



Appendices

Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting

**First Quarter
Wednesday 2 August 2023**



Minutes

**Local Emergency
Management Committee**

**Fourth Quarter
Wednesday 3 May 2023**

Local Emergency Management Committee - 3 May 2023

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Notice of Meeting

Minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee meeting held at the Shire of Waroona Council Chambers at 52 Hesse Street, Waroona on Wednesday 3 May 2023. The Chairperson Mr. S Kirkham declared the meeting open the time being 10:00am.

1. ATTENDANCES

Members

S Kirkham	LEMC Chairperson / Councillor, Shire of Murray
C Goff	LEMC EO/Emergency Management Officer, Shire of Murray
J Kowal	LRC/Manager Ranger and Community Safety, Shire of Murray
N Stevens	CESC, Shire of Murray
R Wilson	CBFCO, Shire of Murray
B Jordan	Manager MALC, Shire of Murray
M Goodlet	CEO / LRC, Shire of Waroona
P Thurkle	CESO, Shire of Waroona
S Macdonald	Manager WCRC, Shire of Waroona
M Howes	LEMC Deputy Chairperson OIC, WAPOL Pinjarra
J Worthington	OIC, WAPOL Dwellingup
S Butcher (Proxy)	Senior Constable, WAPOL Waroona
M Schorer (Proxy)	Acting Senior District Emergency Services Officer, DoC
B Penman (Proxy)	Acting District Officer - Emergency Management, DFES
G McAneny	Acting District Officer Wellington, DFES
C Louis	Principal, Pinjarra Primary School

Ex-Officio

K Gill	Manager Emergency Preparedness Disaster Response, DoH
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Guest

S Ramsay	Recovery Support Officer South West, NEMA
M Rutter	Constable, WAPOL Waroona

2. ABSENT

Members

M Walmsley (Apology)	LEMC Chairperson / Shire President, Shire of Waroona
S Thomas (Apology)	CBFCO, Shire of Waroona
K Tarver (Apology)	OIC, WAPOL Waroona
J Humphreys (Apology)	Health and Safety Manager, Alcoa
L Hay (Apology)	CEO, Bedingfeld Park Inc Aged Care Facility
T Sillitto (Apology)	Senior District Emergency Services Officer, DoC
J Carter (Apology)	District Officer - Emergency Management, DFES
K Jones (Apology)	Brigade Captain, Pinjarra VFRS
K Oborn	Deputy LRC, Shire of Waroona
W Goodhill	Emergency Response Supervisor, Alcoa
N Elrick	District Officer – Natural Hazards, DFES
P Dwyer	Unit Manager, Murray SES
C Hunter	Station Manager, St John Ambulance Pinjarra
D Wilson	Representative, St John Ambulance Waroona
S James	Representative, Quambie Park

Ex-Officio

D Unsworth (Apology)	CEO, Shire of Murray
T Simpson (Apology)	Local Welfare Coordinator, DoC
Q La Rosa (Apology)	DEMA - Metro, DFES

Ex-Officio

J Gilliland (Apology)	Principal Response Advisor - Incident and EM, DPIRD
C Norris (Apology)	WHS Advisor, Harvey Water
D Cormack (Apology)	Maintenance Supervisor, Fulton Hogan
S Collins (Apology)	Operations Manager, Water Corporation
K Laurendi	Senior Ranger Lane Poole Reserve, DBCA
J Rawlins	Field Operations Team Leader, Western Power

Guest

R Bloxsidge (Apology)	Senior Infrastructure & Development Officer, Shire of Waroona
C Thompson (Apology)	Community Representative, Shire of Murray
N Dew	Community Representative, Shire of Waroona

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING

- 3.1 Confirmation of Minutes of Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting - **Appendix 1** - 1 February 2023

Committee Recommendation**LEMC23/005****Moved: M Howes****Seconded: M Goodlet**

That the minutes of the Shire of Murray & Waroona Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held on 1 February 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 15:0

The Shire of Murray Council received and noted the minutes of the Shire of Murray & Waroona Local Emergency Management Committee meeting held on 3 May 2023 at the 22 June 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting as per resolution OCM23/064.

The Shire of Waroona Council received and noted the minutes of the Shire of Murray & Waroona Local Emergency Management Committee meeting held on 3 May 2023 at the 27 June 2023 Ordinary Council Meeting as per resolution OCM23/06/068.

- 3.2 Review of Meeting Action Register - **Appendix 2**

The Waroona Dam and Surrounds Agency Evacuation Assessment from 11 November 2022 was tabled at the LEMC meeting on 1 February 2023. Recommendations from that assessment were received and noted as per LEMC23/004 therefore action number 04/20 is completed and has been removed from the meeting action register.

The updated Shire of Murray & Waroona LEMC meeting action register is attached in **Appendix 2**.

4. BUSINESS ARISING

Nil.

5. State EM Preparedness Procedure 3.7 - LEMC Requirements

5.1 Every Meeting

5.1.1 Confirmation of LEMC Contact Details - **Appendix 3**

A meeting attendance sheet was circulated at the meeting. An updated LEMC Contact Register is attached in **Appendix 3**.

Manager Ranger and Community Safety - J Kowal

J Kowal has been appointed as the Manager Ranger and Community Safety. He will also be the Local Recovery Coordinator for the Shire of Murray which will replace Leanne McGuirk.

WAPOL Dwellingup - OIC - J Worthington

J Worthington advised that it was going to be her last LEMC meeting as she will be commencing a new role with Fitzroy Crossing Police shortly. She thanked everyone at LEMC.

5.1.2 Review any Post-Incident Reports and/or Post-Exercise Reports

Nil.

5.1.3 Funding Nominations and Applications Progress

S Ramsay advised that Round 2 of the Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) hasn't been finalised and the Minister hasn't announced it yet. She said it may be similar to Round 1. 3 applications were submitted that went through the first phase.

She stated that it is important to refer to the DFES State Plan and align with funding applications. The DRF funding is to improve Australia's resilience to natural hazards. It will fund projects that build resilience to, prepare for, or reduce the risk of, future natural hazard impacts. It will also help to build the long-term sustainability of communities at risk of being affected by future disasters.

5.1.4 Bush Fire Risk Management Planning / Treatment Strategies Progress

The Shire of Murray didn't apply for Round 1 of the Mitigation Activity Fund Grants Program (MAFGP). N Stevens is currently obtaining quotes to apply for Round 2.

R Bloxside was an apology however P Thurkle advised that the Shire of Waroona are progressing with their current treatments.

5.1.5 Local Emergency Management Arrangements

The Communications Plan (CP) was endorsed at the last LEMC meeting. This was the last subplan to form part of the Shire of Murray and Shire of Waroona Local Emergency Management Arrangement (LEMA) suite of documents.

C Goff advised that the current Manager Communications and Marketing - Jamie Wilkinson has just resigned. Therefore, once a new person is appointed in the role the CP and contact list attached to the LEMA will be updated.

5.1.6 Review Business Plan Strategies and Record Key Achievements

The LEMC Annual Business Plan 2022-2024 was finalised at the 2 November 2022 LEMC meeting.

