue to support ongoing referrals for personal and wellbeing support services including psychological support and Financial Counselling.
- A Bunbury Community Recovery and Resilience Connection Day was held on Saturday 5th April 2025 run by the Lions Club and supported by Communities, DFES, Salvation Army, Red Cross, Anglicare Financial Counselling Bunbury and various local and support groups.



Shire of Donnybrook Balingup LEMC DFES Report – May 2025

The high threat bush fire season has concluded in the Lower South West Region, with DFES now focusing on storm and flooding risk over the winter months. A tactical flood exercise is scheduled for the 8 May in collaboration with the DFES South West Region. We thank all our emergency management partners for their support over the bush fire season.

Road crash incidents are dominating the call out for Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service Brigades, with hybrid and electric cars being of concern. If Local Government's get applications for the installation of electric vehicle charging stations it is asked that they consider their placement in relation to other risks or hazards.

Crews have been attending an increase in lithium battery fires from both electronic devices and standalone power supplies.

The Memorandum of Understanding between DFES, DBCA, Talison Lithium and the Shires of Donnybrook Balingup and Bridgetown Greenbushes was renewed earlier in the year. This will see Talison Lithium Emergency Response Teams respond to incidents within 10km of the Greenbushes mining operations to support the Hazard management agency or controlling agency as either a first strike or where appropriate, more protracted response.

Chris Sousa
District Officer Nelson
0447 362 006

Main Roads Local Emergency Management Committee Report

1. General

Main Roads South West region is committed to supporting the relevant agencies involved in Emergencies and Incidents.

It has recently reviewed and restructured its resources to be more responsive to the increasing number of Emergencies and Incidents.

We endeavour to have a Senior Officer in attendance at every LEMC/DEMC meeting and a minimum of 2 at any Exercise.

This ensures our sustainability, rapport and knowledge is spread through the team and does not become person dependent.

We have an Emergency Contact Centre which is resourced 24 hours a day. They can be contacted on 138 138.

This team will immediately notify the region of any Emergency/Incident by contacting our 24hr on Call Duty Manager.

The Duty Manager will dispatch resources as required/requested to the Emergency/Incident.

Should the situation warrant the Duty Manager will activate the On Call Incident Manager.

2. Resources

2.1 Incident Managers

Main Roads South West region has 7 Incident Managers (IM) that it can call upon to respond to, manage and support the IC.

Each Incident will generally require 2 x IM's to manage any 1 Incident.

2.2 On Scene Liaison Officers

Main Roads South West Region has 6 On Scene Liaison Officers (OSLO) to call upon. The OSLO's are generally dispatched to an Incident to make first point of contact with IC, assess the situation and report back to the MRWA IM.

The OSLO's can also assist initially by implementing a VCP' as required.

They will also support our Vehicle Control Point (VCP) personnel.

2.3 Rapid Response Crews

Main Roads South West Region has 4 Rapid Response Crews (RRC) to call upon. The RRC's are 2 person crew. They are designed to respond to Emergencies and Incidents and set up the initial VCP control with limited signage.

They will also support our Vehicle Control Point personnel as required.

2.4 Traffic Management Crews

These are contract resources, Main Roads South West Region generally has 3 of these crews engaged on a daily basis. Further to these crews Main Roads is able to call on additional crews from its Contract Traffic Control providers.

There are 3 companies Main Roads generally uses but can also call on resources outside our Region depending on the scale and location of the Incident.

These crews form the backbone of our VCP resources. Initially Main Roads will operate crews on 12 hour shifts and if the Incident is likely to extend beyond 3 days will reduce the shifts to 8hrs to manage fatigue.

Each VCP would require 4 resources for a 12 hour shift and 6 resources for an 8 Hr shift.



