



Appendices

**Local Emergency Management
Committee Meeting**

Wednesday, 2 September 2026

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Emergency Risk Management Report 2026

Prepared for the Shire of Murray
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Introduction

Western Australia is subject to a wide variety of hazards that have the potential to cause loss of life and/or damage and destruction. These hazards result from natural, technological and biological events. Effective emergency management arrangements enhance the community's resilience against, and preparedness for, emergencies through strategies that apply prevention/mitigation, preparedness, responses and recovery activities.

Local governments are the closest level of government to their communities and have access to specialised knowledge about environment and demographic features of their communities. Understanding local risks and their possible impact on local communities is a critical aspect of effective emergency management.

Project Plan

1.1 Purpose

Emergency risk management is the process of determining what impacts a hazard might have on a community and then developing actions or controls to minimise those impacts. Utilising guidance from the State Emergency Risk Management Guideline, the project aims to identify emergency risks unique to the Shire of Murray context and develop and/or identify treatments to prevent or mitigate these risks.

1.2 Project Objectives

- To improve community safety and wellbeing
- To fulfil the requirements in State Emergency Management Policy section 3 by conducting a risk assessment for the Shire of Murray, by considering impacts to people, economy, public administration, environment and social setting
- Identify risks associated with the hazards and elements of the environment affected by the hazards within the Shire of Murray
- To analyse the risks identified and develop a risk register
- To evaluate the risks identified via an evaluation criterion
- To determine and evaluate treatment options for identified risks
- Establish continual performance monitoring and review processes

1.3 Scope

The Emergency Risk Management process considered how the hazards identified through a survey of the Shire of Murray community and business owners, most impact people, the economy, public administration, environment and social setting across the district.

The project incorporated the whole geographical area of the Shire of Murray, including the following suburbs:

- | | | |
|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| • Barragup | • Coolup | • Furnissdale |
| • Birchmont | • Dwellingup | • Holyoake |
| • Blythwood | • Fairbridge | • Inglehope |

- Keysbrook
- Meelon
- Nambeelup
- Nirimba
- North Dandalup
- North Yunderup
- Pinjarra
- Ravenswood
- South Yunderup
- Stake Hill
- Teesdale
- West Coolup
- West Pinjarra
- Whittaker

1.4 Project Authority

State Emergency Management Prevention and Mitigation Procedure 2.1 stipulates that Local governments are responsible for developing local scale Emergency Risk Management plans for hazards that may occur within their jurisdiction, in consultation with the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC).

1.5 Funding

The Shire of Murray received project funding through the All West Australians Reducing Emergencies (AWARE) program to complete a full review of their Local Emergency Management Arrangements, including this Emergency Risk Management project.

The AWARE competitive grant program aims to enhance West Australia's emergency management arrangements by investing in capacity building and preparedness activities at a local level.

The AWARE program is administered by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) on behalf of the State. This project acknowledges the funding contribution of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Community Profile

When undertaking Emergency Risk Management planning, understanding the local context is critical to success. The following community profile set the scene to understanding the Shire of Murray context.

1.6 Topography

3.1.1 Characteristics

Located just over an hour from Perth, the Murray district offers a unique blend of rural and semi-rural lifestyle. The Shire encompasses a total land area of about 1,700 square kilometres. Land is used predominantly for agriculture (mainly cattle, with some pigs and horses and orcharding), mining, forestry and conservation. According to the ABS Census of 2021 land use is 45% primary production, 49% parkland and 5% residential.

The Shire shares common boundaries with the Shires of Serpentine-Jarrahdale, Waroona, Boddington and the Cities of Rockingham and Mandurah.

The Shire of Murray, is deeply rooted in the culture of the Bindjareb People of the Noongar Nation, with the area recognized as a sacred, spiritual dreaming place.

There are numerous European heritage buildings within the Murray district including the Edenvale Heritage Precinct, Old Blythwood and the Pinjarra Heritage Train Station.

