

MINUTES

**LEMC MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 15 DECEMBER 2009
AT FESA HOUSE
79 NEWCASTLE ROAD, NORTHAM
COMMENCING AT 10AM**

1. ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

Attendance

Bert Llewellyn	Chairperson	Shire of Northam
Peter McLean		Northam Police
Jeanne Lawler		Main Roads WA
Yvette Grigg		FESA
Linton Mincherton		FESA
Ulo Rumjantsev		Shire of Northam
Phil Steven		Shire of Northam
Felix McQuistan		Shire of Northam
Bronwyn Pitter		Northam Hospital
Anne Foyer		Wheatbelt Public Health
Terry Brooks		Department of Water
Julie Brown		DCP / SES
Harry Lauk		Dept of Agriculture & Food
George Tiedtke		Western Power

Apologies

Gerald Morey, Alan Kietzman, Drew Richardson.

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting and declared the meeting open at 10:06am.

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 September 2009 were acknowledged by the Chairperson.

Moved: Julie Brown

Seconded: Peter McLean

Carried

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Northam Airport – There was a meeting on 10 November 2009 with relevant representatives from the LEMC, Northam Aero Club & Northam Air Services which raised ideas to be included in a proposed Airport Emergency Plan. There are several documents

available which will be integrated into the one document. The group is hoping to have another meeting in the first half of next year. Linton suggested the Plan should include FESA SOP's referenced in the document. Also the LEMA should reference the Airport Emergency Plan when it is completed.

4. UPDATES – MEMBER LISTING

The separate sheets for Committee Members, and the broader list of Contacts were circulated by email prior to the meeting for updating. The amended listings are circulated with these minutes.

5. General Business

5.1 EM Arrangements – The document has been updated and circulated to the LEMC. Comments are sought from now until the next LEMC meeting. For now, the evacuation component will leave the Army Camp in there until the Welfare Plan has been updated and accepted. The existing adopted LEMA / Recovery Plan will be used until the new one is adopted.

5.2 Welfare Plan – A verbal report was provided by Mrs Julie Brown. The audits of potential Welfare Centres / Evacuation Centres and the relevant MOU should be completed by the end of January 2010.

FESA gave some community briefings in the Shire recently, and those meetings raised the issue that the Welfare Plan should describe what items the community should and shouldn't bring to an evacuation centre (eg pets, belongings). DCP asked to be invited to the next community briefing that is held.

In the existing plan there are Ten evacuation centres within the Northam Shire (this extends to 6 centres within Northam and 1 centre in Grass Valley, Clackline, Bakers Hill and Wundowie) and there are 3 centres which haven't been evaluated by DCP to date. Reviewing and rewriting the Welfare Plan there has been another 15 centres identified within Northam and another 10 new centres identified within the Shire (Irishtown, Jennacubbine, Southern Brook, Wundowie and Bakers Hill). Evacuation points have also been identified. Once completed, there should be about 21 evacuation centres altogether. The updated Welfare Plan should be available for the next LEMC.

In an emergency, DCP would like 2-3 hours notice before opening up an Evacuation Centre, if and where possible. The community should listen to Emergency Broad casts on the TV/radio for news of the incident and if necessary evacuate to which Evacuation/Welfare Centres. DCP are not promoting certain Centres for certain areas because depending on the incident, they may not be suitable.

Activating DCP in an emergency – during office hours call 96210400 or after hours call Crisis Care 1800 199 008.

Some Shires are using flip-signs to give directions of where to find the Evacuation Centre. This was accepted as a good idea

for the Shire of Northam, since permanent signs have problems.

- 5.3 Recovery Plan** – In the contacts list, it was suggested to remove 000 references and put organisational office numbers, since in a recovery phase, emergency numbers shouldn't be used.

DCP will be put as Deputy Chairman of Recovery Committee.

- 5.4 Bushfire Preparedness** – As mentioned previously, FESA has done presentations in various towns, which has raised awareness. Otherwise apathy tends to prevail. DCP is happy to be included in future meetings. It would be worth people getting to know their exit roads prior to an emergency. There is a relevant DVD available. The Bushfire Advisory Group will meet in late January to go through Bushfire Management Plan for presentation to Council in late February 2010. This year our risk is probably 8 out of 10 due to winter rains, grasses are quite high. If you live rural (and even town), you need to think about how to be prepared to stay/evacuate. A fire rating sign has been proposed for at the entrance to the Shire of Northam. Total fire bans can now be placed by FESA for the whole State.

Felix (Shire Ranger) advised 90% of the firebreaks have been inspected. There was a lot of vegetation regrowth which has made this year a problem, but secondary inspections will follow up on risk areas.

There was a query about harvest bans. Info is available by calling 9621 1120, or you can go onto an SMS notification list. The ABC are playing warnings again. Harvest bans also include hot works such as angle grinding. A one-page advert went into the Advocate including this info. It was also in the firebreak order.

- 5.5 WESTPLAN** – This has been re-written to be more user-friendly, and to reflect ideas coming out of the Victorian bushfires.

- 5.6 DOAC** – This group is working on a response plan for the Avon Valley for a derailment, in particular the Police have been involved in the planning.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

NIL

7. NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

The next proposed meeting dates are on 23 February 2010, and 25 May 2010 at FESA House, dates and locations to be confirmed.

9. CLOSE

The Chairman thanked members for their attendance, and wished everyone a Happy Christmas.

The meeting closed at 11am.

