



LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES

28 NOVEMBER 2023

These minutes were confirmed by Local Emergency Management Committee as a true and correct record of proceedings by the Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held on 12/3/24

Presiding Member:  Date: 12 March 2024

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1.11.23 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ATTENDANCE

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 5.30pm.

On behalf of Council, I would like to acknowledge that this meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the Nyoongar People and pay respect to all Elders, past, present, and emerging. I wish to acknowledge and respect local people's continuing culture and the contribution they make to Country and its life.

Committee Members (Voting)

Katrina Crute	Shire President
Lachlan McCabe	Councillor
Jackie Allington	Brookton CWA
Adam Whitford	Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Joanne Spadaccini	Department of Communities - via zoom
Phillip Crute	Brookton - St Johns Ambulance
David Johnstone	Brookton Police
June Harwood	Baptistcare – Kalkarni

Staff (Non-Voting)

Gary Sherry	Chief Executive Officer
Sandie Spencer	Local Recovery Coordinator/Executive Governance Officer
Jason Carrall	Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM)

Apologies received

Anna Erickson	DPIRD
Ian Dawson	St Johns Ambulance
Jo-Ann De Marchi	SilverChain
Jodie Pollard	Department of Communities
Karen Tabner	Brookton District High School
Rodney Thornton	RoadWise (WALGA)
William Wilkinson	Brookton Volunteer Fire & Rescue
Murray Hall	Chief Bushfire Control Officer

2.11.23 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**2.11.23.01 LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 13 JUNE 2023****LEMC 11.23-01****LEMC RESOLUTION****MOVED Mr. P Crute SECONDED Sgt. D Johnstone**

That the minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee meeting held in the Shire of Brookton Council Chambers, on 13th June 2023, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

CARRIED 8/0

**For: Cr Crute, Cr McCabe, J Allington, A Whitford,
J Spadaccini, P Crute, D Johnstone, J Harwood
Against: Nil**

3.11.23 PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

4.11.23 STANDING ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED AT EACH MEETING**4.11.23.01 UPDATE OF CONTACTS AND RESOURCES REGISTER**

Member agencies are required to review the document and provide details of required updates before next meeting.

- Any changes required for the current contacts and resources register?

4.11.23.02 CHANGE OF POSITION/LEAVE AND ACTING ARRANGEMENTS – NOTIFICATION**1. Delegates & Proxy's:**

Organisation	Delegate	Proxy
Baptistcare	June Harwood	Nil
WAPOL	David Johnstone	Brad Fredericks
Dept. Communities	Joanne Spadaccini	
Brookton Bushfire Brigade	CBFCO - Murray Hall	D/CBFCO - Travis Eva
BDHS	Karen Tabner	Kris Dewson-Hall
St Johns	Ian Dawson	
St Johns - Brookton	Phillip Crute	Cliff Fishlock
DFES	Adam Whitford	Blake Halford
DPIRD	Anna Erickson	
RoadWise	Rodney Thornton	Nil
SilverChain	Jo-Ann De Marchi	
Brookton VFRS	Scott Atkins	William Wilkinson
Shire of Brookton	SP - Katrina Crute	Cr Lachlan McCabe
Brookton CWA	Jackie Allington	

4.11.23.03 INCIDENT SUPPORT GROUP ACTIVATIONS

Nil.

4.11.23.04 RISK PROFILE CHANGE

Nil.

4.11.23.05 LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Nil.

4.11.23.06 REPORT AND/OR DEBRIEF ON ANY LEMC EXERCISE(S)

Development and Approval of next financial year LEMC exercise scheduled (to be forwarded to relevant DEMC).

- No exercise planned.

5.11.23 GENERAL BUSINESS

5.11.23.01 LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS - CORRESPONDENCE

Michelle Duxbury - Department of Communities

Michelle has taken a position as Senior District Emergency Services Officer and Jodie Pollard will commence in the role as DESO Great Southern.

Jodie Pollard has retired. Jo Spadaccini is the contact for Brookton.

5.11.23.02 LOCAL RECOVERY PLAN – ADOPTION OF NEW PLAN

A draft of the Shire of Brookton Local Recovery Plan is attached under a separate cover as Attachment 5.11.23.02A.

All members to provide feedback of the draft document to Sandie Spencer – Local Recovery Coordinator.

Items to be discussed:

- 8.2 Shire of Brookton: - Resources and Asset Register – to be updated.
- 8.4 Recovery Facilities: - Appoint locations for Recovery Centre (RC) and One Stop Shop (OSS).

Review:

- 3.9 Threats – threat to life, property, environment and heritage, critical infrastructure and community economy.
- 10.2 Spokesperson – refine delegation of authority to speak.
- 8.4 OSS – Memorial Hall, WB Eva, Country Club, Council Chamber, CWA and RSL Buildings.

If the Committee are in agreeance with the Shire of Brookton Local Recovery Plan, then a formal motion from Committee members to endorse the plan for referral to Council at the December 2023 meeting for adoption.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee recommend that Council adopt the Shire of Brookton Local Recovery Plan.

LEMC 11.23-02

LEMC RESOLUTION

MOVED Mr. P Crute SECONDED Mrs. J Spadaccini

That the Local Emergency Management Committee receives and endorses the Local Recovery Plan and suggests the plan is presented to Council for adoption, subject to minor changes.

CARRIED 8/0

***For: Cr Crute, Cr McCabe, J Allington, A Whitford,
J Spadaccini, P Crute, D Johnstone, J Harwood
Against: Nil***

Attachments

Under a separate cover Attachment 5.11.23.02A –Copy Shire of Brookton Local Recovery Plan.

5.11.23.03 SERVICE MANAGEMENT TRANSITION FOR BROOKTON REMOTE AREA NURSING POST

The Shire of Brookton has received correspondence advising that Silverchain and WA Country Health Service (WACHS) have agreed to transition the operation of 11 Remote Area Nursing Posts to WACHS. This transfer will include the Brookton Nursing Post

In part the correspondence reads:

Silverchain has been delivering care in WA's rural and remote communities for many decades. It's a history that the Silverchain team is very proud of, however this transition aligns to its core specialisation as a home and community care provider.