5.2 Fourth Calendar Quarter

5.2.1 LEMC Exercise Schedule

C Goff asked if the LEMC membership had any suggestions for future LEMC exercises. It was mentioned that Q La Rosa may have examples of previous exercises that could be use. R Wilson suggested the Truck Rollover exercise that was previously spoken about.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 DFES - DEMA Metro - **Appendix 4** - Q La Rosa

Q La Rosa was an apology but submitted a report as per **Appendix 4**.

6.2 DFES - Acting DO Emergency Management - **Appendix 5** - B Penman

A report has been submitted as per **Appendix 5**.

6.3 Department of Communities - Acting Senior District Emergency Services Officer - **Appendix 6** - M Schorer

A report has been submitted as per **Appendix 6**.

6.4 DPIRD - Principal Response Advisor - Incident and EM - **Appendix 7** - J Gilliland

J Gilliland was an apology but submitted a report as per **Appendix 7**.

6.5 Shire of Waroona - CEO/LRC - M Goodlet

M Goodlet discussed the spot fires back in January 2023 at the explosive ammunition point near Johnson Road on the border of Waroona and Harvey. M Goodlet wrote to the Minister regarding the ammunition point. It is governed by DMERS.

It was questioned whether the LEMC should have a list of key strategic risks per Local Government and a plan for areas such as the Alcoa red mud lakes and the Water Corporation dams. Engagement with owners/operators would be required.

G McAneny advised that DFES have Emergency Response Guides for areas like the ammunition point which he could provide to LEMC if needed. He mentioned that they are constantly updating. R Wilson advised that it is the CBFCO responsibility to have this information for their relevant Shire.

P Thurkle advised that he has a copy of their facility plan from 2011 but he said it might not meet legislative requirements as it is outdated.

S Kirkham questioned if there was a trigger point for the District Officer to attend. G McAneny said yes and advised that 2 x career trucks, the CBFCO and Harvey VFRS would also attend.

6.6 DFES - Acting District Officer Wellington - G McAneny

G McAneny thanked everyone for their support during the high threat period.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next Local Emergency Management Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday 2 August 2023 commencing at 10:00am. The meeting will be held at the Lesser Hall at 1915 Pinjarra Road, Pinjarra (Between the Civic Centre and the Library).

8. CLOSE

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed the time being 10:30am.

I confirm that these minutes were confirmed at the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) meeting held on Wednesday 2 August 2023 as being a true and correct record of proceedings.



LEMC Chairperson

02/08/2023

Date

Date Raised	Serial No	Item No	Subject	Action	Responsible Officer	Completion Date / Status
27 November 2013	09/13	7.1 Appendix 4	AWARE ERM Report <i>Risk Reference 35 – Flood/Flash flooding</i> Develop a Local Flood Management Plan	<p>04/05/16 Consultation with DFES to develop the plan. Meeting to be held in June 2016.</p> <p>02/08/17 Ongoing. Discuss further with Water Corp.</p> <p>07/02/18 Ongoing. Invite to the next LEMC meeting DFES.</p> <p>05/02/20 SEMC approved a review of the State Risk Project prior to commencing phase 5. The project commenced in 2013 and was designed to gain comprehensive and consistent understanding of the risks faced at state, district and local levels. The review will assess how to move forward with the knowledge and data collated.</p> <p>11/11/20 R Porter advised that the ERM Risk Assessment Workshops will cover all Hazards.</p> <p>03/11/2021 SES to follow up.</p>	D/O Natural Hazards DFES Unit Manager Murray SES	Deferred
17 February 2021	01/21	6.6	Evacuation Workshop to be organised with Bedingfeld Aged Care Facility and Quambie Park.	<p>09/02/2022 – It was raised that this would be difficult to organise with the current COVID-19 situation but could be done as a desktop.</p> <p>11/05/2022 – R Marlborough advised that he will follow up and ask Sharon James (Quambie Park) and Leanne Hay (Bedingfeld Aged Care) to attend the August LEMC meeting to discuss further.</p>	Bedingfeld Aged Care Facility, Quambie Park and LEMC membership	Not Started

Voting Members			
Organisation	Name	Address	Contact Details
Shire of Murray	Cr. Stuart Kirkham (Councillor / LEMC Chairperson)		
	Ms. Chantelle Goff (Emergency Management Officer/Ranger Administration/LEMC Executive Officer)		
	Mr. John Kowal (Manager Ranger and Community Safety/SoM Local Recovery Coordinator)		
	Ms. Nicole Stevens (Community Emergency Services Coordinator)		
	Mr. Robert "Bluey" Wilson (Chief Bush Fire Control Officer)		
	Mr. Ben Jordan (Manager Murray Aquatic & Leisure Centre)		
Shire of Waroona	Cr. Mike Walmsley (Shire President / LEMC Chairperson)		
	Mr. Mark Goodlet (Chief Executive Officer/SoW Local Recovery Coordinator)		
	Ms. Karen Oborn (Director Infrastructure & Development Services/SoW Deputy Local Recovery Coordinator)		
	Mr. Peter Thurkle (Community Emergency Support Officer)		
	Mr. Steve Thomas (Chief Bush Fire Control Officer)		
	Mr. Stuart Macdonald (Manager Waroona Community Resource Centre)		
WAPOL (Pinjarra)	Snr Sgt. Mark Howes (LEC / LEMC Deputy Chairperson / Pinjarra – Officer in Charge)		
WAPOL (Dwellingup)	Vacant (Dwellingup – Officer in Charge)		
WAPOL (Waroona)	Sgt. Keith Tarver (LEC / LEMC Deputy Chairperson / Waroona - Officer in Charge)		
Alcoa Australia (1 x Representative per meeting)	Mr. John Humphreys (Health and Safety Manager)		
	Mr. Wade Goodhill (Emergency Response Supervisor)		
Bedingfeld Park Inc	Ms. Leanne Hay (Chief Executive Officer)		
Department of Communities - Child Protection and Family Support	Ms. Michele Duxbury (Acting Senior District Emergency Services Officer)		
Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) (1 x Representative per meeting)	Mr. Garry McAneny (Acting District Officer Wellington) Mr. Nick Elrick (District Officer – Natural Hazards – South West) Mr. John Carter (District Officer – Emergency Management – South West)		

Voting Members

Organisation	Name	Address	Contact Details
Murray SES	Mr. Paul Dwyer (Unit Manager)		
Pinjarra Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service	Mr. Ken Jones (Brigade Captain)		
St John Ambulance (1 x Representative per meeting)	Ms. Christine Hunter (Station Manager – Pinjarra Sub Centre) Ms. Danielle Wilson (Representative)		
Pinjarra Primary School	Mr. Christian Louis (Principal)		
Quambie Park Waroona Inc.	Mr. Alan Culham (Representative)		

Ex-Officio Members

Organisation	Name	Address	Contact Details
Shire of Murray	Mr. Dean Unsworth (Chief Executive Officer)		
Department of Communities - Child Protection and Family Support	Ms. Tracy Simpson (Local Welfare Coordinator – Peel District Office)		
DFES (Emergency Management)	Ms. Quinta La Rosa (District Emergency Management Advisor - Metropolitan)		
Department of Health	Mr. Karl Gill (Manager Emergency Preparedness Disaster Response)		
DBCA - Parks and Wildlife Service	Mr. Kris Laurendi (Senior Ranger – Lane Poole Reserve)		
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development	Mr. John Gilliland (Principal Response Adviser - Incident and Emergency Management)		
Harvey Water	Mr. Cameron Norris (WHS Advisor)		
Main Roads WA	Mr. Dave Cormack (Routine Maintenance Works Manager)		
Water Corporation	Mr. Steve Collins (Operations Manager)		
Western Power	Ms. Joscelynd Rawlins (Field Operations Team Leader)		