Shire of
Donnybrook Balingup

6th May 2025

RANGER REPORT LEMC MAY 2025

<p>General</p>	<p>Recent staff changes within the Ranger Service:</p> <p>New staff member Ange is currently working on acquiring experience in fire compliance protocols, including gaining foundational knowledge and skills in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire Control Officer • Compliance Monitoring and Investigation
<p>Inspections</p>	<p>The Shire engaged in services from Ben Anderson and Andrew Rohrbach for support with fire break inspections.</p> <p>In collaboration with FCO's, it is estimated that approximately 2000 properties were inspected during the compliance period, of that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 - work orders Issued • 7 - infringements Issued • 1 infringement withdrawn <p>The Shire again engaged a contractor for Victoria Parade blocks as was done for the 2022, 2023 and 2024 period with invoices being sent to landowners for reimbursement.</p> <p>We also engaged in a contractor for a property on East Trigwell Street, property has been non-compliant for a while now Shire is in the process of debt recovery for the property.</p>

Moving Forward	Moving forward, Ranger Services will work to improve community awareness of fire break standards Shire-wide for 2025/2026. We are also exploring advanced technologies, such as a Smartsheet-integrated app, to streamline field inspections with photo uploads and direct access for issuing work orders or infringements. Additionally, we will review compliance period scheduling and consider engaging contractors for follow-up inspections to ensure consistency.
-----------------------	--

Regards,

Ange Browne
Ranger



(08) 9780 4200



www.donnybrook-balingup.wa.gov.au



shire@donnybrook.wa.gov.au



1 Bentley Street, Donnybrook, 6239

Conor McGregor

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 31 March 2025 12:54 PM
To: Conor McGregor
Cc: Kevin Walsh
Subject: FW: Noggerup Bushfire Notice Variation Request

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Conor,

Please find below variation request for Noggerup area.

I tried to call Jess' number but it didn't go through so assume you may have a different number?

Feel free to give me a call when you have a chance.

Kind regards

Mell

Mellanie Culhane

Contractor – Bushfire & Environment Management Consultant

Arc Infrastructure
 Level 3, 1 George Wiencke Drive, Perth Airport, WA, 6105
 GPO Box S1411, Perth WA 6845

M – [REDACTED]
E – [REDACTED]
W – [REDACTED]

 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

From: Mellanie Culhane
Sent: Monday, 31 March 2025 12:51 PM
To: Jess.Cooper@donnybrook.wa.gov.au
Cc: Kevin Walsh [REDACTED]
Subject: Noggerup Bushfire Notice Variation Request

Hey Jess,

I was speaking with Kevin this morning, he mentioned the works he's completed at Noggerup recently.

To satisfy our enviro teams requirements, are we able to obtain a Variation to the FB notice that aligns with the planned works for the Noggerup area as shown in the screen shot below given there is so much interest from the Shire and Community? Having the variation will give our environment team the confidence we are doing the works with the appropriate approvals.

It would also be good if the variation was in perpetuity to enable ongoing maintenance of the area without the need to renew on an annual basis.

The current planned works are parkland clearing/mulching, slashing and access improvements, but as time goes on it will likely be maintenance to keep ontop of fuel loads and risk to neighbouring properties.



© 2011 Community Maps Contributors, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, METI/NASA, USGS

Powered

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to give me a call.

Kind regards

Mell

Mellanie Culhane
Contractor – Bushfire & Environment Management Consultant

Arc Infrastructure
Level 3, 1 George Wiencke Drive, Perth Airport, WA, 6105
GPO Box S1411, Perth WA 6845

M
E
W



 Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

Conor McGregor

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 28 April 2025 4:43 PM
To: SM CESM
Subject: RE: Variation request form

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good afternoon Conor,

I have been forwarded this email regarding the community consultations for bushfire mitigation works on our network. Thanks for sending through the query from your local resident, if you have any similar queries come through relating to the freight rail network, please feel free to forward them to this inbox and they will be responded to within 3 days.

Our response is as follows-

Arc Infrastructure has a duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the safety of operations on the network. As part of this duty Arc Infrastructure carries out inspections in accordance with a Safety Management System approved by the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator. When vegetation grows in the track, which is a common occurrence in regional areas, it prevents Arc Infrastructure from effectively carrying out inspections as the weeds can obscure the track components from visual and automated inspection systems.