WACHS, as the designated state Health Service Provider in rural and remote WA, is best placed to support the operation of Remote Area Nursing Posts into the future.

WACHS has a long history of delivering high quality care across country WA and is looking forward to continuing that in the Brookton community.

Silverchain and WACHS will continue to work together to ensure a smooth transition, with a shared focus on continuous high-quality care to the local communities.

WACHS will liaise with existing employees regarding ongoing employment opportunities.

6.11.23 ATTENDEE REPORTS AROUND THE ROOM

- **Jason Carrall – CESM**
 - Busy start to the fire season locally. Dry conditions and lightning causing issues.
 - New PPE Orders for 14 volunteers.
 - Mitigation of the UCL blocks in Brookton and Aldersyde has been completed.
- **David Johnstone – WAPOL**
 - 3rd Officer has arrived for Brookton - Lance Simpson.
 - Pingelly Station to be fully staffed from January 2024.
- **June Harwood – Baptistcare**
 - Had expected to finish in January 2024, but will now stay until a replacement Centre Manager is recruited.
 - Thankful there is no COVID currently.

➤ Anna Erickson – DPIRD



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

Incident and Emergency Management

Agency Name:	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development		Date: 13 November 2023
Report prepared by:	Helen Kent	Position:	Emergency Preparedness Coordinator – Incident & Emergency Management Branch
LEMC and DEMC report: November 2023			
<p>Prevention/mitigation activities:</p> <p>DPIRD undertakes prevention/mitigation strategies in line with its role as the hazard management agency for animal and plant biosecurity.</p> <p>Surveillance program to protect the WA bee industry</p> <p>Western Australia has strong biosecurity and surveillance measures in place to protect the State's bee industry from exotic pests and diseases including the bee parasite, varroa mite.</p> <p>Varroa mite was first detected in the Port of Newcastle in New South Wales in June 2022. The national eradication response is now moving to a management phase after it was deemed no longer technically feasible to eradicate.</p> <p>WA undertakes State and national bee pest surveillance programs which include extensive surveillance at ports and airports, considered to be the highest risk entry points for bees and bee parasites.</p> <p>The surveillance program is coordinated by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) in WA with the support of volunteer beekeepers and covers Fremantle, Kwinana, Perth Airport, Bunbury, Albany, Esperance, Geraldton and Derby.</p> <p>As part of the program, there are 40 sentinel hives in place at key locations across the State which act as an early warning system to detect exotic bees and signs of bee parasites. There are also 34 catch boxes located across Bunbury, Fremantle and Geraldton. Plans are underway to expand the sentinel hive program to monitor additional industrial areas and freight hubs across the Perth metropolitan area.</p>			

Floral sweeps using butterfly nets to capture bees for identification are also routinely undertaken at Fremantle, Bunbury and Geraldton ports to monitor for exotic bees and mites.

WA has strict border quarantine to reduce the risk of varroa mite and other bee pests and disease entering the State. Bees, bee products including honey and other apiary products and beekeeping equipment are not permitted to be brought in without meeting import conditions and or treatments.

It is also a legal requirement for all beekeepers including hobbyists in WA to be registered with DPIRD. This is vitally important so that they can be contacted quickly in the case of pest or disease detection.

Beekeepers are also encouraged to check their own hives regularly and report anything unusual immediately by calling the Exotic Plant Pest hotline 1800 084 881

DPIRD responses

Declared incidents which DPIRD is managing:

- Seven (7) declared level 1 and 2 incidents in relation to plant pests/diseases and aquatic pests/diseases
- Nil animal pest/disease incidents

Red dwarf honey bee

DPIRD is investigating the detection of the exotic pest red dwarf honey bee (*Apis florea*) discovered on the Burrup Peninsula near Karratha. Red dwarf honey bees are known to be a vector for numerous exotic bee pests, including brood diseases, internal and external mites, and bee viruses.

The department is calling on the State's beekeepers and land managers to monitor their area for any unusual bees or nests.

Quarantine Area

A **Quarantine Area** (QA) has been declared for the Burrup Peninsula in the Pilbara to support a biosecurity response to eradicate Red dwarf honey bee. Bee keepers with hives, equipment or those who have collected swarms on the peninsula are not permitted to move them outside the Quarantine Area to prevent the pest from spreading.

Affected bee keepers are asked to contact DPIRD's Pest and Disease Information Service (PaDIS) to advise of hives in the area. Workers, residents, businesses and visitors to the Quarantine Area are required to report observations of unusual bees to the PaDIS hotline or via the department's **MyPestGuide® Reporter** app to support surveillance

Impact

Red dwarf honey bees are social bees which live in colonies of at least 3,000 insects. They migrate, swarm, and abscond readily, making them a major threat for exotic incursions and to the Australian environment.

One of the major risks for Australia is that red dwarf honey bee (*Apis florea*) is host to a range of bee brood diseases, parasites, and viruses that may impact European honey bees.

The red dwarf honey bee can carry Eugarroa mite (*Eugarroa sinhai*) a close relative to the destructive Varroa mites. The species can also carry Tropilaelaps mites (*Tropilaelaps clareae*) which is a known pest of European honey bees.

Red dwarf honey bees may also compete with other bees for floral resources.

What to look for:

Red dwarf honey bees are characterised by their external nesting habits. Their nest is made up of an exposed single horizontal comb less than 25 centimetres wide that is built around and attached to tree branches or other support, including buildings and shipping containers.

The pest is easily distinguished from European honey bees by their small size in comparison to the European honey bee, being just 7-10 millimeters in length. They have a red/brown abdomen with black and white bands

Look for unusual bees that look smaller than European honey bees or colonies with exposed combs.



- +61 (0)8 9368 3080
- padis@dpird.wa.gov.au

MyPestGuide®

- [MyPestGuide® Reporter app](#)
- mypestguide.agric.wa.gov.au

Queensland fruit fly

Strict requirements for moving of fruit and fruiting vegetables in Bayswater and Belmont have now been lifted, with residents now subject to the same movement conditions as those in the broader Quarantine Area.

