

Minutes

Local Government Emergency Management Advisory Group



12:30pm – 3:00pm Friday, 28 May 2021 (working lunch provided)

Venue: Bushfire Centre of Excellence, Peel Business Park 20 Dollyup Street, Nambelup WA

Attendees:

- Ms Suzan Lees – WALGA (acting Chair)
- Ms Cassandra Mora – WALGA
- Ms Renata Zelinova – WALGA
- Mr Michael Emery – City of Cockburn
- Mr Adrian Dyson – Shire of Mundaring
- Mr Konrad Seidl - City of Perth
- Ms Andriena Ciric – Shire of Capel
- Petina Blackwell – DFES (proxy for Timothy McNaught)
- Chris Dunne – DFES (proxy for Timothy McNaught)
- Mr John Tillman – DFES (proxy for Rachael Parkes)

Apologies:

- Ms Susie Moir - WALGA (Chair)
- Mr Timothy McNaught – BCOE
- Ms Rachael Parkes – DFES
- Mr Rob Paull – Shire of Derby-West Kimberley
- Mr Ty Matson – City of Wanneroo
- Mr Leigh Mulholland – Shire of East Pilbara
- Mr Peter Fitchat – Shire of Dundas
- Ms Michelle Bell – City of Belmont

Purpose:- **Showcase initiatives, learnings and case studies within Local Governments. Create resilient communities throughout WA through sharing knowledge and stakeholder engagement.**

Attachments:

- Previous meeting minutes
- Policy 95: Alcohol and Other Drugs Management
 - Letter from DFES to WALGA
- Consultation Package for Fire Weather District Review
- WALGA Member Representation
 - Bushfire Operations Committee Communique, 26 March 2021

Welcome and Apologies - Confirm Previous Minutes

Welcome and Apologies
Address actions from previous minutes

Approval of the previous minutes
Michael moved
Konrad seconded

ACTION: [WHS Act 2020](#)

LGIS to provide draft resources for feedback from WALGA and LGEMAG

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WALGA to meet with DFES to discuss upcoming drafting of legislation

Discussion: Ongoing. Susie to provide update at the next meeting.

ACTION: LGGS Working Group and Slip-on Units

FOR LGGS WORKING GROUP;

- In response to the motion from BF volunteers on approach to eligible/ineligible, the ineligible list be removed and the addition of the statement to the eligible list be “eligible items include but are not limited to”
- Ask LGGS Working Group if Local Governments can be provided with information on what other LGs are getting as part of the LGGS.

Update to be provided to LGEMAG at next meeting of the outcomes and actions of the LGGS Working Group meeting.

Discussion: Ongoing. Suzan provided an update. The last LGGS Working Group meeting was held as a facilitated workshop that sought to assist the group to refocus on the purpose/function of the group. It is unclear if the Working Group is continuing. Cassandra advised that their had been discussion that Local Government representation be extended to include an Elected Member and an officer in addition to the WALGA representative. The group discussed the appropriateness of having an Elected Member on the Working Group. Suzan to report back on the membership of the group and when the next meeting will be.

ACTION: Commissioners Standard

Update letter to Commissioner from LGEMAG feedback, then seek feedback from other WALGA staff, then send to Kalamunda and LGEMAG for final approval.

Discussion: Ongoing. Susie to provide update at the next meeting.

ACTION: Animal Welfare in Emergencies

Invite Ty Matson (Wanneroo) to conversation with Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development on evacuation centres.

Further information sought on evacuation centre information and training options.

Discussion: As Ty is not online this discussion will be taken offline.

Cassandra provided an update on the AWIE grant. The group expressed interest that the remaining funds fund domestic animal welfare kits including portable stock fencing to be shared between Local Governments.

BRIT Tools – City of Cockburn

Micheal Emery from the City of Cockburn provided an update on the Bushfire Risk Identification Tool (BRIT), which was developed with NDRP funding in collaboration with the Office of Bushfire Risk Management and CSIRO. The tool allows users to study bushfire risk to assets and assess the effectiveness of proposed mitigation works using a dynamic fire simulation model.