In addition to the above, Arc Infrastructure has a duty to collaborate with local government and bushfire planners across the state to reduce the risk of bushfire, while at the same time protecting and minimising environmental impact.

All sites identified for bushfire mitigation are walked prior to and during works to identify any debris which might unintentionally cause any sparks, which is then removed. A firefighter unit is also readily available on a light vehicle during the works.

Regarding the specific location mentioned by the resident, there were no active fire bans, or movement or harvest bans at the time the mitigation works were taking place. The local conditions were taken into account on the day the works were undertaken. Arc Infrastructure does endeavour to carry out all bushfire mitigation works in the cooler months wherever possible, however due to the size of Arc's network and the volume of sites identified for mitigation, we are required to conduct mitigation works when the conditions are favourable to do so.

In addition, all machinery used are cleaned thoroughly before entering sites and again before leaving. If there are any further dieback guidelines that the Shire require us to follow, please let us know.

In regard to community consultation, we are unable to undertake consultation with the community across all of the sites identified for mitigation as it is the responsibility of the landowner to ensure the bushfire risk is appropriately mitigated. However, Arc has been liaising with the Shire and local bushfire brigade regarding the bushfire risk in this area.

Will the Shire respond directly to the relevant residents with this information?

Thanks

Bryony Parker
Senior Stakeholder Rel Advisor

Arc Infrastructure
Level 3, 1 George Wiencke Drive, Perth Airport, WA, 6105
GPO Box S1411, Perth WA 6845

M
E
W

[Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.](#)

From: SM CESM <cesm@donnybrook.wa.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 22 April 2025 9:03 AM
To: Mellanie Culhane [REDACTED]
Cc: Communications [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Variation request form

Morning Mell,

Thanks for the conversation on the 11th April, and apologies for not getting back to you sooner.

I have attached the **Shire of Donnybrook Balingup Request to Vary Firebreak Order** form along with the Shires **Fire Prevention Order 2024/25** for your awareness.
As discussed, this order is reviewed annually and distributed to the Shires landholders as well as published locally and made available on our website.

Note: the order itself does not relate directly to ARC's land use being "Rail Corridor", and as you have outlined a variation could be appropriate that specifically addresses the constraints of the land use identifying a mitigation strategy that reduces risk in an achievable manner.
It is requested that ARC provide details of their proposed works schedule as well as the extent of works being undertaken as outlined under item 8. of the variation request form.

Furthermore, as discussed, I have attached an email the Shire has received from a resident of Noggerup expressing concern regarding the fire mitigation works started on 10th/11th in Noggerup by ARC Infrastructure.
Apologies if ARC has not already received forwarded correspondence of this and I note the email you have provided for further forwarding.

For your awareness, this matter was raised at the Shires April BFAC meeting and it was requested if ARC have completed any community consultation within the Noggerup area prior to commencing with these mitigation works.

- Can you please provide a response as to if ARC have done or are intending on doing any community consultation within the affected communities prior to the carrying out of mitigation works?

Regards,



Conor McGregor - Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM)

P: (08) 9780 4200 / (08) 9780 4210

E: Conor.McGregor@donnybrook.wa.gov.au

W: www.donnybrook-balingup.wa.gov.au

A: Mon - Fri, 8:30am - 4:00pm



[Keep Australia Beautiful - Tidy Towns Awards 2021 Category Winner](#)

Our Vision:

A proud community enjoying our rural lifestyle, cultural heritage, and natural environment.

From: Mellanie Culhane [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, 17 April 2025 4:05 PM

To: SM CESM [REDACTED] cesm@donnybrook.wa.gov.au>

Subject: Variation request form

Hi Conor,

Following on from our discussion, any chance you could please send through the variation request form, I can't seem to find it on your website?

Also as we were discussing, the generic email for Arc is [REDACTED] which you can send any correspondence.