Guests

Organisation	Name	Address	Contact Details
Shire of Waroona	Mr. Rhys Bloxidge (Senior Infrastructure & Development Officer)		
Community Representative - Shire of Murray	Ms. Christine Thompson JP (Representative)		
Community Representative – Shire of Waroona	Mr. Noel Dew (Representative)		



WALGA Submission

Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding

August 2023

The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) is the united voice of Local Government in Western Australia. The Association is an independent, membership-based organisation representing and supporting the work and interests of 139 Local Governments in Western Australia, comprising 1,215 Elected Members and approximately 22,600 Local Government employees, as well as over 2.5 million constituents of Local Governments in Western Australia. Western Australian Local Governments are diverse in:

- size, ranging from less than 1.5 to over 370,000 square kilometres,
- population, just over 100 to more than 224,000 people,
- the number of staff employed, from less than 10 to over 1000,
- revenue received, which in 2019-20 ranged from just over \$2 million to just over \$226 million.

WALGA is committed to a strategic vision of “agile and inclusive Local Governments enhancing community wellbeing and enabling economic prosperity”.

Local Governments in Western Australia have a significant role in emergency management, supporting their communities to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recovery from emergencies. Both Commonwealth and State Government policy identify Local Government as a key player in community disaster resilience, preparedness and response. Local Governments face a number of challenges in addressing their emergency management responsibilities, and these challenges differ greatly across the State. We know that Commonwealth Disaster Funding is critical to enable LGs to fulfill these responsibilities, particularly during recovery through the Commonwealth – State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements for Western Australia (DRFA-WA). Since 2020 there have been 32 declared disasters impacting 77 of the 139 WA Local Governments.

As outlined in the [Briefing Paper for the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding](#), the Review seeks to understand and define the Australian Government’s (the Commonwealth) role in Australia’s disaster funding environment and considers how Commonwealth investment can be optimised to support a national disaster funding system with the scale and adaptability needed to respond to the increasing frequency and severity of natural disasters. The Review recognises that Disasters cost the Australian economy \$38 billion per year on average and that the severity, intensity and frequency of natural disasters is expected to increase, putting further strain on Australia’s relief, response and recovery capabilities. By 2060, the cost of disasters could rise to at least \$73 billion per year. The Review will assess how Commonwealth disaster funding measures can be redefined and enhanced to complement and support state and territory arrangements and programs, proactively improve resilience and promote disaster risk reduction to constrain growing recovery costs, and deliver a system that is effective, responsive, equitable, and accessible.

WALGA has encouraged WA Local Governments to provide direct feedback to the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding and welcomes this opportunity to provide a submission on behalf of the Sector.



The submission addresses the five questions posed in the request for [public submissions](#):

1. ***What experience have you had with Commonwealth disaster funding support?***
2. ***How could Commonwealth funding support communities to reduce their disaster risk?***
3. ***Please describe your understanding of Commonwealth disaster funding processes.***
4. ***Are the funding roles of the Commonwealth, states and territories, and local government, during disaster events clear?***
5. ***Is there any further information you would like to provide?***

This submission should be read in conjunction with individual submissions received from WA Local Governments. WALGA also contributed to and supports the Australian Local Government Association's (ALGA) [Submission to the Senate Select Committee on Australia's Disaster Resilience](#) (February 2022) and ALGA's feedback to the National Emergency Management Ministers Meeting (NEMMM) review of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (October 2022). WALGA requests these be considered as part of our submission to the review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding.

This submission is based on WALGA's experience supporting the WA Local Government Sector with Commonwealth Disaster Funding, including Commonwealth disaster funding grant programs as well as the DRFA-WA. **Input and feedback was sought from Local Governments and has been included in this submission.**

1. WALGA's Experience with Commonwealth Disaster Funding Support

As a member-based organisation advocating on behalf of WA's 139 Local Governments, WALGA has:

- Provided input to Commonwealth Disaster Funding programs and guidelines on behalf of the sector.
- Communicated opportunities to access Commonwealth Disaster Funding with the Local Government Sector
- Supported Local Governments to develop projects for funding when we are resourced to do so, such as through the Coastal and Estuarine Risk Mitigation Program, funded through the Emergency Response Fund.
- Applied for Commonwealth Disaster Funding support to better enable us to work with Local Governments to improve their capability and capacity for emergency management.
- Advocated for the needs of the WA Local Government sector through working with ALGA and contributions national forums and inquiries, including the [NEMMM](#), the [Senate Select Committee on Australia's Disaster Resilience](#) and the [Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements](#).

WALGA has received feedback from WA Local Governments on Commonwealth Disaster Funding grants programs that:

- Substantial effort is required to prepare a project for funding and funding success is uncertain.
- The criteria for grant funding can be unclear and difficult to understand.
- There can be a mis-match between funding criteria and local needs or priorities.
- Funding rounds do not align with LG budget cycles, and often crossover with the high threat period for bushfire and cyclone, when there is limited capacity to prepare a grant application.
- Local Governments compete in the same funding rounds with state government departments that are better resources to develop grant-ready projects.

- State Government projects may be prioritized as being more strategic.
- There is no process to coordinate similar applications across a range of LGs and achieve strategic outcomes or cost savings.
- Many LGs have difficulties meeting co-contribution requirements.

In 2022, WALGA revised its [emergency management advocacy positions](#) based on consultation on and feedback from our members. Position 8.3 proposes a Sustainable Grant Funding Model for Emergency Management.

8.3 Sustainable Grant Funding Model for Emergency Management

Local Government should be empowered to discharge its emergency management responsibilities through sustainable grant funding models that support a shared responsibility and all hazards approach to prevention, preparedness, response and recovery from natural disasters.

A sustainable grant funding model for Local Government emergency management:

1. empowers Local Governments to undertake proactive approaches to preparedness, prevention, response and recovery;
2. supports the resilience of local communities through capacity-building activities and programs;
3. is responsive to the variations in Local Government resourcing and context;
4. develops the skills, capacity and capability of the emergency management workforce; and
5. is consistent, flexible, timely, accessible, scalable, strategic and the guidance provided is comprehensive.

Western Australian Local Government have statutory obligations for recovery, and in addition are responsible for a significant portion of the public assets that may be damaged in a natural disaster. For example, in Western Australia, Local Government roads make up 87.2% of the WA public road network, excluding roads in National Parks and on other land managed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. WA Local Governments therefore have a particular interest in advocating for improvements to the DRFA.

Feedback from WA Local Governments relating to the DRFA-WA includes that:

- The administrative process for making DRFA claims places a high cost on Local Governments impacted by disasters.
- Collecting evidence and establishing systems to meet the DRFA claims process requirements are not typically the highest priority when Local Governments are seeking to provide an immediate response to a natural disaster.
- DRFA guidelines are vague, and Local Governments are wary of incurring costs they believe to be eligible, only to be denied payment down the track.
- Smaller Local Governments cannot support the cashflow nor absorb the risk of completing work which may not be reimbursable.
- There are frequent examples where legitimate claims are not accepted due to inflexible and bureaucratic evidentiary requirements.
- Delays in the initial cost-estimation process prior to works approval, which can be more than 12 months, are unacceptable given funding is for the reinstatement of essential public assets.



