



# Town of Bassendean LEMC

## Executive Officer's Report December 2020

### Central DEMC Meeting

The regular meeting of the Central DEMC was held at the City of Perth on 14 October. The meeting was well attended by a full compliment of Local Government representatives.

### Presentation Dept. of Health

The Department of Health provided a very comprehensive presentation covering the COVID-19 outbreak response and planning through the State Health Incident Coordination Centre.

The presentation, provided diagrams depicting the setup of the State Health Incident Coordination structure and outlined the State's

1. State level integrated outbreak plans.
2. State integrated coordination response plans.
3. Local and regional plans.

All the above plans are scalable to any size outbreak and appear to be flexible enough to enable the required changes to be made to fit the circumstances and size of the outbreak.

Other plans discussed were:

1. The Remote Indigenous Community Plan.
2. Prison outbreak Plan.
3. School and Childcare Plan.
4. Mining and Offshore Plan.
5. Industrial Facilities Plan.
6. Commercial Vessels Plan.

All of these plans appear to be well thought through and will provide targeted response in all circumstances of a pandemic.

It was also pointed out during the presentation some key points.

One single confirmed case is sufficient to trigger a response.

There are twelve steps to define the activation of a public health response.

The Dept. of Health runs continuous desktop scenario exercises to further test the State plans which are regularly reviewed and amended to capture important emerging lessons learned.

A presentation by the Environmental Health Directorate DoH covered the planning in place for, events, mass gatherings, food and beverage businesses, sport and recreation, beauty and personal care services and includes support for business and instructions on what you can and cannot do during a pandemic.

All of the above plans are based on a comprehensive risk approach and a risk matrix against which assessment of event plans are made.

### **The Event Proposal Process**

The Event Proposal process including key elements for cross-agency support.

Community events under 500 attendees were not generally affected.

Minimise the impact on industry.

Public Health messaging.

Plans are both flexible and scalable.

Plans are proportionate to the risk level existing at the time.

### **COVID-19 Wastewater Surveillance**

DoH are currently employing the ColoSSoS Collaboration on Sewage Surveillance. Water Research Australia is leading an innovative, and collaborative Australia-wide investigation that aims to integrate reliable results of sewage testing for the SARS-CoV-2 virus with health data for COVID-19 on a national basis.

The ColoSSoS Project – Collaboration on Sewage Surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 – will track and monitor the presence of the virus that causes COVID-19 and its persistence in the Australian sewerage network, thus providing information on where it is present in the population.

There is agreed criteria nationally:

- Well defined catchment area.
- Stable population.
- Short turn-around for results.
- Feasible to implement a public health response.
- Planning for response to positive samples.

### **SEMC Business Plan**

- SEMC is still considering the Strategic Business Plan that will influence the business plans of the LEMCs State-wide.
- DEMC Business Plan is up for consideration.
- Police are considering changes to the role of the Commander North and South Metro Regions. These changes may include the appointment of the North and South Regional Commanders as chair of the DEMCs.
- Considering the current four meetings per year be reduced to two.

### **Risk Management for Local Government**

There is a proposal to plan joint stage 4 risk management workshops in 2021.

A reporting template will be tabled at the next meeting of DEMC.

### **State Exercise Planning**

SEMC has decided that the hazard of 'earthquake' will be the topic for exercises conducted in 2021.

### **New Hazard adopted by SEMC**

Hostile act has been introduced as a prescribed hazard. This enables the provisions of the Emergency Management Act 2005 and Emergency Management Regulations 2006 to be used in certain security related situations which are capable of causing or resulting in loss of life, prejudice to safety, or harm to the health, of persons or animals as destruction of, or damage to, property or any part of the environment but are not terrorist acts.

REG. AMENDMENT 15(n) prescribes hostile act as a hazard.

14A describes the hostile act hazard

16(h) prescribes the Commissioner of Police as the Hazard Management Agency for the hostile act hazard.

### **Evacuation Centre PPE Advice**

The advice from DC is that LG Evacuation Centres must have on hand initial supplies of PPE in sufficient quantities to handle initial stages of occupation. Following this, supplies will be provided by DC through their supply chain.

The DC guidance document released in late 2020 is currently in DRAFT format and is being amended. The document is considered sufficiently robust in its present form to be a guide for Local Governments to follow.

### **State Exercise**

DFES conducted a State level exercise on 20 November to exercise the effects of COVID-19 on the response to a major bushfire.

The scenario was set in January 2021. A bushfire started at 0200 hours in the John Forrest National Park in the Shire of Mundaring. The fire quickly escalated impacting Darlington by 0400 hours. The fire was rated a Level 2 incident.

The workshop was designed to allow representatives to work through the given scenario and injects and gain awareness of operational aspects while drawing out key limitations with respect to resourcing and coordinating a response to bushfire during COVID-19 restrictions.

Throughout the exercise there were three presentations based on current preparations and abilities.

Dept. of Communities Kim Dean discussed DC current operational environment during COVID-19 and outlined their approach to the setup and operation of Evacuation Centres should and event take place during a pandemic.

Shire of Mundaring rep Adrian Dyson outlined COVID-19 preparedness and operational issues for the Shire and local government generally.

St John Ambulance rep Steve Hall outlined the current operational impacts on the SJA day-to-day operations.

The exercise was well conducted and there was ample opportunity for frank discussion on the preparedness for this type of event across all agencies present.

The standout issue and the topic of most discussion centred around the identification of active cases of infection and places where self-isolation was taking place within the active bushfire advice areas.

There is current legislation on place for the sharing of information across agencies, however this is only able to be activated where a State of Emergency or Emergency Situation is declared. This information sharing issue proved to be problematic and one that will need to be remedied in a timely fashion. The other top topic was the reception of persons self-isolating at evac centres. Could these persons be redirected to stay with family close relatives instead of attending an evac centre.

All things considered the exercise was well conducted and would have provided DFES and other key agencies with some key aspects of response they had not considered previously. There is plenty of information on the table to drive inter-agency agreement going forward.