The Shire of Murray is known for its environmental attributes including the Austin Bay Nature Reserve, North Dandalup Dam, South Dandalup Dam, Lake Banksiadale, the Bibbulmun Track and the Munda Biddi Trail, the Peel Inlet and Harvey Estuary which are fed by the Murray, Serpentine and South Dandalup Rivers. The Shire also features significant forestry and conservation reserves and important water catchment areas, namely the North Dandalup, Conjurunup Creek and South Dandalup Reservoirs.

the 165km Dwellingup Adventure Trails network, Lane Poole Reserve, the Hotham Valley Tourism Trailway, Peel Zoo, Edenvale Heritage Precinct, Fairbridge Village, Forest Discovery Centre, The Exchange Hotel and Redgum Wine Estate.

Local facilities include the Murray Aquatic and Leisure Centre (MALC) and one district level library, both in Pinjarra, the Pinjarra Golf Club, Pinjarra Park Racecourse, Pinjarra Paceway, Murray District Hospital and Pinjarra Junction Shopping Centre.

The Industrial Areas within the Shire, include the Alcoa alumina refinery in Oakley, the Huntly Bauxite Mine, the Pinjarra Industrial Area and Peel Business Park. These areas feature large industrial buildings, storage facilities, and excavation sites.

3.1.2 Landforms and Landscapes

Landforms and Landscapes

The Shire of Murray showcases a diverse, transition-heavy landscape that shifts from the ancient, forested ridges of the Darling Scarp down across the swampy Swan Coastal Plain. The region is defined by its extensive network of wetlands, waterways, and the prominent Murray River, which cuts through the region into the Peel-Harvey Estuary.

1. The Darling Scarp and Plateau

- **Landforms:** The eastern portion of the Shire rises into the Darling Range, which is part of the ancient Precambrian continental shield. Characterized by rolling hills, steep valleys, and dramatic granite outcrops.
- **Landscape:** Dominated by the majestic Jarrah and Marri forests. The area is heavily vegetated and includes large expanses of State Forests.
- **Key Activities:** The hilly, forest-covered landscape is a major outdoor recreation hub around Dwellingup, featuring deep valleys and rugged trails used by the Bibbulmun Track and the Munda Biddi Trail.

2. The Darling Faultline

- **Geology:** The Yilgarn Block ends abruptly along the Darling Fault, a massive north-south crustal structure. This fault creates a distinct geographical drop-off where the forested hills meet the flatter lowlands.

3. Swan Coastal Plain

- **Landforms:** Moving west from the scarp, the landscape flattens into the Swan Coastal Plain, which sits over sedimentary aquifers. The Shire area falls into the *Bindjareb Boodja* (Noongar for 'swamp country'), reflecting the historically damp, low-lying nature of the terrain.
- **Landscape:** This area is a mosaic of fertile floodplains (traditionally used for agriculture and the equine industry), scattered Banksia Woodlands, and sprawling pastoral lands near towns like Pinjarra and Coolup.
- **Waterways:** The plain acts as a vital drainage basin. The Murray and Serpentine rivers carve their way across the plain from the scarp to the coast. Their courses are heavily flanked by riparian vegetation, floodplains, and seasonally waterlogged flats.

4. Coastal Wetlands and Estuaries

- **Landforms:** The western boundary of the Shire meets the iconic Peel-Harvey Estuary and the Peel Inlet. It is defined by low-lying coastlines, extensive tidal marshes, and numerous static and flowing lakes (e.g., Lake Mealup and Lake McLarty).
- **Landscape:** The wetland environments provide highly biodiverse habitats and are recognized under international agreements (like the Ramsar Convention for wetlands).
- **Flora:** The landscape transitions into Temperate Coastal Saltmarsh, Tuart woodlands, and diverse sedgelands.

The Shire of Murray prioritizes the preservation of its unique topography and natural landscape. You can explore the [About the profile areas | Murray Shire Council](#) or read the Shire of Murray Town Planning Scheme No. 4 for detailed environmental zoning and mapping.

Infrastructure, Community Facilities and Critical Infrastructure

For a Bushfire Risk Management Plan, Local Emergency Management Arrangements or Emergency Risk Management Plan, it is beneficial to provide a more comprehensive description of the Shire's infrastructure and community assets, particularly where they represent critical infrastructure, vulnerable facilities or locations that may influence emergency response, evacuation, recovery or business continuity.