- Delays in reimbursement for costs incurred in advance impact on Local Government finances as well as the recovery process.
- Community assets are not eligible for DRFA funding despite their importance to community resilience.

Chapter 22 of the [Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements](#) makes eight recommendations for the delivery of recovery services and financial assistance.

- **WALGA urgently requests that the Commonwealth Government fully implement the Royal Commission’s recommendations for the delivery of recovery services and financial assistance.**

WALGA also has the following advocacy positions in relation to the DRFA.

5.4.1 Funding arrangements

The LG sector supports increased support for mitigation measures, greater fiscal equity and funding for repairing of damaged infrastructure which includes appropriate trigger points for access to funding and thresholds to limit the amount liable to be paid for each eligible event.

5.4.3 Betterment

The LG sector supports increased funding for the replacement or restoration of damaged assets to a more resilient standard following an event.

5.4.5 Assessment periods

The LG sector supports a shorter assessment period for events and immediate access to funding to commence works.

WALGA welcomes [the recent announcement by Minister Watt](#) to advance nearly \$1.8 billion in disaster payments under the DRFA, including almost \$93.9 Million of the budget estimate of \$234.8 Million for recovery in Western Australia in 2023-24. This will remove an impediment for the State to assist disaster-impacted communities recover and rebuild. This cashflow must be passed on to Local Government to allow councils to fast-track repairs of roads and essential public assets.

- **WALGA requests that [Minister Watt’s recent announcement](#) to advance disaster payments under DRFA is followed up by a revised process that ensures Local Governments have immediate access to funding to commence recovery works following a disaster.**

2. How could Commonwealth funding support communities to reduce their disaster risk?

WALGA requests implementation of the following measures to improve the capacity of Commonwealth Funding to support communities to reduce their disaster risk:

- Provide guidance and a clear mandate for States to include betterment funding, and funding for community infrastructure as eligible items under DRFA.
- Increase the funding available to support Local Government risk reduction projects.
- Ensure adequate support is provided to Local Governments to support disaster risk reduction planning and to access Commonwealth Government Funds to implement disaster risk reduction projects.
- Provide clear guidance and greater flexibility around the co-contribution requirement for Local Governments applying for Commonwealth Disaster Funding grants.

2.1 Provide guidance and a clear mandate for States to include betterment funding, and funding for community resilience as eligible items under DRFA

Recommendation 22.6 of *The Royal Commission* called for better incorporation of 'build back better' within DRFA. Currently, the Commonwealth only provides funding equivalent to the reconstruction of an essential public asset to its pre-disaster function. Neither the Commonwealth DRFA policy documents nor the [DRFA-WA Guidelines](#) include reference to betterment or 'build back better' through the DRFA. Betterment funding, for a relatively small additional upfront investment, would save millions of dollars in future years by enabling infrastructure to be rebuilt to withstand more frequent and increasingly severe natural disasters. Betterment funding must go further than enabling [LGs to build back infrastructure to current engineering standards](#). Vulnerable infrastructure must be able to be rebuilt to withstand the increased severity of natural disasters.

WALGA understands that the Commonwealth government intends to prepare clear advice on betterment for the DRFA, and that the DRFA Review Stakeholder's Group is considering inclusion of betterment as a standard consideration for the restoration of essential public assets to make communities more resilient and help reduce recovery costs longer-term. These are important measures that need to be urgently applied equitably across jurisdictions.

- **WALGA requests that the Commonwealth provide clear guidance on the inclusion of betterment funding in DRFA, and that betterment is defined as increasing infrastructure resilience to natural disasters in addition to meeting current engineering standards.**
- **WALGA requests that Betterment is made a standard consideration for DRFA funding in all jurisdictions, including the DRFA-WA.**

Under current DRFA arrangements, community infrastructure is not considered an essential public asset, which means community assets like sporting facilities, council buildings and libraries are not funded through DRFA. However, it is well known that community infrastructure plays an important role in community resilience and recovery.

- **WALGA requests that community infrastructure be recognised as an essential asset in the DRFA**

2.2 Increase the funding available to support Local Government risk reduction projects

Demand for Commonwealth Disaster Funding to support risk reduction significantly exceeds supply so funding rounds are highly competitive. For example, WALGA understands funding requested through the [Disaster Ready Fund – Round One 2023-24](#) was over twice the available \$200 Million. Only \$8.8 Million (4%) was allocated to Western Australian projects, whilst Western Australia includes one third of the Australian land mass and 11 percent of the Australian population. Inadequate funding is leaving communities at-risk of not being able to reduce their disaster risk or recover from events efficiently and effectively. WALGA welcomes this Review's recognition of the increasing cost of Recovery to all levels of Government and acknowledgement that for every dollar spent on disaster risk reduction, there is an estimated \$9.60 return on investment

- **WALGA requests that the pool of funding available for disaster risk reduction is substantially increased and that a fair allocation is guaranteed for WA Local Government risk reduction projects.**
- **WALGA supports the [ALGA pre-budget submission for the 2023/24 Federal Budget](#) to increase the Disaster Ready Fund to \$250 million per year.**



- WALGA requests a fair baseline allocation of Commonwealth Disaster Funding to Western Australia
- WALGA request a baseline allocation of Commonwealth Disaster Funding to WA Local Government Projects.

2.3 Ensure adequate support to Local Governments to plan and access Commonwealth Government Funds to implement disaster risk reduction projects

Many WA Local Governments have limited capacity or resources to understand complex Commonwealth Disaster Funding grants and developing detailed project briefs that meet the required funding criteria. In order to submit a strong application, Local Government are required to provide large amounts of evidence that demonstrate capacity, capability and resources to successfully deliver project outcomes. If applications do not provide detailed evidence, they are unlikely to be successful.

At the [2023 ALGA National General Assembly](#), the following motion by WA Shire of Mundaring was endorsed:

This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to urgently provide a Sustainable Grant Funding Model that enables Local Governments to deliver on their shared responsibility for disaster risk reduction, resilience and recovery. The Sustainable Grant Funding Model should be supported by a network of grants officers located in each State Local Government Association to facilitate the development of strategically aligned projects and successful grant applications.

In its submission to the Senate Select Committee on Australia's Disaster Resilience, ALGA proposed a network of funded officers across state and territory Local Government Associations, and at the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) seeking funding over 3 years, at a total cost of \$5.7 million, which is a modest amount of funding for national benefit.

This network of officers will engage with councils in their respective state or territory to provide a range of assistance depending on councils' level of risk maturity. The outcomes would include:

- 1. For councils with no current risk reduction strategy, to encourage and assist these councils to undertake an assessment of their current and future disaster risk and to identify achievable ways to address and reduce that risk in collaboration with their communities with the resources available.*
- 2. For councils which have a higher level of maturity and existing risk reduction strategies, access to resources and knowledge to update their existing disaster risk reduction strategies. An important component of the project for these councils would be a greater focus on working with their communities and emergency management committees to raise awareness, and to build capability and partnerships with their communities.*
- 3. Facilitating information sharing, collaboration, resource sharing and engagement with local communities to raise awareness for the need to address risks and build local resilience.*
- 4. Co-ordinated resources to bolster the capacity of local government but not duplicate or conflict with existing state or territory government programs.*

Combined, these proposals would significantly increase the support available to Local Governments to reduce disaster risk and build preparedness and resilience into the future.