Residents are encouraged to continue good garden and waste disposal hygiene to help prevent future outbreaks of this significant pest, which could devastate the State's fruit and vegetable industries.

The Quarantine Area continues to be in place and includes Perth, Belmont, Gosnells, Kalamunda, Vincent, Joondalup, Swan, Wanneroo, Melville, Canning, Bayswater, South Perth, Subiaco, Stirling, Nedlands, Bassendean, Belmont, Claremont, Victoria Park, Cambridge and Mundaring.

While Bayswater and Belmont residents are no longer required to cook, freeze, process or solarise host fruit or fruiting vegetables before disposal, these measures are still highly recommended to prevent this or other pests taking hold in the area. Similarly, these residents do not have to remove fallen fruit every three days but are encouraged to do so to maintain good garden hygiene. Requirements for commercial horticulture businesses in the Quarantine Area remain and DPIRD officers continue to liaise with growers and provide assistance where required.

The new Quarantine Area Notice is in place until Tuesday, 5 December 2023 and will be reviewed as the biosecurity response progresses. The community is encouraged to remain vigilant to support the biosecurity response.

Response

The biosecurity response has made good progress and the program is being modified to the next phase of the campaign.

- Baiting and property inspections have ceased
- Monitoring and surveillance is to continue

For updated information on the new requirements the visit the Qfly biosecurity response DPIRD webpage www.agric.wa.gov.au/qflyupdate. Reports of suspected Qfly should still be made to DPIRD's Pest and Disease Information Service on 9368 3080, email padis@dpiird.wa.gov.au or via the MyPestGuide Reporter app.

Polyphagous shot-hole borer – no update since last report

Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB) *Euwallacea fornicatus* is a beetle native to Southeast Asia. The beetle attacks a wide range of plants by tunnelling into trunks, stems and branches.

DPIRD continues to respond to the confirmed detections of an exotic beetle Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer in the Perth metropolitan area.

Response activities include:

- Conducting surveillance to determine the distribution of PSHB
- Containing the pest to prevent further spread to non-infested regions within Western Australia
- Providing advice and information to residents, industry and other stakeholders
- Ensuring that all response activities are conducted safely, consistently and efficiently

To stop the spread, a Quarantine Area Notice (QAN) is in place to support the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's ongoing surveillance program to determine the spread of the pest.

The Quarantine Area covers 25 local government areas. The new areas added to the expanded QAN on 21 March 2023 are:

- Beckenham, Canning Vale, Huntingdale, Kenwick, Langford, Maddington and Thornlie in the City of Gosnells
- Duncraig, Greenwood, Marmion, Sorrento and Warwick in the City of Joondalup
- Alexander Heights, Girrawheen, Koondoola and Marangaroo in the City of Wanneroo
- Ballajura, Beechboro, Bennett Springs, Dayton, Hazelmere, Kiara, Lockridge, Malaga, Middle Swan, Midland, Viveash, West Swan and Woodbridge in the City of Swan
- Forrestfield, High Wycombe, Perth Airport and Wattle Grove in the City of Kalamunda

Link to information about [Polyphagous shot-hole borer | Agriculture and Food](#)

State alerts and investigations

DPIRD is investigating one (1) pest/disease.

National alerts & investigations

DPIRD, and other state jurisdictions, continue to monitor reported outbreaks of African swine fever, Lumpy skin disease and Foot and mouth disease in other countries.

Information regarding Foot and Mouth Disease prevention is available on the WA government website:

[Foot-and-mouth disease advice for Western Australians \(www.wa.gov.au\)](#)

Information is also available on the DPIRD website:

[Foot-and-mouth disease: prevention and preparedness | Agriculture and Food](#)

Important: There are, currently, no known incidences of these emergency animal diseases in Australia.

Emergency animal disease preparedness included in the 2023-2024 State Budget:

The WA State government announced \$10.4 Million, in the State Budget, to enhance preparedness for Emergency Animal Disease (EAD).

Key activities include:

- enhancing EAD preparedness by focussed incident management training, emergency disease exercises and finalising policies and procedures for incident response.
- enhancing communications with industry and community stakeholders to increase awareness of Emergency Animal Diseases and improve preparedness and likelihood of early disease detection and reporting.
- building and developing a veterinary reserve and enhancing veterinary student exposure to rural veterinary opportunities.
- enhancing veterinary capacity
- enhancing the diagnostic laboratory capability and capacity by upgrading the laboratory information management system, including automation of tasks and enhanced sample tracking and security.

Natural hazards – DPIRD support responsibilities and Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements WA

Severe Tropical Cyclone Seroja (Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements WA - DRFAWA)

Incident details:

11 April 2021: Severe Tropical Cyclone Seroja crossed just south of Kalbarri around 8pm Australian Western Standard Time (AWST).

Impacts at Kalbarri and the nearby town of Northampton were severe with many buildings sustaining significant damage, mostly consisting of lost roofs but other structures were destroyed. Many locations recorded maximum wind gusts greater than 125km/h with the highest being 170km/h from Meanarra Tower near Kalbarri.

DPIRD is managing Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements WA assistance to primary producers impacted by TC Seroja

Application details for the Primary Producer Recovery Grants Category B and C as at – 30 October 2023

DRFA Measures	Submitted applications	Under assessment	Approved	Approved \$
Category B	65	5	52	\$1,254,999.45 (Expended)
Category C	185	45	134	\$2,723,564.26 (Expended)

Ex-TC Ellie (Kimberley Floods) – January 2023

DPIRD is providing support to affected communities, in relation to its areas of responsibility, in the recovery from the January flooding in the west Kimberley.

- The State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies was formally activated on 9 January 2023 and remained activated until 3 May 2023 to provide support to the local government in relation to the coordination of animal welfare.

Recovery:

- Substantive Wheatbelt Development Commission CEO, Rob Cossart, has been appointed as the State Recovery Coordinator for the Kimberley floods.
 - The State recovery structure, across the four recovery environments of Social, Economic, Built and Natural environment, has been formalised with appropriate State Government agencies leading the domains:
 - Social: Department of Communities
 - Economic: DPIRD
 - Built: Department of Treasury and Main Roads WA
 - Natural environment: Department of Environmental and Regulation
- DPIRD has appointed liaison officers to sit on the social, built and natural environments State-level domains.