Sewerage

Reticulated sewerage services within the Shire of Murray are provided by Water Corporation and service the principal urban settlements of Pinjarra, South Yunderup, North Yunderup, Ravenswood and Furnissdale. The network comprises gravity mains, pumping stations, rising mains and wastewater treatment infrastructure.

Large areas of rural and semi-rural development throughout Coolup, Meelon, West Coolup, North Dandalup, Dwellingup and the eastern portions of the Shire rely upon individual septic tank systems and aerobic treatment units.

The sewerage network is considered critical infrastructure due to the significant public health and environmental consequences that may result from system failure, prolonged power outages, flooding, bushfire impacts or infrastructure damage.

Critical sewerage assets include:

- Wastewater pump stations.
- Major trunk sewer mains.
- Electrical control systems.
- Telemetry and monitoring infrastructure.
- Emergency storage and overflow facilities.

Water Supply

The Shire of Murray is supplied by an extensive water distribution network operated by Water Corporation.

Water supply infrastructure includes:

- Water treatment facilities.
- Groundwater production bores.
- Elevated water storage tanks.
- Pump stations.
- Trunk distribution mains.
- Rural water infrastructure.

The Shire is heavily influenced by the:

- Murray River
- Marrinup Brook
- Dandalup River
- North Dandalup Dam
- South Dandalup Dam

The North and South Dandalup Dams form part of Perth's Integrated Water Supply Scheme and are regionally significant assets that provide drinking water to metropolitan Perth and surrounding districts.

Water supply infrastructure is also essential to bushfire suppression operations. Numerous hydrants, standpipes, water tanks, dams and water storage facilities throughout the district support volunteer bushfire brigades, DFES and DBCA firefighting operations.

Electricity

Electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure within the Shire of Murray is owned and managed by Western Power.

The district contains significant regional electricity infrastructure, including:

Transmission Infrastructure

The Shire is traversed by several high-voltage transmission corridors linking Perth, Collie and the South West Interconnected System (SWIS).

Major transmission assets include:

- 330 kV transmission lines.
- 132 kV transmission lines.
- Regional substations.
- Distribution substations.
- Switching stations.

These transmission assets form part of Western Australia's primary electricity network and are critical to energy security across the Peel and South West Regions.

Distribution Network

The local distribution network supplies:

- Residential communities.
- Commercial centres.
- Industrial precincts.
- Mining operations.
- Agricultural enterprises.
- Telecommunications infrastructure.
- Water Corporation facilities.

Loss of electricity supply during bushfires, storms, heatwaves or severe weather events may significantly impact:

- Water supply.
- Sewerage systems.
- Telecommunications.
- Fuel distribution.
- Traffic management.
- Health services.
- Emergency management operations.

Natural Gas

Natural gas is distributed locally by regional gas distribution networks servicing urban centres including Pinjarra.

Damage to gas infrastructure resulting from bushfire, excavation works, vehicle collisions or natural hazards could result in:

- Significant energy disruption.

- Fire and explosion risks.
- Economic impacts.
- Community safety concerns.

The Shire of Murray contains strategically important gas infrastructure forming part of Western Australia's energy network. The district is traversed by the nationally significant Dampier to Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline.

Dampier to Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline

The Dampier to Bunbury Natural Gas Pipeline (DBNGP) is Western Australia's primary gas transmission pipeline extending approximately 1,600 kilometres from the Pilbara gas fields to the South West.

The pipeline supplies natural gas to:

- Perth metropolitan area.
- Peel Region.
- South West Region.
- Major mining operations.
- Electricity generation facilities.
- Industrial consumers.

The pipeline corridor traverses portions of the Shire and represents critical State infrastructure.

Associated infrastructure includes:

- Compressor stations.
- Valve stations.
- Monitoring facilities.
- Distribution infrastructure.

Telecommunications

Telecommunications services are provided through a combination of fixed and wireless networks operated by:

- Telstra
- Optus
- TPG Telecom
- NBN Co

Critical telecommunications infrastructure includes:

- Mobile phone towers.
- Radio communication repeaters.
- Fibre optic networks.
- NBN infrastructure.
- Emergency communications systems.
- DFES and emergency service radio networks.