- WALGA requests that the Commonwealth Government provides a Sustainable Grant Funding Model that enables Local Governments to deliver on their shared responsibility for disaster risk reduction, resilience and recovery, supported by a network of grants officers located in each State Local Government Association to facilitate the development of strategically aligned projects and successful grant applications.
- WALGA request that the Commonwealth Government provides a network of officers in ALGA and each Local Government Association to assist Local Governments to plan and implement disaster risk reduction in their communities.

2.4 Provide clear guidance and increase the flexibility around the co-contribution requirement Commonwealth Disaster Grants

Many Local Governments are unable to meet the co-contribution requirements for Commonwealth Disaster Grants, and therefore do not submit applications, missing out on this important source of funding for disaster risk reduction. This is particularly true for LGs who have a smaller rate base and fewer resources to draw a co-contribution from. WALGA understands that 5 of 187 projects funded through Round 1 of the DRF received a waiver of the co-contribution requirement. However the criteria to waive co-contributions are not clear. Although the DRF states that the co-contribution is required of State Governments, in practice this is passed on to Local Governments.

The [Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements](#), Recommendation 11.1 - Responsibility for local government disaster management capability and capacity, states that

State and territory governments should take responsibility for the capability and capacity of local governments to which they have delegated their responsibilities in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from natural disasters, to ensure local governments are able to effectively discharge the responsibilities devolved to them.

- WALGA requests that guidance be provided on the criteria for receiving a waiver of the co-contribution requirement for all Commonwealth Disaster Grants.
- WALGA requests that guidance be provided to State Government on the terms of the co-contribution requirement for Commonwealth Disaster Grants whether / the conditions under which the co-contribution requirement can be passed on to Local Governments.
- WALGA requests any co-contribution for Local Governments be scaled against the rate base of a LG so that regional LGs with a smaller rate base have a lower level of co-contribution required.

3. Commonwealth disaster funding processes.

The Commonwealth disaster funding grant programs are often administered wholly (e.g. National Disaster Risk Reduction Grant) or partly (e.g. Disaster Ready Fund) by the state government. The arrangements vary, and the process for accessing funding can be challenging for many Local Governments, as summarised in WALGA's response to review question 1. Processes for applying for funding need to be streamlined. In some instances, Local Government told us that it was unclear who the lead agency for applications was, and what support is available to Local Government to assist with developing successful applications. Many felt there was a lack of adequate process for clearly communicating requirements to Local Government, and that current processes were too slow and convoluted.

Recent experience with the DRF was that limited information and guidance was available up until the time that the grant round was released. Once released, there were different timelines and

information available on the NEMA and the WA Government website, due to the different process requirements of the Commonwealth and State governments. Communication to date regarding round two of the DRF suggests similar issues will occur, with the guidelines and timelines still unavailable. Further, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) who is responsible for administering DRF applications and supporting / communicating the funding opportunity also applies for DRF funding. Given limited resources within State as well as Local Governments, there is a need for Local Government specific and targeted support to ensure equitable access to Commonwealth disaster funding grants.

WALGA requests the following measures are implemented to improve Commonwealth disaster funding process for grants:

- **Ensure guidance materials and timelines on NEMA and State based websites are aligned.**
- **Provide certainty around the timing and criteria for grant rounds well in advance so they can be factored into planning and budgeting processes.**
- **Ensure adequate timeframes so that Local Governments are not compressed to accommodate the State administration and Ministerial approval before applications are submitted to the Commonwealth.**
- **Provide certainty around the timing of announcement for successful projects, and when funds will be made available.**
- **Ensure flexibility to accommodate delays where works can only be undertaken seasonally and may be delayed for a full year if the window of opportunity closes.**
- **Provide Local Government specific minimum allocation in Grant rounds,**
- **Provide a Local Government specific resource, independent to the State Government, to support Local Governments to access grant funding.**

DRFA funding needs to be easily and quickly accessible, with flexible guidelines and application forms to meet the recovery needs of the diverse LGs and communities who need to access it. However this is not currently how the DRFA works in Western Australia. The administrative requirements that must be met by Local Governments to gain approval for infrastructure expenditure, and obtain reimbursement from the State Government are onerous. These requirements are in turn driven by Commonwealth administrative requirements, which must be met by the State for the Commonwealth Government to reimburse the State its 50% co-contribution. Given the administrative burden of the DRFA, administrative support, including when delivered in house by a Local Government, should be an eligible expense under the DRFA.

- **WALGA requests amendment to the DRFA so that in house human resources to assist with administrative tasks related to recovery are an eligible expense.**

WALGA supports ALGA's feedback to the NEMMM meeting – Review of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, and highlights the following recommendations in relation to process:

- **The need to expedite DRFA payments and streamline funding arrangements.**
- **Alleviating administrative burdens and the onerous evidentiary requirements.**
- **The need for more flexibility, particularly for smaller projects and smaller councils which have less capacity, in terms of the evidentiary requirements.**

Considering the provision of Category C (Community Recovery) and Category D (Exceptional Circumstances) funding under DRFA, delays in program development and funding approval at the



State and Commonwealth level mean that critical support to local communities lags well behind need, and Local Government and communities are bearing the cost in the interim.

- **The State urgently requires a financial delegation to provide DRFA funding for Category C and D, Community Recovery and Exceptional circumstances funding.**
- **WALGA supports the Commonwealth’s work through NEMA and the ANZEMC to progress reforms to the DRFA, including a new streamlined process for activating DRFA Category C and D and for work in developing pre-agreed “off the shelf” recovery packages.**

4. Are the funding roles of the Commonwealth, states and territories, and local government, during disaster events clear?

In WA, the State Government bears fundamental responsibility for EM and has the role of providing strategic guidance, support and services for EM activities in Western Australia. This was recognised in the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements 11.1 Responsibility for local government disaster management capability and capacity, and is the basis of WALGA’s EM Advocacy Position 8.1 Emergency Management Principles:

8.1 Emergency Management Principles

1. The State Government bears fundamental responsibility for emergency management and has the role of providing strategic guidance, support and services for emergency management activities in Western Australia.
2. The State Government should provide financial and resourcing support as necessary to enable Local Governments to adequately deliver their extensive emergency management roles and responsibilities under the State Emergency Management Framework.
3. The Local Government Sector should be engaged as a partner in policy and legislative reviews that impact Local Government emergency management roles and responsibilities.

Local Governments make a substantial contribution during disaster events, including direct financial contributions as well as in-kind support and assistance. However, there is a mismatch between the needs of LGs and their communities and the financial support that is available at both the State and Commonwealth to respond and recovery from disasters. Recent experience in Western Australia has demonstrated that this most acutely the case during recovery, where smaller Local Governments with fewer resources available carry delegated responsibility for recovery, such as during the Tropical Cyclone Seroja Recovery.

