

# WALGA REPORT

## Local Government Emergency Management Advisory Group

### Member Representation (December and January)

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BOM Weather Briefings (twice weekly)  
IBOC Research Subcommittee  
State Bushfire Advisory Council (SBAC)  
State Welfare Emergency Committee  
AQVx training  
WA Climate Science Initiative  
LG Associations EM Officers Meeting (led by ALGA)  
IBOC Common Doctrine  
Regional Recovery Exercising Advisory Group  
All Hazards Liaison Group Meetings (Heatwaves and Severe Thunderstorms across December and January)  
Fuel Load Management in Drains Stakeholder Discussion  
Meeting with Office of the Auditor-General

### Feedback and Submissions

*nil*

### Updates from Member Representation

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#### **LG Associations EM Officers Meeting**

ALGA has provided an application to the National Recovery and Resilience Agency for funding under the Disaster Risk Reduction Package to fund a *Local Government Risk Reduction Preparedness Project*. The Project will aim to increase disaster risk preparedness and capacity at the local government level across Australia. The funding will support each LG Association to host a project officer for three years to support LGs in each State and Territory (excl. ACT) to provide assistance to LGs in their respective State to produce a Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy.

#### **Fuel Load Management in Drains Stakeholder Discussion**

As an action from the South Metropolitan Bushfire Management Working Group on December 8, WALGA met with the City of Rockingham, Water Corp., DBCA and DFES to discuss an issue raised regarding responsibility for managing fuel loads on unallocated crown lands in particular drainage channels.

City of Rockingham expressed that it is difficult to apply for Mitigation Activity Funding when the responsibility of managing unallocated crown land is unclear e.g. drains. Following some discussion, WALGA asserted that we will follow up with OBRM to discuss the matter further and invited the City of Rockingham to attend the upcoming Local Government Emergency Management Advisory Group meeting to discuss the experience of other Local Governments.

#### **State Bushfire Advisory Council**

SBAC met on Tuesday, 7 December for its final meeting of 2021. Read the communique [here](#).

### **Officer of Auditor General Meeting**

The Office of the Auditor General (OAG) is conducting a performance audit of the management of funding for volunteer fire and emergency services groups in Western Australia. In December 2021 WALGA met with the OAG to provide preliminary information relating to Local Government management of volunteer bushfire brigades and the Local Government Grants Scheme for their consideration in determining the scope of the audit.

### **Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) Update**

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DFES has provided an update to the sector on the final proposed AFDRS and supporting Fire Weather Districts for final comments. The new nationally consistent System will come into effect on Thursday, 1 September 2022.

WALGA supported DFES by providing a contact list of all LG CEOs to provide an update to the sector. The update is attached in the email with the Agenda.

### **Community Disaster Resilience Strategy (CDRS)**

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WALGA will be collaborating with DFES to run sector workshops to receive feedback and ideas for the CDRS. This will inform WALGA's submission to the CDRS Discussion Paper, which was released late last year.

### **Traffic Management During Emergencies Guidelines**

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DFES is leading a review of the Traffic Management During Emergencies Guidelines, including the supporting State Emergency Management Plan and Policy (5.3.3 and 5.8 respectively). The review is to reflect current practices and include updated terminology, as well as make the document and its appendices more accessible and user-friendly including the Traffic Management Plan, Vehicle Control Check Point Checklist and Aide Memoire. Consultation is now open to get feedback on the draft guidelines.

WALGA was invited to join a Working Group for the review in October 2021 and attended 2 meetings of the group to discuss changes to the Guidelines. This included representatives from WALGA's Resilient Communities and Road Safety and Infrastructure Teams.

The Review Working Group sought advice from the State Solicitor's Office on Local Governments role in traffic management under the Local Government Act and whether this applies during emergencies and considerations for funding for emergency traffic management. At the release of the consultation, the feedback has not been provided.

Feedback is open until Tuesday, 12 April. WALGA is seeking input from LGEMAG on our consultation approach, specifically to what extent to which and how Local Governments should be consulted through WALGA.

### **WHS and Volunteer BFBs**

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Following advocacy efforts by WALGA and other stakeholders, the commencement of the WHS Legislation was delayed from January to March 2022. WALGA and LGIS are continuing to support the sector with the transition to the WHS Act, in particular relating to the management of volunteer Bushfire Brigades. On Wednesday, 9 February, WALGA is hosting a sector webinar, with presentations from the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) and LGIS providing an overview of the requirements of the new legislation for Local Governments with



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responsibility for managing Bushfire Brigades. LGIS is currently developing a resource to support Local Governments, and WALGA has developed a dedicated webpage with relevant information and resources.

### **Consolidated Emergency Management Legislation**

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In October 2021 the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) re-established the Interagency Working Group for the proposed Consolidated Emergency Services Act, which had not met since 2015. The new legislation will replace the Fire Brigades Act 1942, the Bush Fires Act 1954, and the Fire Emergency Services Act 1998. It is anticipated that an Exposure Draft Bill will be released for public comment in mid-2022.

*If you would like any further info about any of the above updates or forums/meetings/events that WALGA has attended, please feel free to ask in the meeting or get in touch with the team.*