- The Shire of Derby West Kimberley has established its local recovery group and relevant subcommittees which are:
- Media
- Getting Home
- Cadjebut Airport
- Pastoral
- Social/Wellbeing

DPIRD has provided a departmental representative on the Shire of Derby West Kimberley's local recovery group and relevant subcommittees.

DPIRD has secured funding for an Industry Recovery Officer to be embedded with the Kimberley Pilbara Cattleman's Association (KPCA).

- Dedicated DPIRD web page for affected primary producers outlining available assistance: [Kimberley flood recovery | Agriculture and Food](#)

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements WA (DRFAWA):

Support measures are designed to assist in meeting the needs of primary producers whose assets or primary production business has/have been affected by a disaster for which DRFAWA has been invoked.

Category B - Assistance measures for primary producers may include grants for:

- Professional advice
- Reimbursement of fees (maximum \$1,500) to obtain professional advice directly related to addressing issues arising from the declared natural disaster event
- Freight subsidy (reimbursement)
Primary producers can claim a maximum of 50% of the costs to the producer of transporting any of the following items as a direct result of a natural disaster:
 - Livestock;
 - Fodder or water for livestock; or
 - Building or fencing equipment or machinery.
 - Fencing (for livestock producers only)
Primary producers can claim 100% of the costs associated with any of the following:
 - restoration/replacement of fencing (to pre-disaster standard) where the fencing has been deliberately dismantled or damaged due to counter disaster operations activities undertaken in order to combat the eligible natural disaster event; and/or
 - reimbursement of the costs of materials only (to pre-disaster standard) to repair/replace boundary fencing damaged/lost as a direct result of the eligible natural disaster event. The measure is only available where the fencing adjoins a major road/rail transport corridor and where the roaming of livestock may present a danger to the travelling public (i.e., the aim being to preserve public safety).

The applicant must demonstrate to DPIRD's satisfaction that, at the time of the natural disaster event, the property was being used to hold or agist livestock.

- Expression of interest for interest subsidy on a new loan to recover
An interest rate subsidy may be available to primary producers for new loans:
 - to repair/replace assets lost or damaged / repair damage caused by the natural disaster event
 - for carry on purposes to implement the next season's production program
 - or to replace livestock lost in the disaster for which the assistance measures under the DRFAWA have been activated

Link to further information regarding available funding and relevant conditions: <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/emergency-response/disaster-recovery-funding-arrangements>

Category D – Exceptional circumstances:
Freight Assistance Program

- Purposes: The Commonwealth and WA State Government jointly funded Freight Subsidy Program is to assist with the ongoing exceptional freight requirements for businesses impacted by ex Tropical Cyclone Ellie (DRFA AGRN1044).
- Eligible applicants: Businesses located in, or delivering to, the four (4) DRFAWA activated local government districts which are the Shire of Broome, Shire of Derby West Kimberley, Shire of Halls Creek and the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley
- Funding duration: All claims must be submitted no later than two (2) months after a suitable road connection is re-established. Claims may be backdated for all freight movement that occurred on, or after, 1 January 2023
- DPIRD is the designated delivery agency for this funding

FAQs including details of eligibility: [Publications \(dfes.wa.gov.au\)](https://dfes.wa.gov.au)

Applications received (as at 30 October 2023):

DRFA Measures	Submitted applications	Under assessment	Approved	Approved \$
Category B (AGRN 1044 – Ex TC Ellie)	5	1	3	\$ 49,875.70 (ex GST)
Category D (AGRN 1044 – Ex TC Ellie & AGRN 1059 – TC Ilsa)	220	5	202	\$ 4,509,421.93 (ex GST)

Severe Tropical Cyclone Ilsa – 9 April 2023

Incident details:

Severe Tropical Cyclone Ilsa crossed the east Pilbara coast as a category 5 cyclone just before midnight on Thursday, 13 April 2023.

Incident impacts have included:

- Destruction of Pardoo Roadhouse
- Damage/losses on pastoral stations

Local government districts subject to DRFAWA proclamation: Shire of Broome, Shire of East Pilbara and Town of Port Hedland

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements WA:

Category B: Assistance measures for primary producers may include grants for:

- Interest rate subsidy may be available to primary producers for new loans to repair/replace assets that have been damaged or destroyed
- Freight subsidy - reimbursement (livestock, fodder or water for livestock and building or fencing or machinery)
- Fencing subsidy (where fencing adjoins a major road/rail transport corridor)

Applications received (as at 3- October 2023):

(Shire of Broome, Town of Port Hedland and Shire of East Pilbara)

DRFA Measures	Submitted applications	Under assessment	Approved	Approved \$
Category B (AGRN 1059 – TC Ilsa)	2	0	2	\$90,000 (ex-GST)

Category D – Primary Producer Grants

Grants of up to \$75,000 are available to assist pastoralists with out-of-pocket clean-up and reinstatement costs incurred as a direct result of the flooding associated with Ex TC Ellie and TC Ilsa. The grant covers activities such as the removal and disposal of debris, damaged infrastructure and equipment, deceased livestock; salvaging crops; and repairing damaged infrastructure and equipment.

Note: Cat D for TC Ilsa is being administered under AGRN1044 and expenditure is included in Category D noted in the section relating to Ex TC Ellie (Kimberley floods).

DPIRD training

DPIRD staff emergency management training

Biosecurity Emergency Response Training Australia:

Relevant DPIRD staff are currently completing the Certificate IV in Public Safety (Biosecurity Emergency Response Leadership).

DPIRD emergency management two-day workshop:

The DPIRD Incident and Emergency Management Branch will be delivering emergency response training to its first response teams, and District and Local Emergency Management Committee representatives in their operational role as an Incident Support Group (ISG) and/or Operational Area Support Group (OASG).