The application of the DRFA is inconsistent across jurisdictions. For example, betterment is integrated into the DRFA in Queensland, and there was inequity in the amount of funding received by councils through the National Bushfire Recovery Fund under Category C and D.

- **WALGA requests equitable access to betterment funding, and other DRFA measures across Australian jurisdictions.**
- **WALGA requests a transparent process and communication around how the level of assistance is determined under Category C and D of the DRFA between jurisdictions, and between different declared disasters.**

1. Is there any further information you would like to provide?



WALGA supports the recommendations of the *Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements* and looks forward to the implementation of well-developed and robust funding processes which support sustainable and effective community disaster recovery, preparedness and resilience initiatives. In particular, WALGA supports the full implementation of recommendations:

- **11.1 Responsibility for local government disaster management capability and capacity**
- **11.2 Resource sharing arrangements between local governments**
- **22.1 Evaluation of financial assistance measures to support recovery**
- **22.3 Review the thresholds and activation process for the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements**
- **22.4 Nationally consistent Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements assistance measures**
- **22.5 Develop nationally consistent, pre-agreed recovery programs**
- **22.6 Better incorporate 'build back better' within the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements**
- **22.7 Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements recovery measures to facilitate resilience**
- **22.8 Streamline the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements processes**
- **24.1 Accountability and assurance mechanisms at the Australian Government level**

Draft for consultation

Department of Fire and Emergency Services Report for the Shires of Murray and Waroona Local Emergency Management Committee

Wednesday 2nd August 2023

STORM SEASON 2023

The region is yet to experience any significant storms this winter season.

WAFES CONFERENCE 2023

The WAFES Conference will be held on Friday 8th and Saturday 9th September. The theme for this year's conference is *Working together to make a difference*. It highlights how working together at all levels across all services and all agencies, we not only create a safer State but also make a difference in the lives of the Western Australian community. Keynote speakers include Justin Langer, Australia Test cricketer and coach, and Rabia Siddique, international humanitarian lawyer, retired British Army senior officer, former war crimes and terrorism prosecutor and hostage survivor.

CLIMATE OUTLOOK (issued 20 July 2023)

- For August to October, below median rainfall is likely to very likely (60% to greater 80% chance) for most of Australia.
- For August to October, above median maximum temperatures are very likely (greater than 80% chance) for almost all of Australia.
- For August to October, minimum temperatures are likely to very likely (60% to greater than 80% chance) to be above median for almost all of Australia.
- This forecast is influenced by several factors, including likely El Niño development, the potential development of a positive Indian Ocean Dipole, and record warm oceans globally.

DFES INDUSTRIAL ACTION

Due to industrial action, there have been a number of exercises and training programs that have been postponed or cancelled. Where possible, these will be rescheduled once the industrial action ceases.

COMBINED EMERGENCY SERVICES LEGISLATION

The draft combined emergency services legislation should be out for public consultation before the end of the year. There will be an opportunity to provide feedback with the final legislation not likely to be implemented until at least 2025.

John Carter

District Officer Emergency Management

**SHIRE OF MURRAY-WAROONA
LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
DISTRICT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISOR REPORT
2 AUGUST 2023**

STATE NEWS

STATE CONSULTATION REQUESTS

State Hazard Plan Severe Weather

On the State Emergency Management Policy Branch [Consultation Homepage](#) you can view all current consultations, including the draft State Support Plan – Severe Weather.

<https://dfes.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/severeweather>

On this page you will be able to:

- View information about the consultation process
- Download and view the draft Plan.
- Submit your feedback

Please submit your feedback using the survey by COB Friday 11 August 2023.

Emergency Risk Management Planning - State Emergency Management Prevention and Mitigation Procedure 2.1

On the State Emergency Management Policy Branch [Consultation Homepage](#) you can view all current consultations, including the draft State Emergency Risk Management Guideline, and the State Emergency Management Prevention and Mitigation Procedure 2.1.

<https://dfes.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/to-state-emergency-management-prevention-and-mitigation-procedure>

On this page you will be able to:

- View information about the consultation process
- Download and view the draft State Emergency Risk Management Guideline, revised State EM Procedure 2.1, and edited State EM Policy statements 3.2.1 and 3.2.6
- Submit your feedback

Please submit your feedback using the survey by COB Friday 11 August 2023.

Restricted Access Permit System (RAPS) Guideline

On the State Emergency Management Policy Branch [Consultation Homepage](#) you can view all current consultations, including the draft RAPS guideline.

<https://dfes.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/restrictedaccesspermitsystemguideline>

On this page you will be able to:

- View information about the consultation process
- Download and view the RAPS guideline
- Submit your feedback

Please submit your feedback using the survey by COB Tuesday 22 August 2023.

AMENDMENTS TO SUITE OF STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DOCUMENTS

State EM Policy 5.12 - Funding Arrangements for Emergency Response

- State EM Policy 5.12 has been reviewed to clarify funding arrangements in an emergency response.
- A key outcome of the review was to clarify funding for traffic management during an emergency response. The HMA or Controlling Agency is responsible for costs, even if they direct another agency to engage traffic management contractors.

State EM Policy and State EM Plan Appendix AA - COVID-19 Recovery

- The State Recovery Controller appointment for the pandemic caused by the virus COVID-19 has concluded.
- Amendments that were made to parts of the State EM Framework so that they did not apply for recovery activities are no longer required. As a result, Appendix AA has been removed from the State EM Policy and State EM Plan.

For any queries, please email semc.policylegislation@dfes.wa.gov.au

DRAFT WA COMMUNITY DISASTER RESILIENCE STRATEGY

The draft WA Community Disaster Resilience Strategy is now available for comment and feedback. The document is available for review and download [here](#)

Feedback is invited, with a particular focus on the following:

- Do the guiding principles capture the core considerations for achieving community disaster resilience?
- Do the key objectives and outcomes represent the right outcomes for a community? Are they practical to guide monitoring and evaluation of projects and activities?
- How likely are you to progress any of the initiatives and opportunities?
- How likely are you to integrate or use the Strategy to guide your organisation's activities?
- Is there anything else you would like to see the Strategy address?

Feedback can be provided via email to resilience@dfes.wa.gov.au

DEMC AND LEMC REVIEW

At its August 2022 meeting the SEMC endorsed the proposed project scopes to review the local and district committee structure. The objectives of the review are to:

- Establish clear roles, responsibilities, functions, and governance for DEMCs and LEMCs so they can achieve the strategic objectives of SEMC.
- Identify improvements to the governance arrangements and capabilities that will increase effective and efficient management outcomes.
- Create a shared understanding of the SEMC expectations of DEMCs and LEMCs.

For more information on the Review into the District and Local Emergency Management Committee's [Review into District and Local Emergency Management Committees \(www.wa.gov.au\)](#)

LEMA REVIEW OUTCOMES AND NEXT STEPS

The [Local Emergency Management Arrangements \(LEMA\) Review](#) is a partnership between the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) and WALGA, initiated in response to reports that current LEMA requirements are not fit-for-purpose for Local Government and that a new LEMA model is needed. From April to December 2022, WALGA engaged 100 Local Governments to identify LEMA strengths, weaknesses, and improvement opportunities in a consultation that included 10 in-depth interviews, 10 interactive workshops and an online survey.