Telecommunications infrastructure is particularly important for:

- Emergency warning systems.
- Community evacuation notifications.

- Emergency service coordination.
- Business continuity.
- Remote working and education.

Telecommunications failures during emergencies may significantly hinder emergency response and recovery operations.

Local and Regional Road Network

The Shire of Murray contains an extensive transport network comprising roads managed by both the Shire and the State Government.

State Road Network

Major roads managed by Main Roads Western Australia include:

- Forrest Highway
- South Western Highway
- Pinjarra Road

These roads form critical evacuation routes and provide regional freight connectivity.

Local Road Network

The Shire of Murray manages approximately 900 kilometres of local roads providing access to rural communities, residential areas, tourism destinations and industrial precincts.

Key local roads include:

- Pinjarra-Williams Road.
- Del Park Road.
- North Dandalup Road.
- Scarp Road.
- Nanga Road.
- Dwellingup Road.
- Lakes Road.
- Coolup East Road.
- River Road.
- Murray Valley Road.

Many local roads also function as emergency access routes and bushfire evacuation routes.

Rail Infrastructure

The Shire of Murray contains both freight/passenger rail infrastructure and tourism rail infrastructure.

Main Line Rail Network

The principal rail corridor is the South West Main Line connecting Perth with Bunbury and the South West Region.

The rail network supports:

- Passenger services.
- Bulk freight.
- Agricultural products.
- Industrial freight.
- Mineral transport.

Pinjarra Railway Station

The Pinjarra Railway Station is the principal rail passenger facility within the Shire.

Heritage and Tourism Rail

The internationally recognised Hotham Valley Railway operates heritage rail tourism services between Dwellingup and Pinjarra.

Associated infrastructure includes:

- Dwellingup Railway Station.
- Pinjarra Railway Station precinct.
- Heritage rail workshops.
- Tourism facilities.

The railway is a significant tourism attraction contributing substantially to the local economy and visitor numbers.

Education Facilities

The Shire contains a range of educational facilities serving local communities.

Government Schools

Pinjarra Primary School
Pinjarra South Primary School
North Dandalup Primary School
Dwellingup Primary School
Pinjarra Senior High School

Non-Government Schools

St Joseph's School
Austin Cove Baptist College

Early Learning and Childcare Facilities

Additional community infrastructure includes:

Jelly Tots Early Learning Centre
Pinjarra Child Care Centre

Various family day care and early childhood services operating throughout the district.

These facilities represent vulnerable population locations requiring consideration within emergency planning and evacuation arrangements.

Recreation and Sporting Facilities

The Shire provides a diverse range of recreational infrastructure.

Major facilities include:

Aquatic and Recreation Facilities

Murray Aquatic and Leisure Centre

Sporting Facilities

Sir Ross McLarty Sporting Complex.
Pinjarra Recreation Grounds.
South Yunderup Sporting Precinct.
Dwellingup Oval.
Coolup Oval.
North Dandalup Oval.
Furnissdale Sporting Facilities.

Bowling Clubs

Pinjarra Bowling and Recreation Club
Yunderup Sport and Recreation Club

Recreation Reserves and Tourism Assets

Lane Poole Reserve
Marrinup Recreation Area
Murray River foreshore reserves.
South Yunderup foreshore reserves.
Regional trails and walk networks.
Mountain bike trail networks surrounding Dwellingup.
Dwellingup has become a nationally recognised trail and outdoor recreation destination attracting significant visitor numbers annually.

Community Centres and Public Buildings

The Shire currently operates a network of community facilities including:

Murray District Hall.
Pinjarra Civic Centre.
North Pinjarra Hall.
North Yunderup Community Centre.
Furnissdale Hall.
Coolup Community Hall.
Dwellingup Community Hall.
North Dandalup Hall.
Ravenswood Community Facility.
Many of these facilities may be utilised as:
Evacuation centres.
Welfare centres.
Recovery centres.
Emergency coordination facilities.

Library and Cultural Facilities

The Shire's primary library service is provided through the Murray Library.