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Discussion: Presentation attached.

Michael provided an overview of the BRIT tool focussing on the capabilities of the tool and reasons for development. In discussion, Michael advised the group that the BRIT tool was used to promote awareness to the community. An area was identified within the community that believes they understand risks without advice from LG. Fire modelling in the BRIT tool was utilised to inform the community about what they can do. The software is running separately to Spark. The program was funded by NDRP but significant internal funding was put into the project as well.

Petina and Chris advised that OBRM is reviewing its BRM Planning guidelines and are advising LGs with BRMPs due for review to delay until new guidelines are developed that will include a toolkit.

ACTION: Tim to advise Suzan of next NDRP round and inform LGEMAG.

Alcohol Management Policy

Discussion on the existing policy to inform WALGA's response

- How does this policy apply to LG volunteers?
- How might changes impact LG's?

Discussion: The group agreed that this policy is very topical and closely linked with the new WHS Act. Adrian and Andriena agreed that their Local Governments usually adopt all DFES standard operating procedures (SOPs). Andriena identified that it would be challenging to endorse this policy around the festive season and with regulations on the WHS Act still to be released. Andriena also identified that the legislation missed some of the key points from the discussion paper (attached).

Resource Sharing in Emergencies

The impacts of the Wooroloo bushfires and TC Seroja have highlighted the need to streamline the process for resource sharing between Local Governments.

Susie Moir to guide a discussion regarding challenges and possible solutions.

Discussion: Cassandra and Suzan mentioned that recent events highlighted the difficulties of sharing resources between Local Governments during and immediately after an emergency and that WALGA is looking to progress work in this space. The Group concurred that it is difficult, with specific examples including that EHO's only have authority to act within their Council, covering costs of accommodation, and backfilling day-to-day work. It was suggested that it's a professional development opportunity for juniors to gain experience and act as an extra pair of hands. Also, that remote assistance and connecting online would be helpful to cover the administrative burden.

The group highlighted that exercising collaboration would be valuable. Adrian noted that this worked well in the Wooroloo bushfire. It was mentioned that metro Local Governments also connect with lots of other metro LG's compared to regional LG's that may only connect with their immediate neighbours.

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It was suggested that this issue and the opportunities it presents should be raised at CEO forums, to raise awareness and because CEO's may feel more obliged to respond to their fellows.

It was also noted, that a number of resources are already shared between some LG's including ranger services, EHO's and building surveyors.

The group recommended that WALGA produce a discussion paper and look at what other States are doing.

Fire Weather Districts Review

Rachael Parkes from DFES to attend to discuss the review and consultation

Discussion: John Tillman provided the presentation on behalf of Rachael Parkes. More information available on national website and DFES website.

The group asked if there was any messaging going out about purchasing message board. John advised that DFES can put out another communique about not purchasing messaging boards and hardware until new AFDR system is updated.

Representation Discussion

Discussion of committee and working group meetings attended by WALGA representatives this quarter.

Discussion: Adrian asked about how he can report back to WALGA for the IBOC AFDRS sub-committee. Suzan recommended sending the minutes and some insider notes.

Other Business

2:45pm – 3:00pm (15mins)

- Are members happy with the format of these meetings?
- Are there other areas the group want to cover?

As the terms of reference only reviewed recently and COVID has created disjointness, the group agreed to look at this discussion in 12 months time.

- Adrian asked the DFES staff present if there would be a state response to the Royal Commission into Natural Disaster. He was concerned due to the number of mentions directly of Local Government.
 - DFES reps advised that they were unsure if there would be a response or if any resources have been allocated.
- It was also asked if there was any progress on a EM Services Act to bring together the EM Act, Bushfire Act and such.
 - DFES have heard unofficially that it has been pushed up on the reform agenda
- Andriena expressed her disappointed in the closure of WALGA's LG Maps service and that there was a lack of messaging.

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- The WALGA team will follow up with the project lead about the communication concerns.

Next meeting

Next meeting is Friday, **23 July** 12:30pm to 3pm.

Meeting closed at 2:50pm followed by a tour of the facilities.