Sessions include:

- FRT activation, functional roles and responsibilities
- Role of the District and Local Emergency Management Committee representatives as ISG/OASG liaison officer
- An overview of DPIRD's animal welfare in emergencies role and responsibilities
- Use of DPIRD information and mapping systems during incidents and emergencies
- Hybrid desktop/functional emergency management exercise

Animal Health Australia and Plant Health Australia online training:

DPIRD staff are encouraged to undertake suitable online training which is available on the Animal Health Australia (AHA) and Plant Health Australia (PHA) websites.

Links to AHA and PHA:

[Home - Animal Health Australia](#)

[Plant Health Australia](#)

DPIRD preparedness for the 2023-2024 natural hazards heightened threat period

See attachment 1

DPIRD's role in emergency management

DPIRD plays an important role in emergency management in Western Australia.

- Hazard Management Agency (HMA) for animal and plant biosecurity with responsibilities across prevention/mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. Link to State Hazard Plan – Animal and Plant Biosecurity: [State Hazard Plan Animal and Plant Biosecurity \(www.wa.gov.au\)](http://www.wa.gov.au)
- Provision of support to other HMAs by:
 - coordinating animal welfare for other hazard emergencies including during bushfires, cyclones and floods;

- contributing to the Controlling Agency's impact statement in relation to impacts to primary producers, and other economic impacts through its regional development commissions across the state
- managing eligible assistance for primary producers under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements WA and providing advice to primary producers in relation to this funding
- providing professional expertise to primary industry producers and small business in a regional context

Animal Welfare in Emergencies

Local governments are encouraged to develop a plan for animal welfare in emergencies (PAWE) which forms part of the local emergency management arrangements (LEMA).

For tools and resources to assist local governments to develop a local PAWE [click here](#) and for assistance in completing the PAWE template, speak to your LEMC or DEMC representative/s.

DPIRD Preparedness for the 2023-2024 Natural Hazards Heightened Threat Period

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) has existing initiatives in place, and also undertakes additional activities, to assist in organisational preparedness for the natural hazards heightened threat period.

State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) has formally assigned the role and responsibility for coordinating animal welfare in emergencies to the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

The owner or person responsible for caring for an animal (the carer) is responsible for the welfare of that animal. The owner or carer's ability to address animal welfare issues may be hampered, or prevented, due to the nature of the emergency. In these circumstances, local arrangements, such as the local government's plan for animal welfare in emergencies (PAWE), may assist. If local arrangements do not exist, are inadequate or have been exhausted, the controlling agency or hazard management agency (HMA) may determine the need to access the arrangements under the State Support Plan.

The controlling agency or hazard management agency (HMA) may determine the need to activate the arrangements under the State Support Plan where:

- animal welfare is beyond the capacity and capability of the owners or carers, and
- any local or district arrangements are no longer sufficient or effective; or
- no local or district arrangements exists.

In addition, DPIRD may recommend activation of the State Support Plan to the Incident Controller.

Approval to activate the State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies is by the DPIRD Executive Director - Biosecurity.

Note: DPIRD may support local arrangements for animal welfare prior to the activation of the State Support Plan through the provision of advice, communication and providing connection to animal welfare stakeholders or service providers.

DPIRD's responsibilities may include:

- liaise with the relevant controlling agency or HMA as a liaison officer and/ or member of the incident support group (ISG) or operational area support group (OASG);
- coordinates the activation of the DPIRD internal operational plan in line with this Plan;
- contribute to public information released during the emergency;
- provide situational reports to the CAWE on animal welfare in the emergency;

- establish the Animal Welfare in Emergences (AWEG) to consult on actions undertaken by DPIRD in coordinating animal welfare services for an emergency;
- liaise with the local government and other organisations to coordinate response activities including:
 - providing support and advice on transportation for evacuating animals;
 - identifying the availability of locations to house evacuated animals;
 - managing displaced or stray animals; assisting owners and carers to obtain Restricted Access Permits, where applicable;
 - assessing and triaging impacted animals;
 - identifying/administering treatment;
 - performing/assisting with transportation for euthanasia or perform on-site; advising on/arranging for disposal of deceased animals;
 - identifying/providing emergency food / water / shelter; and
 - identifying and reuniting animals with their owners or carers.
- Coordinate arrangements to best utilise volunteers and donations relevant to DPIRD animal categories;
- coordinate the reporting and future investigation of animal welfare complaints arising as a consequence of the emergency;
- liaise with and advise Local Government and other organisations about suitable temporary containment and other welfare needs of animals.

Business Continuity Plan

DPIRD has a business continuity plan to assist in maintaining delivery of its critical functions.

DPIRD First Response Teams

DPIRD has first response teams (FRTs) to assist with a response in relation to its role as the HMA for animal and plant biosecurity incidents and emergencies, and its support responsibilities in relation to animal welfare in emergencies.

The DPIRD first response teams (FRTs) provide the Department with teams across the State, which may be activated to undertake required actions in relation to response and recovery.

Emergency management training

DPIRD has an ongoing schedule to deliver emergency management training and exercises.

Biosecurity Emergency Response Training Australia

Relevant DPIRD staff are currently completing the Certificate IV in Public Safety (Biosecurity Emergency Response Leadership).

DPIRD emergency management workshop for DEMC/LEMC representatives and FRT members

The DPIRD Incident and Emergency Management Branch (IEMB) will be delivering emergency response training to its district and local emergency management committee (DEMC/ LEMC) representatives, and first response teams across the state.

Sessions include:

- FRT activation, functional roles and responsibilities
- DEMC and LEMC representatives' operational role on an ISG and/or an OASG
- Use of DPIRD information and mapping systems during incidents and emergencies
- Hybrid desktop/functional emergency management exercise

On call arrangements

DPIRD appoints on call officers during the DPIRD heightened threat period – 1 November to 31 March, annually.

Incident and Emergency Management Branch On Call Coordinator:

The Incident and Emergency Management Branch (IEMB) staff undertake the role of On Call Coordinator from 1 November to 31 March, annually.

The IEMB On Call Coordinator supports local DPIRD staff;

- by monitoring weather conditions, and incidents and emergencies across the state
- in their role on an Incident Support Group (ISG) or Operational Area Support Group (OASG);
- who undertake a role on a First Response Team.

Regionally based on call officers:

Regionally based on call officers fulfil this function from 25 December 2023 to 15 January 2024.