Additional cultural infrastructure includes:

Edenvale Heritage Precinct
Pinjarra Civic Centre.
Dwellingup Visitor Centre.
Local museums and heritage facilities.

Health, Aged Care and Community Care Facilities

Health infrastructure includes:

Hospitals and Medical Services

Pinjarra Hospital
Multiple GP medical centres located throughout Pinjarra and South Yunderup.
Community health services.

Regional Emergency Hospitals

Peel Health Campus
Rockingham General Hospital

Aged Care and Retirement Facilities

Bethanie Peel Aged Care Home
Coolibah Care
Bedingfeld Lodge
Various independent living and retirement village developments.

These facilities accommodate vulnerable persons and require specific consideration during emergency planning, evacuation management and recovery operations.

Collectively, the infrastructure and community assets within the Shire of Murray support a resident population exceeding 20,000 people and a substantial seasonal visitor population. Many of these assets are considered critical infrastructure due to their importance in supporting community safety, economic activity, emergency response capability and post-disaster recovery.

1.7 Demographic profile

3.1.3 Population

The Shire's population forecast for 2026 is 20,378 and the distribution across the Shire is tabled below.

Precinct	Population
Furnissdale	1,137
North Dandalup, Rural North	1159
North Yunderup	902
Pinjarra	5,588
Point Grey	0
Ravenswood	2,820
Ravenswood North	72
Rural South, including Dwellingup	1,963
South Yunderup	4,292
Stake Hill, Barragup, Nambeelup	1,888
West Pinjarra	557

Table 1 – Shire of Murray population estimates sourced from idforecast 2026

Rapid population growth is anticipated, with forecasts suggesting a near doubling of the population from 2023 to 2038.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population within the Shire stands at 2.8%, compared to 2% in Greater Perth.

The Shire currently has a comparatively low proportion of residents from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. The 2021 Census shows that only 3.0% of the population speak a language other than English at home, compared to 20.9% in Greater Perth. Similarly, just 17.8% of the Shire's population were born overseas, compared to 36% in Greater Perth, with approximately two-thirds of these being born in the United Kingdom or New Zealand.

3.1.4 Population Distribution

The Shire of Murray's population is currently highly dispersed. It reflects a blend of urban, peri-urban and rural development. The primary town centre is Pinjarra which serves as the administrative, commercial and service hub of the Shire, with a mix of residential, commercial and community use. To the west of Pinjarra are the riverside settlements of Ravenswood, North Yunderup and South Yunderup. These areas have established adjacent to the Murray River, and in the case of North and South Yunderup are interspersed with natural waterways, canals and wetlands. The Shire's extensive rural, semi-rural and forest areas dominate the remaining landscape, supporting agricultural activities, rural residential communities, as well as the small rural towns of Coolup, Dwellingup and North Dandalup.

The dispersed settlement pattern presents ongoing challenges for the sustainable delivery of infrastructure, environmental management, economic vitality and transport connectivity. This spatial form contributes to increased energy consumption, higher per capita infrastructure and service delivery costs and greater social isolation, particularly for ageing and vulnerable populations compared to a more consolidated urban form.