WALGA's [LEMA Review Consultation with Western Australian Local Governments: Project Summary and Recommendations Report](#) summarises the key findings of the consultation process to date. A more detailed overview can be found in [WALGA's LEMA Review Issues Paper](#) and an independent [LEMA Review Workshop Consultation Report](#) prepared by agdots.

WALGA's LEMA Review project will inform a Draft LEMA Improvement Plan being developed by DFES that will be tested with the Local Government sector during April and May 2023 and then submitted for endorsement to SEMC in August 2023.

Find out more about the LEMA Review Project on [WALGA's website](#) or email WALGA's LEMA Review Project Lead, [Simone Ruane](#).

LOCAL NEWS

GRANT PROGRAM UPDATES

The [National Disaster Risk Reduction \(NDRR\)](#) grant program is established under a National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Disaster Risk Reduction (2019-2024). It seeks to proactively reduce the risk and limit the impact of disasters associated with natural hazards on Western Australian communities and economies.

The NDRR is for projects aimed at reducing disaster risk and improving community resilience to natural hazards in Western Australia. The NDRR is funded by the Australian Government via the National Partnership Agreement on Disaster Risk Reduction. In Western Australia the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) coordinates the distribution of this funding via the NDRR. The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) administers the NDRR on behalf of the SEMC.

AWARE PROGRAM 2023-2024

The All West Australians Reducing Emergencies (AWARE) Grant program for 2023 will open on **16 August** and close on **20 September 2023**.

Funding:

- The 2023 round has a total allocation of \$238,000.
- Projects could apply for between \$2,500 and \$35,000 grant funding.
- Local level risk assessment projects can request a maximum of \$6,000.

Eligible project types:

- further the emergency risk management process
- facilitate capability-based exercises
- assist in reviewing Local Emergency Management Arrangements
- deliver emergency management training
- host or facilitate emergency management events or forums.

Co-contribution:

- Applicants must contribute at least 25 percent of the total project cost in cash or in-kind.

How to apply:

- All applications must be submitted through the online portal available on the SEMC Website. Applications received through any other channels such as emails or post will not be accepted.
- A sample application is available on SEMC Website for reference only.

If you require further information please contact: Aruna Pillai T: 08 9395 9328

E: aruna.pillai@dfes.wa.gov.au

NATIONAL NEWS

AUSTRALIAN DISASTER RESILIENCE CONFERENCE 2023

The Australian Disaster Resilience Conference will be held in Brisbane, Qld from 23 – 24 August 2023. The theme is 'Resilience Reimagined' and calls for abstracts are now open.

The 2023 Australian Disaster Resilience Conference will explore what is possible by coming together to reimagine resilience. The conference will prioritise creative and collaborative approaches being taken across our country and enable us to hear from fresh voices that propose new, innovative ways to foster the disaster resilience our nation needs to thrive in the complex future we know is ahead of us.

[2023 Australian Disaster Resilience Conference | Abstract submissions \(aidr.org.au\)](https://aidr.org.au)

AFAC CONFERENCE 2023

The Australian Fire Authorities Council Conference will be hosted concurrently with the Australian Disaster Resilience Conference in Brisbane, Qld from 22 – 25 August 2023. The theme is 'Creating a sustainable future: the challenges and opportunities' and calls for abstracts are now open.

[AFAC23 powered by INTERSCHUTZ | Conferences \(afaconference.com.au\)](https://afaconference.com.au)

2023 SEMC MEETING SCHEDULE

- 2 August 2023
- 4 October 2023
- 6 December 2023

Complied by:

**District Emergency Management Advisor
Metropolitan Operations
Department of Fire and Emergency Services**

**LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
REPORTING**

Agency: Department of Communities
(Communities)

Date: From – July 2023 to September 2023 inclusive

INCIDENTS:

Date	Type of Incident	Location of Incident	Other Agencies Involved	Comments/Outcomes

EXERCISES AND TRAINING:
Please see notes below.

Date:	Title	Objectives	Comments/Outcomes
06 SEPT	Evacuation Centre Training		Rockingham

Department of Communities – Emergency Relief and Support update

- **Review of the State Support Plan** - Communities have now successfully completed a comprehensive review and rewrite of the Support State Support Plan – Emergency Welfare (Interim). The draft State Support Plan – Emergency Relief and Support (the State Support Plan) has been endorsed by the SEMC Response Policy Sub-Committee and will be presented to the SEMC for approval on 2 August 2023.
- **Capability Audit** – Communities has procured Nous Group to conduct an audit of Western Australia’s emergency relief and support capability. Communities is engaging with its community sector partners via the State Welfare Emergency Committee and the State Welfare Emergency Committee – Operations to seek their input into the audit.
- **Disaster Victim Identification (DVI)/Mass Fatality** – Communities is engaging with WAPOL and the State Coroner’s Office to strengthen its response to a potential major emergency, where mass DVI processes are required.
- **Kimberley Floods**
 - The Department of Communities (Communities) is providing emergency relief and support services to residents impacted by the Kimberley Floods.
 - As of 04 July 2023:
 - 90 people are currently in Phase 1 Temporary Accommodation.
 - Since the Disaster Response Hotline (DRH) opened on the 11 January 2023 until 4 July 23, Communities has responded to a total of 1,936 calls for assistance.
 - Communities has assisted DFES with the activation of 302 Premier’s Grants cards.
 - 27 Category 3 Assistance applications have been initiated. Two have been approved, two not approved and two have been withdrawn and are not eligible.
- Local Emergency Welfare Plans (LEWP’s) are always being reviewed, if you see any information that is not current, please advise [REDACTED]
- Training: Please advise if you would like training conducted for local government staff, this can be an introduction to opening an evacuation centre, to cover the first couple of hours as Communities staff are on route. Happy to work with Shires to ensure little impacts to normal

operations. Please e-mail [REDACTED] to request training.
Happy to discuss at any time.



Agency Name:	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development	Date: July 2023
Report prepared by:	Helen Kent	Position: Emergency Preparedness Coordinator – Incident & Emergency Management Branch
LEMC and DEMC report – July 2023		
<p>1. Declared incidents which DPIRD is managing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seven (7) declared level 1 and 2 incidents in relation to plant pests/diseases and aquatic pests/diseases• Nil animal pest/disease incidents <p>Queensland fruit fly</p> <p>The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) is working to stem the spread of the significant invasive pest, Queensland fruit fly (Qfly), after a recent confirmed detection in Bayswater.</p> <p>A level 2 incident was called on 1 March 2023 after several male Qfly were detected in a residential part of Bayswater, Perth. No Qfly have been detected in commercial areas or outside of the Perth metropolitan area at this time.</p> <p>Qfly is one of the most serious pests of fruit and vegetables in Australia, attacking over 300 species of fruit and vegetables and impacting a range of horticulture industries and access to valuable markets. While Qfly has been found in other areas of the country, Western Australia has remained free of the pest.</p> <p>Quarantine Area</p> <p>The Quarantine Area (QA) covers a 15 km radius from the Qfly detection points and includes Perth, Belmont, Gosnells, Kalamunda, Vincent, Joondalup, Swan, Wanneroo, Melville, Canning, Bayswater, South Perth, Subiaco, Stirling, Nedlands, Bassendean, Belmont,</p>		

Claremont, Victoria Park, Cambridge and Mundaring. The full Quarantine Area Notice can be accessed at: <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/plant-biosecurity/biosecurity-alerts-queensland-fruit-fly-updates>.