Regionally based officers:

- monitor weather conditions, and incidents and emergencies in their region
- are the Department's Liaison Officer on an ISG or OASG

DPIRD on call operates:

Monday to Sunday – 7am to 8pm

Important Disclaimer

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the State of Western Australia accept no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.

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**DFES Upper Great Southern
Brookton LEMC Report**
28th November 2023

Key Messages

Harvest Water Bomber Support: These teams of two water bombers and an Air Attack Supervisor are due to be available in Geraldton, Cunderdin, Narrogin, Albany and Esperance.

Key messages:

Ask for water bombers **early**. The criteria are:

- Public Safety at Risk
- Fire Crews in Imminent Danger
- Assets at Imminent Risk
- Known high fuel loads and the likelihood of excessive rates of spread

To utilise these resources effectively, call for them early to minimise turnaround time and ensure a Ground Controller is allocated with Talk-Around selected on the radios to communicate with the aircraft (Your local CESM/AO/DO can assist).

High-Season Fleet: This year, during the 2023/24 high-threat period, the Upper Great Southern has a plan to support high-risk areas with additional appliances when they become available. These appliances are currently being utilised in the North of the state, which continues to see significant fire activity through much of the Kimberly and Pilbara regions. Currently the region is only waiting on another 4 appliances for the regions allocation to be complete.

Reporting: With harvest fast approaching, we are encouraging FCOs and brigades to ensure that all fires are being reported to 000 (ComCen). This assists in collating information to better understand the incidents and fuel age throughout the region and ensures that the documentation supports landholders who lose property/machinery due to fire.

Lithium-ion batteries: Last year, firefighters responded to 64 structure fires caused by lithium-ion batteries, up from 34 in 2020. Firefighters have already been called to 32 incidents in 2023, with the State now in its busiest year for residential fires. Information on lithium-ion battery fires and prevention tips can be found at <https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/hazard-information/fire-in-the-home/lithium-ion-batteries>.



DFES Upper Great Southern Brookton LEMC Report

28th November 2023

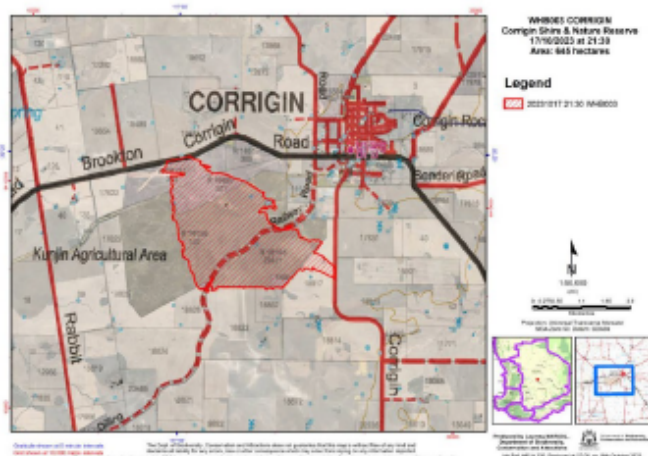
Recent Events

Bushfire Season

For the Upper Great Southern Region, we have had our first level two incident with last week's Corrigin Fire.

This 645-ha fire resulted in an Emergency Warning for the surrounding area, including the Corrigin Townsite, with water bombers and crews coming from neighbouring shires and three Rural Interface Strike teams from Perth. Note: the water bombers were only available due to a DBCA short-term contract that concluded last night.

The Shire of Corrigin managed the fire with support from various agencies, including DFES, DBCA and WA Police. A 3 p.m. weather observation at the nearby weather station showed a max temp of 39, RH down to only 4.3% and winds up to 37km/hr.



This incident reinforced the importance of several actions, including:

- The Incident Controller stepping back from the firefighting work, setting up in the Shire Office to take a big picture view and getting priority actions underway (State Strategic Control Priorities)
- Closing roads
- Distributing and updating community warnings
- Providing a situation report early
- Asking for resources early (water bombers, machinery, DFES personnel and extra crews)
- Section 13 Process - LG to DFES (Annex A) - DFES WAFES Manual Part 5



DFES Upper Great Southern Brookton LEMC Report

28th November 2023

Key Focus on State Strategic Control Priorities:

State Strategic Control Priorities

The State Strategic Control Priorities for all hazards are:

- PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF LIFE: This is the fundamental overarching priority for the State, and includes:
 - Safety of emergency service personnel
 - Safety of community members including at-risk community members located within the incident area
- Community warnings and information
- Protection of critical infrastructure and community assets
- Protection of residential property
- Protection of assets supporting individual livelihood and community financial sustainability
- Protection of environmental and heritage values.

The above priorities are not hierarchical; however, protection and preservation of life must be paramount when considering the State strategic control priorities that identify the priority roles and actions for the emergency management response, where there are concurrent risks or competing priorities.

Extract - State Emergency Management Policy

Points of Interest

Preparing for the upcoming Bushfire Season:

The Summer 2023/24 Seasonal outlook is still pending; however, we are conscious of the extreme season in the northern hemisphere and the climatic indicators observed this year. Training is happening consistently, and pre-season briefings are in their final stages, with the Corrigin fire demonstrating that the bushfire season is now upon us. A summary of the seasonal outlooks released to date is below. We are already seeing significant bushfire behaviour across the state.

West Australia is within range of reaching record levels for soil dryness before the start of summer. As our region and adjoining regions have already seen, fire behaviour is more dramatic so far this season. Case in point, the Serpentine fires burnt through 6 year old regrowth forest as if it was 12 year old regenerated forest.

As such, we encourage all brigades to finalise their preparations and reach out to the local DFES staff for any further assistance or queries.



**DFES Upper Great Southern
Brookton LEMC Report**
28th November 2023

ong-range forecast overview
wed: 21 August 2023

For September to November, below median rainfall is likely to very likely (50% to greater than 90% chance) for most of Australia.
For September to November, above median maximum temperatures are very likely (greater than 90% chance) for almost all of Australia.
For September to November, warmer than median minimum temperatures are likely (50 to 90% chance) to very likely for most of western and southern Australia.
The long-range forecast is influenced by several factors, including likely El Niño development and positive Indian Ocean Dipole development, and record warm oceans globally.

Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Spring 2023 in Western Australia

Summary

- Winter rainfall has been below average for southern WA and above average for northern WA. This is reflected in the relative root zone soil moisture for these regions.
- An above average wet season in the Kimberley has delayed curing in the savanna grassland and subsequently the late dry season.

For southern WA in late spring, drier and warmer conditions may contribute to higher surface fuel availability and make bushfires more difficult to suppress.

For further information see: dfes.wa.gov.au

For DFES assistance, the Regional Duty Coordinator can be contacted on 1800 865 103 at any time.

Key DFES Circulars

66/2023 – Updates to PPC and Uniform – New lightweight material is available for LG Bushfire Brigades to order.

64/2023 – All Hazards Deployment Register – Online Operational Interstate/International Deployment planning tool for all availability and interest from all volunteer fire services

170/2023 – Emergency Services Volunteer Fuel Card Scheme FY 2023-24 - Volunteers affiliated with the following emergency service BGUs are eligible for the Volunteer Fuel Card, which can be used to purchase fuel for their vehicles.

- Bush Fire Service
- Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service
- Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services

All circulars can be found by logging in to the DFES Volunteer Portal.



**DFES Upper Great Southern
Brookton LEMC Report**
28th November 2023

Staffing

District Officer Narrogin Simon Vogel has transferred to a new position in Perth with effect on 20 October 2023. District Officer Emergency Management Paul Blechynden has been appointed to District Officer Narrogin from the 20th of October, 2023, leaving the District Officer Emergency Management position vacant.

Adverse Fire Weather Event 3-6 February 2022 community report

Six key lessons across all fires/ events

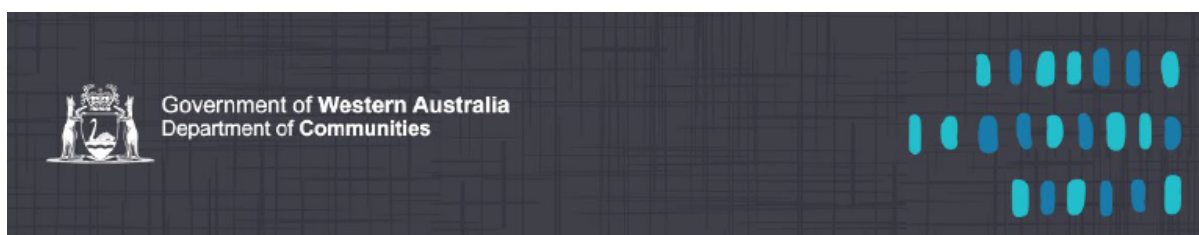
DFES regards the AAR process as fundamental to developing an efficient and effective response to incidents alongside the State's overall preparedness. This report details the observations, insights, and lessons gained from this process. This provides an opportunity for DFES and its partner agencies to continue to learn from these events.

DFES Reviews are publicly available here: <https://publications.dfes.wa.gov.au/>

As an agency, we are about continual improvement; the lessons highlighted are explained in detail in the full report.

The six lessons are outlined below:

Lesson 1: Pre-emptive preparation	Preliminary preparations made by the SOC, MOC, and ROCs based on the predicted weather, relating to resource stand-by and deployment, were deemed successful and should be considered for future events.
Lesson 2: Early communications to pre-formed teams	Personnel involved in the pre-formed teams (PFT) were able to deploy with little notice, even those not on-call. While this was successful, there should be a more coordinated roll out of the information to ensure sufficient information is provided to those attending.
Lesson 3: Role clarity of communication lines	Improved communication is imperative during incidents, for not only battling bushfires but for planning and resource deployment.
Lesson 4: Contingency plans for identified locations	Facilities at or close to the fireground need to ensure they are in safe identified locations, with contingency plans in place.
Lesson 5: Planned and coordinated community communication	There is an opportunity for improvement when it comes to community messaging to ensure consistent, timely, coordinated, and current messaging is always used.
Lesson 6: Wider engagement at event locations	Learning opportunities are present during and after all incidents and should be actioned and embraced more widely.



District Emergency Services Officer – Wheatbelt LEMC Update: November 2023 (B)

In the event of an emergency please call the All Hazards - State On-Call Coordinator on 0418 943 853, this number is manned 24/7. emergencyservices@communities.wa.gov.au. (Not for public distribution)
 Meetings, exercise details or information request can be emailed to joanne.spadaccini@communities.wa.gov.au

Notification of Terminology Updates in State Support Plan – Emergency Relief and Support

The State Support Plan – Emergency Relief and Support was endorsed by SEMC in October 2023. Updates that have been incorporated into the State Support Plan, specifically pertaining to Emergency Relief and Support involve changes in the terminology used within the document have been listed below.

To ensure consistency and clarity in our operations, please consider the potential implications for your respective policies, guidelines, and procedures.

Your prompt action and collaboration in ensuring that this information is cascaded effectively is vital for maintaining the integrity and efficacy of our collective emergency management efforts.

Previous Terminology	Updated Terminology (approved as of 4 October 2023)
Welfare	Emergency Relief and Support
Welfare functional areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • emergency accommodation • emergency catering • emergency clothing and personal requisites • personal services • registration and reunification • financial assistance. 	Functional domains <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • emergency accommodation • emergency food • emergency clothing and personal requisites • personal support services • registration and reunification • financial assistance.
Welfare Centre/Local Welfare Emergency Coordination Centre	Evacuation Centre
State Welfare Emergency Committee	State Emergency Relief and Support Committee
State Welfare Emergency Committee - Operations	State Emergency Relief and Support Committee - Operations
Emergency Welfare Coordination Groups	Emergency Relief and Support Coordination Groups
Local Emergency Welfare Plan	Local Emergency Relief and Support Plan
Local Welfare Emergency Committee	Local Emergency Relief and Support Coordination Group
Local Welfare Emergency Coordination Centre	Evacuation Centre