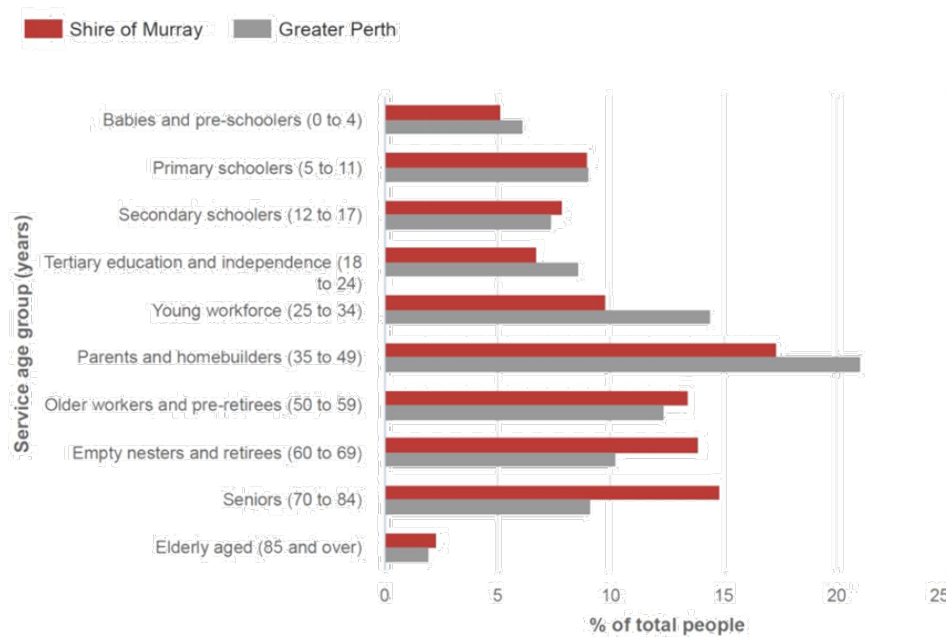
3.1.5 Age Profile

The Shire of Murray has an ageing population. This trend is common in rural and regional areas, where a decline in the 20 - 40-year age group, combined with smaller family sizes and increased life expectancy, results in a lower proportion of young adults and children in the population.

This age profile can challenge economic growth, limit workforce availability and place greater pressure on healthcare and social services, affecting the community's long-term sustainability.

Older people can also be more at-risk during and after the impact of an emergency. This combined with 36.7% of the population having a long-term health condition and 6.4% of people needing help with core activities, is a key consideration for emergency management in the Shire of Murray.

Age Structure for Shire of Murry compared with Greater Perth



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Census of Population and Housing, 2021 (Usual residence data)*. Compiled and presented in profile.id by .id (informed decisions).

3.1.6 Income and Housing

The Shire of Murry has a lower proportion of households across all income categories over \$1,250 per week (46.1% vs 59.7%) compared to Greater Perth. This likely reflects the greater concentration of trade and labour related workers, lower education levels and a greater proportion of retirees. The lower income of residents in the Shire may make them susceptible to the financial pressures which result during recovery from the impacts of an emergency.

The Shire of Murry has a relatively low average residential density, reflecting its regional setting and historical development patterns. 92.2% of all homes in the Shire are detached dwellings and 48.8% of homes of these have four or five bedrooms. The average household size in Murry was 2.42 persons, slightly lower than Greater Perth's 2.50. While home ownership or purchasing rates are relatively high at 71.8% (compared to 68.1% in Greater Perth), rental opportunities are limited, with just 18% of households renting, well below the Perth average of 26%.

The lack of diversity in housing type has implications for an aging population. If an emergency resulted in a significant loss of homes, temporary housing would likely be a major recovery issue.

3.1.7 Employment

6,219 people work in the Shire of Murray, 40.9% of these also live in the Shire. This means nearly 60% of the local workforce travel to the Shire for work, with 32.1% commuting from Mandurah and 11.3% coming from Rockingham.

Despite a high employment self-sufficiency rate, low employment self-containment means many residents work outside the Shire. This increases pressure on transport networks and limits local economic benefits. Of residents who live in the Shire, 58.9% travel outside of the area to work. 64.7% of people travelled to work in a private car, pointing to the importance of road networks for accessing employment for those who live and/or work in the Shire of Murray.

The 2021 census data indicated that unemployment in the Shire was slightly higher, at 6%, than the Greater Perth at 5%. The 2025 June quarter unemployment rate was estimated in the ABS Labour Force survey at 2.6%.

Residents are more likely to work as trades persons, machinery operators, labourers and community service workers, with only 21.2% working as managers or professionals, compared with 35.6% in Greater Perth.

3.1.8 Level of disadvantage

The Shire of Murray is currently one of the most disadvantaged areas in Greater Perth according to the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) which is used to track overall levels of advantage and disadvantage in communities across Australia. Lower scores indicate higher levels of disadvantage relative to the national average (1,000). Under this measure, the Shire of Murray scores 931 compared to the current Greater Perth average of 1,041. This reflects lower income levels and a number of other factors relating to disadvantage, such as single parent households and lower education level.