Kind regards

Mell

Mellanie Culhane

Contractor – Bushfire & Environment Management Consultant

Arc Infrastructure
Level 3, 1 George Wiencke Drive, Perth Airport, WA, 6105
GPO Box S1411, Perth WA 6845

M [REDACTED]
E [REDACTED]
W [REDACTED]



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Conor McGregor

From: Conor McGregor
Sent: Wednesday, 30 April 2025 12:33 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: IEME108160 - FW: Noggerup Rail Corridor Fire Mitigation

Good afternoon [REDACTED]

In relation to your below enquiry, I have passed your correspondence onto ARC infrastructure who are responsible for the works, they have provided the below comment.
Their response is as follows-

“Arc Infrastructure has a duty to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the safety of operations on the network. As part of this duty Arc Infrastructure carries out inspections in accordance with a Safety Management System approved by the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator. When vegetation grows in the track, which is a common occurrence in regional areas, it prevents Arc Infrastructure from effectively carrying out inspections as the weeds can obscure the track components from visual and automated inspection systems. In addition to the above, Arc Infrastructure has a duty to collaborate with local government and bushfire planners across the state to reduce the risk of bushfire, while at the same time protecting and minimising environmental impact.

All sites identified for bushfire mitigation are walked prior to and during works to identify any debris which might unintentionally cause any sparks, which is then removed. A firefighter unit is also readily available on a light vehicle during the works.

Regarding the specific location mentioned by the resident, there were no active fire bans, or movement or harvest bans at the time the mitigation works were taking place. The local conditions were taken into account on the day the works were undertaken. Arc Infrastructure does endeavour to carry out all bushfire mitigation works in the cooler months wherever possible, however due to the size of Arc's network and the volume of sites identified for mitigation, we are required to conduct mitigation works when the conditions are favourable to do so. In addition, all machinery used are cleaned thoroughly before entering sites and again before leaving. If there are any further dieback guidelines that the Shire require us to follow, please let us know.”

Additionally, it was requested if ARC have done or are intending on doing any community consultation within the affected communities prior to the carrying out of mitigation works.
Their response is as follows –

“In regard to community consultation, we are unable to undertake consultation with the community across all of the sites identified for mitigation as it is the responsibility of the landowner to ensure the bushfire risk is appropriately mitigated. However, Arc has been liaising with the Shire and local bushfire brigade regarding the bushfire risk in this area.”

Should you have further questions or require clarification please do not hesitate to contact myself on the below.

Regards,



Conor McGregor - Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM)

P: (08) 9780 4200 / (08) 9780 4210

E: Conor.McGregor@donnybrook.wa.gov.au

W: www.donnybrook-balingup.wa.gov.au

A: Mon - Fri, 8:30am - 4:00pm



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Our Vision:

A proud community enjoying our rural lifestyle, cultural heritage, and natural environment.

From: SM Shire <shire@donnybrook.wa.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 21 February 2025 8:07 AM
To: SM Records <records@donnybrook.wa.gov.au>
Subject: IEME108160 - FW: Noggerup Rail Corridor Fire Mitigation

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 20 February 2025 2:20 PM
To: SM Shire <shire@donnybrook.wa.gov.au>; SM CESM <cesm@donnybrook.wa.gov.au>
Subject: Noggerup Rail Corridor Fire Mitigation

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Shire of Donnybrook Balingup,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recent rail corridor fire mitigation works started on 10th/11th in Noggerup by ARC Infrastructure. While I understand the importance and need for fire mitigation works when done well, I believe it is crucial to halt and reassess the current activities due to several reasons including the significant environmental implications.

The area in question is a sensitive transitional zone from the creek to the Preston National Park, which serves as a vital habitat for various native species. Notably, this region is known to support quenda populations (Priority 4), and there have also been sightings of western quoll, a vulnerable endangered species of conservation concern. The disruption of this habitat could have severe consequences for these species and the broader ecosystem.

It also appears that the works in some areas have encroached into the Preston National Park itself. I am quite concerned that future activities may extend into the protected National Park, causing further damage to this vital and sensitive ecosystem.