Previous Terminology	Updated Terminology (approved as of 4 October 2023)
State Welfare Incident Coordination Centres	State Emergency Relief and Support Incident Coordination Centres
State Welfare Coordinator	State Relief and Support Coordinator
State Welfare Centre	State Evacuation Centre
Welfare Emergency Controller	Emergency Relief and Support Coordinator
State Welfare Centre Database	State Evacuation Centre Database
Local Welfare Coordinator	Evacuation Centre Coordinator
Welfare agencies	Partner agencies
Welfare Coordinator (SHP – Crash Emergency)	Airport Emergency Relief and Support Coordinator
Support Agency Welfare Liaison Officer	Liaison Officers
Local Welfare Liaison Officer	Local Government Liaison Officer

State Wide Evacuation Centre Review – Evacuation Centre Audits

As requested by the SEMC, by the 30th of November 2023, all premises that are listed as Evacuation Centres are required to have a completed Evacuation Centre Review, including floorplans, held on file by the Department of Communities. The purpose of the review is to collect the essential data that will determine if a facility is suitable as an evacuation centre for specific risks.

To assist this process, it is requested that the attached form be completed for each centre listed in the LEMA and returned to joanne.spadaccini@communities.wa.gov.au by Monday 13th November.

Emergency Relief and Support – Operations Update

- **Review of the State Support Plan** - The draft State Support Plan – Emergency Relief and Support has been endorsed by the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) Response Policy Sub-Committee and will be presented to the SEMC for approval on 4 October 2023. Communities is preparing minor consequential changes to the Local Emergency Welfare Plans. This has now been approved and endorsed by SEMC on 11th October 2023.
- **Capability Audit** – Communities procured Nous Group to conduct an audit of Western Australia’s emergency relief and support capability. Nous has completed consultation with partner agencies and is finalising the audit report
- **Disaster Victim Identification (DVI)/Mass Fatality** – Communities is engaging with WA Police and the State Coroner’s Office to strengthen its response to a potential major emergency where mass DVI processes are required.
- **Change Management** - On 21 August 2023, Communities commenced a change process to establish a permanent structure to deliver the Emergency Relief and Support (ERS) function under an enhanced service delivery model.
- **Partners Strategy**- To coincide with the change management process, Communities is exploring new ways to engage with partners. From October, Communities will trial a series of monthly workshops, information circulars and desktop exercises with state partners.
- **Kimberley Floods**
 - Communities continues to provide emergency relief and support services to Fitzroy Valley residents impacted by the Kimberley Floods.



- As of 20 September 2023:
 - 87 people are in Phase 1 Temporary Accommodation across the Fitzroy Valley: including Humanihuts on Country at Bungardi and Tarunda Caravan Park and in the Derby Hostel.
 - From 11 January 2023 until 20 September 23, Communities has responded to a total of 2,090 calls for assistance.
 - 92 Category 3 Assistance applications have been initiated.
- Communities has undertaken planning and preparedness activities in the Kimberley Region ahead of the upcoming wet season. Key activities are integrated into the DFES Wet Season Regional Preparedness Strategy and support the Shire of Derby West Kimberley Resilience and Planning Committee activities.

If you would like any further information, please contact me on 0429 102 614 or email joanne.spadaccini@communities.wa.gov.au.

Jo Spadaccini

District Emergency Services Officer – Wheatbelt
0429 102 614
Emergency Relief and Support
Department of Communities

7.11.23 EXERCISE

A short Recovery Centre Operation desktop exercise was conducted.

8.11.23 FOR INFORMATION

8.11.23.01 MEDIA RELEASE – AERIAL FLEET ACTIVATED TO PROTECT WA'S GRAIN HARVEST

Fixed-wing waterbombers will again be based in grain-growing regions to boost firefighting capability and reduce the severity of crop fires during the hottest stretch of harvest.

Now entering its third year, the Grain Harvest Aerial Fleet allows strike teams to be deployed to high-priority fires at short notice, boosting response times across Western Australia's nine-million hectare grain production area.

Two strike teams will be periodically based throughout the Mid-West-Gascoyne, Wheatbelt and Great Southern regions, with the duration of each deployment to be based on ongoing risk assessments.

One team will start in Geraldton today and the second team will start on 8 November at Cunderdin in the Central Wheatbelt.

Each strike team includes a five-person crew, two fixed-wing waterbombers, an air attack supervision aircraft and a fuel truck that can be deployed to assist ground crews.

The fixed wing waterbombers can cruise at a speed of 280km per hour, drop up to 3,150 litres of water, foam or retardant and require just minutes to refuel and reload.

During the 2022-23 harvest, the strike teams completed 205 drops across 28 incidents, dropping 645,750 litres on firegrounds from Geraldton to Esperance.

The program is funded by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services with support from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

8.11.23.02 MEDIA RELEASE – NEW CHAIR APPOINTED TO STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Emergency Services Minister Stephen Dawson today announced the appointment of Ms Emma Cole as the new Chair of the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC).

Ms Cole is the current Deputy Chair of the SEMC, and brings extensive experience in strategic leadership and contemporary governance, after spending two decades working in policy and local government positions.

The SEMC plays a pivotal role as a conduit between public sector leaders and the State's Hazard Management Authorities (HMAs). The SEMC also provides advice to the Emergency Services Minister on the compliance of State Government agencies in responding to Hazards and emergency situations, as well as the preparedness of Western Australia to responding to emerging incidents and hazards.

Ms Cole was appointed to the SEMC as an independent member and Deputy Chair in October 2020. Mandurah Mayor Rhys Williams has been appointed as the Deputy Chair of the SEMC to maintain the important role that local government plays in emergency management.

Ms Cole replaces outgoing Chair Dr Ron Edwards, who has served in the role from 2017, guiding WA through difficult emergency events such as the COVID-19 Pandemic, as well as the State Recovery Controller for the Wooroloo Bushfires.

Minister Dawson thanked Dr Edwards for his commitment and distinguished service to the Government during difficult times, and for fostering collaboration between Departments.

9.11.23 NEXT MEETING & CLOSURE

- Proposed meeting dates for 2024:
 - 12th March 2024
 - 11th June 2024
 - 10th September 2024
 - 10th December 2024

The Shire President declared the meeting closed at 6:45pm.