This relative disadvantage has a range of implications for the wellbeing and opportunities of the Shire's residents. Lower levels of education and income can limit access to stable employment and housing, reduce health outcomes and increase demand for social support services. These challenges are compounded by the Shire's dispersed settlement pattern and car dependent urban form, which can make access to jobs, education and services more difficult for low-income households.

3.1.9 Economy

The Gross Area Product for the region is \$2.91 billion. Significant industries include mining and manufacturing. There are 1,266 local businesses in the area. Nature and Heritage based tourism is critical to the Shire. In 2021–2022, tourism activity in the Shire generated an estimated \$63.2 million in total economic output and supported employment for approximately 341 people in tourism related businesses. Each year, the Shire attracts around 377,000 visitors, including both day-trippers and overnight stays. Dwellingup is Western Australia's first national trails town, and a leading nature based and adventure tourism destination.

1.8 Cultural Heritage

The Shire of Murray has a rich and diverse cultural heritage, encompassing both Aboriginal and European histories that have shaped the region's landscape, settlement pattern and cultural identity. This heritage is integral to understanding the Shire's past.

3.1.10 Aboriginal Heritage

The Bindjareb Noongar people are the traditional custodians of the land within the Shire of Murray. Their connection to the land, rivers and estuary dates back tens of thousands of years, with cultural and spiritual links to sites of environmental and social significance. The Murray River (Bilya) and Peel-Harvey Estuary (Djilba) are particularly important, serving as sources of food, trade and ceremonial practices. Aboriginal heritage sites within the Shire include camping areas, fish traps, scarred trees and burial sites.

The Peel region, including the Shire of Murray, is also significant within the broader Dreaming narratives of the Noongar people. These narratives, or creation stories, are fundamental to Noongar culture and identity. They describe the actions of ancestral spirits who created the landforms, waterways, animals, and plants, establishing the laws and customs that continue to guide Noongar people today and reinforce a deep, ongoing spiritual connection to Country.

Aboriginal cultural heritage is protected under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972. The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System, indicates 195 recorded Aboriginal cultural heritage places within the Shire. Significant sites include archaeological evidence such as scarred trees, fish traps, middens and cooking mounds, alongside strong, ongoing connections to the region's waterways

3.1.11 European Heritage

European settlement began in the early 1830s, with Thomas Peel's settlement scheme leading to the establishment of Pinjarra, one of the earliest colonial towns in Western Australia. The Shire became a key centre for agriculture, timber milling and transport, particularly with the development of the railway network in the 1890's which enabled transport for a developing, largely international timber industry centred on Dwellingup in the early part of the 20th century.

The Shire's Local Heritage Survey was revised in 2020 and contains some 92 places of significance.

Emergency Risk Management

Emergency Risk Management is described in the Australian Disaster Resilience Glossary as ‘a systematic process that produces a range of measures which contribute to the well-being of communities and the environment’. This process considers the likely effects of hazardous events and the controls by which they can be minimised. The WA State Emergency Risk Management Guideline (the Guideline) promotes a process based on the 2020 National Emergency Risk Assessment Guideline (NERAG) but has been tailored to Western Australia's context. The Shire of Murray Emergency Risk Management process employed the Guideline to inform its methodology.

1.9 Risk Management Principles

The Guideline outline nine principles which support effective Emergency Risk Management. These are:

1. Creates and protects value: Risk management contributes to the wellbeing, sustainability and resilience of human health, the environment, the economy, public administration and social setting.
2. Integrates into all organisational processes: Risk management is a mainstream activity that is integrated into standard business practices of organisations, governments and communities.
3. Structured and comprehensive: Results are consistent and comparable.
4. Customised: The framework and processes are appropriate and timely involvement of stakeholders, enabling their knowledge, views and perceptions to be considered.
5. Inclusive: Includes appropriate and timely involvement of stakeholders, enabling their knowledge, views and perceptions to be considered.
6. Dynamic: Risk management anticipates, detects, acknowledges and responds to changes in context and risk profile in an appropriate and timely manner.
7. Best available information: Inputs to risk management are based on the best available historic and current information. Risk management explicitly takes into account any limitations and uncertainties associated with such information and expectations. Information should be timely, clear and available to relevant stakeholders.
8. Human and cultural factors: Human behaviour and culture significantly influence all aspects of risk management at each level and stage.
9. Continual improvement: Risk management is continually improved through learning and experience.