Link to video with Qfly eradication response Bayswater: [Advice for residents living within the Qfly Corrective Action Zone | Agriculture and Food](#)

The QA is divided into two main zones: the **Corrective Action Zone** and the **Export Assurance Zone**.

Corrective Action Zone

The Corrective Action Zone is the 1.5 km area surrounding each detection point.

Residents located within this zone are required to comply with the following QA requirements:

- Qfly host fruit cannot be removed from or moved within any part of the Corrective Action Zone, unless treated or processed (cooked, frozen or solarised).
- All ripe or ripening host fruit on plants or trees must be picked, and all fallen host fruit must be removed every three days.
- Fruit can be eaten, or must be treated, bagged and then binned in residential waste bins.
- Residents must provide DPIRD personnel access to their premises to inspect and bait host plants twice a week until further notice

Export Assurance Zone

The **Export Assurance Zone** covers the area in a 15 km radius from the detection point - the area of the QA that is not part of the Corrective Action Zone. The area will act as a buffer zone to further prevent further spread of the pest.

The requirements for the management of Qfly host fruit for this area are less stringent but commercially grown Qfly host fruit cannot move either within the QA or outside the QA unless it is treated.

Advice for residents living within the Qfly Correction Action Zone: [Advice for residents living within the Qfly Corrective Action Zone | Agriculture and Food](#)

Advice for Growers in Qfly Export Assurance Zone: [Advice for Growers in Qfly Export Assurance Zone | Agriculture and Food](#)

Further information is available at: [Queensland fruit fly \(Qfly\) updates | Agriculture and Food](#)

Didemnum vexillum (Carpet sea squirt)

Didemnum vexillum (Carpet sea squirt) has been detected in Western Australia (WA) for the first time.

Carpet sea squirt (CSS) is a highly invasive marine invertebrate animal that can overgrow and smother native species. It can overgrow rocks, shellfish, sea sponges and man-made structures such as wharves, jetty pylons, pontoons, buoys and vessels. A level 2 incident was declared on 25 January 2023 in response to the detection of CSS in WA.

On 17 March 2023 a Quarantine Area Notice was put in place for the waters adjacent to the Australian Marine Complex Common User Facility at Henderson South.

The aim of the QAN is to:

- Manage the movement of vessels into the QA to minimise the spread of the pest.
- Strengthen the requirements for biofouling inspections and treatments for vessels that regularly operate in the Quarantine Area or have been in the Quarantine Area for a period of six days or more.

CSS has the potential to impact oyster and mussel aquaculture, marine environments, dive tourism industries as well as increasing maintenance costs for commercial and recreational vessels.

The aquatic pest has been detected in two locations in WA; Garden Island and at a marine facility in Henderson. The detection at Garden Island was the first confirmed detection in Australia.

[Biosecurity alerts: Carpet sea squirt | Agriculture and Food](#)

Polyphagous shot-hole borer

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](#)

2. State alerts and investigations

DPIRD is investigating three (3) pests or diseases.

Red dwarf honey bees – Report sightings of Red dwarf honey bees

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.

Current situation:

- In late March 2023, DPIRD received a report from Pilbara Port Authority via MyPestGuide® Reporter of suspect exotic bees observed at the Dampier wharf, WA.
- The Commonwealth Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and DPIRD entomologists morphologically confirmed bee samples as *Apis florea*
- A joint survey between DAFF and DPIRD was undertaken at multiple sites on the Burrup Peninsular near Karratha.
- Four new detection sites were located in mid-June 2023. Three detections were of single bees and the fourth detection was of an established nest located in vegetation on a rocky outcrop.
- An ethanol wash of the bees from the nest resulted in the detection of brood mites (*Eugarroa sinhai*) associated with worker bees.
- DAFF and DPIRD are planning additional surveillance to ensure no further red dwarf honey bees are present in the area.
- Red dwarf honey bee has previously been detected and eradicated from the Perth suburb of Forrestfield in 2021.

Impact:

Red dwarf honey bees are social bees which live in colonies of approximately 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 *Euvarroa* mites (*Euvarroa wongsirii* and *Euvarroa sinhai*) both of which are close relatives 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.

Reporting:

Early detection is key to protecting Western Australia's valuable bee and horticultural industries. Immediately report any unusual bees or nests.

Members of the public and workers in the area are encouraged to report sightings of any exotic bees in the area to assist in ensuring no further red dwarf honey bees are present.

If you work at a port or transport imported goods and shipping containers, you must report any sighting of bees associated with these goods. Exotic bees are a pathway for bee pests and viruses so they must be reported

DPIRD Pest and Disease Information Service

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

3. 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 \(www.wa.gov.au\)](http://www.wa.gov.au)

Information is also available on the DPIRD website:

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

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.

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

4. 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: DWER

DPIRD has appointed liaison officers to sit on the social, built and natural environments State-level committees

- 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)

DRFAWA Cat B and D assistance, the Department has approved as at 9 June 2023:

DRFA Measures	Under assessment	Approved	Approved \$
Category B	1	2	\$ 47,717.50 (ex GST)
Category D	18	158	\$1,466,424 (ex GST)

5. Severe Tropical Cyclone Seroja (Recovery funding)

DPIRD, through its Rural Business Development Unit, is managing Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements WA assistance to primary producers impacted by TC Seroja.

DRFAWA Cat B and C assistance the Department has approved as at 9 June 2023:

DRFA Measures	Under assessment	Approved	Approved \$
Category B	22	36	\$ 560,676.75 (Expended)
Category C	51	121	\$2,337,818.20 (Expended)

6. Severe Tropical Cyclone Ilsa – 9 April 2023

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)

To date, only one (1) Category B application has been received for TC Ilsa and this is currently, under assessment.

Ex TC Ellie and TC Ilsa – DRFAWA Category C – Primary Producer Recovery Grant

On 7 July, 2023, the Minister announced that Category C – Primary Producer Grant would be available for Ex TC Ellie and TC Ilsa.

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.

To be eligible for this assistance, primary producers must be operating a primary production enterprise in one of the local government districts subject to the DRFAWA proclamation.

- Shire of Broome
- Shire of Derby West Kimberley
- Shire of Halls Creek
- Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley
- Shire of East Pilbara
- Town of Port Hedland

7. Animal welfare in emergencies training for local governments

DPIRD has partnered with Muresk Institute to provide training for local government officers, in relation to animal welfare during emergencies, as part of the Animal welfare in emergencies grant program 2023.

The training aims to enhance local government officers' skills and knowledge in safely dealing with animals during an emergency. Focus areas are: livestock health, fauna handling, containment and transport, and includes a workshop about how to develop local animal welfare in emergencies plans.

Training dates:

June 7 - 9

June 14 - 16

August 9 - 11

August 16 - 18

8. Staff emergency management training:

DPIRD has an ongoing schedule to deliver emergency management training and exercising in both metropolitan and regional areas.

The non-accredited training focusses on both the Department's Hazard Management Agency responsibilities in relation to animal and plant biosecurity and its support role to other HMAs in relation to animal welfare during emergencies.

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'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 \(www.wa.gov.au\)](#)
- 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.