Additionally, the threat of dieback (*Phytophthora cinnamomi*) in this area cannot be overstated. This soil-borne pathogen poses a significant risk to the health of native vegetation and the wildlife that depends on it. Ensuring that all necessary precautions are taken to prevent the spread of dieback is essential.

While I acknowledge the importance of the proposed works, I urge the shire to prioritize environmental conservation. A thorough reassessment of the project, with a focus on minimizing ecological impact, is imperative. This reassessment should include:

1. Comprehensive environmental impact assessments.
2. Implementation of stringent dieback management protocols.
3. Consultation with environmental experts and local conservation groups.
4. Exploration of alternative methods for the works that would reduce environmental disruption.

Other worries were raised in the Mumballup-Noggerup Fire Brigade newsletter concerning the issues of this sort of activity happening during high-risk summer period when August/September would have been preferred.

To ensure a thorough reassessment and to minimize the risk of a fire being started, it would be prudent to pause the works until August/September. This timeframe will allow for a detailed evaluation and planning process, ensuring that the necessary precautions are in place before resuming any activities.

As a resident of Noggerup and someone who has experience in the Conservation and Land Management industry, I would be happy to offer my help in any way possible.

Please see attached photos

Kind regards,

[Redacted signature]

I acknowledge the Wardandi people of the Noongar Nation as the Traditional Custodians of this land. I pay my respects to Noongar Elders, past, present and emerging.

Draft Report requesting WA Local Government Association advocacy and clarification

Subject: Telecommunications Connectivity and Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) Representation

Background & Context

Many Local Governments across the South West have raised ongoing concerns regarding inadequate telecommunications connectivity, particularly during emergencies. These issues have a direct impact on the ability of local communities to respond to and manage crisis situations effectively.

A further challenge has emerged regarding the representation of Telstra—the primary telecommunications provider—on Local Emergency Management Committees (LEMCs). Telstra was approached to provide a representative for each of the 12 LEMCs across the region. In response, Telstra advised that:

1. It is unable to provide a dedicated representative per LEMC.
2. Instead, a generic WA Team email will be made available for meeting requests.
3. Attendance will be predominantly online, with limited capacity for in-person representation.

This response presents limitations in terms of responsiveness and local knowledge, both of which are critical during emergency planning and response.

During a recent Augusta Margaret River (AMR) Shire LEMC meeting, the Committee considered the viability of Telstra's participation under the LEMA Instrument of Appointment, which requires a defined position and proxy to formalise membership. It was noted that Telstra, as a private corporation, would be the only non-government entity on the AMR Committee.

While recognising Telstra's private status, it was emphasised that telecommunications are an essential public service, and that governments have a role in ensuring accountability and service delivery in this space. AMR LEMC Chair and Shire President committed to raising this matter at the next WALGA Zone meeting for broader discussion and support.

Rationale

Reliable telecommunications are a critical component of emergency response and community safety. Given the limitations expressed by Telstra in providing localised representation, there is a need for WALGA to advocate for a more sustainable and accountable model. This includes exploring the suitability of a central communications authority or regulator to act as a representative body at LEMCs, ensuring consistency and effectiveness across all Local Governments.

Draft future motion:

That the South West WALGA Zone:

1. Notes the concerns raised by multiple Local Governments regarding telecommunications connectivity issues and the limitations in Telstra's capacity to participate in Local Emergency Management Committees (LEMCs);
2. Requests WALGA to:
 - 2.1. Engage with relevant State and Federal Government departments to identify the appropriate governing or regulatory body responsible for overseeing telecommunications providers in emergency management contexts;
 - 2.2. Advocate for a consistent and effective model of engagement between telecommunications authorities and LEMCs, potentially through a centralised representative body or coordination mechanism; and
 - 2.3. Clarify the role of private telecommunications providers in emergency management planning and their eligibility for formal membership on LEMCs under the Emergency Management Act and associated Instruments of Appointment.