4.2 Risk Management Approach

It is vital to ensure that risk information is reported and used in decision-making. For this to be effective, robust communication pathways and commitment by leadership is needed. The Shire of Murray demonstrate their commitment to this process through leadership and commitment to implement risk management outcomes. A project advisory group, comprising members of the Shire Executive Leadership Team and the following Shire departments:

- Strategy and Engagement

- Communications and Marketing
- Community and Economic Development
- Ranger and Community Safety, and
- Link-EM consultant

has been formed and is guiding the Local Emergency Management Arrangements review project, including the Emergency Risk Management process. This will help to integrate risk management into the organisation and its context and ensure a continuous improvement approach to meet the needs of the organisation.

It is also acknowledged that conventional risks, which are assessed and managed through the risk assessment process, are reasonably well understood. However, there is uncertainty relating to emerging risks, which are occurring as a result of climate change and other societal changes. There is a lack of familiarity with them and their consequences, which, makes them less predictable and requires adaption of current emergency management approaches.

There are also systemic risks which are becoming more complex and result in cascading and compounding impacts. This means that standard risk assessment and management approaches have limited effectiveness, as there is an element of unpredictability as to how systems will be impacted when multiple individual risks interact with each other.

As a result, a focus on impacts to community, rather than the hazard that caused them is an effective way to consider risk.

4.3 Risk management process

The risk management process is the actions which are undertaken to look at the risks facing the Shire of Murray. Figure 1 illustrates the five main phases of the process.

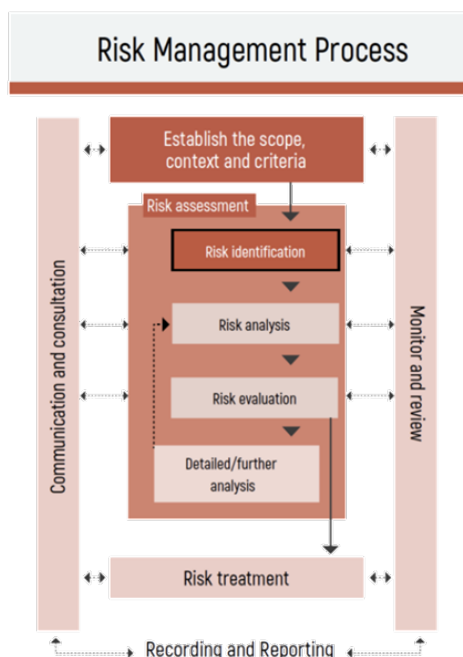


Figure 1 - Emergency Risk Management Process, Sourced from the State Emergency Risk Management Guideline, Dec, 2023

There are five stages of the Emergency Risk management process outlined in the State Emergency Risk Management Guideline. How these were implemented in the Shire of Murray is outlined next.

4.5 Establishing the context

It is important the context and scope of the process is clear to stakeholder at all levels and they agree on the overall objectives and the scope of the process.

An environmental scan was undertaken to identify strategic and community issues which may influence the risk management process. These are captured in section three 'Community Profile' of this report. The results of the surveys also contributed by identifying broad issues connected with the emergency risk management, as perceived by the Shire of Murray community and business sector.

A presentation at the Local Emergency Management Committee workshop ensured stakeholders were made aware of these issues and context within which the Emergency Risk Management process would take place.

4.6 Risk identification

Identifying the key risks of most concern to Shire of Murray residents were identified through the community and business surveys (See Section 4.9 for details). Table 2 shows the key hazards identified as most likely to impact the district.

Hazard	% of community	% of business owners
Bushfire	95.1%	90.5%
Power supply disruption	56.7%	71.4%
Storm/severe weather	56.1%	76.2%
Flood	38.2%	23.8%
Heatwave	34.8%	23.8%
Environmental emergency	26.3%	47.6%
Transportation emergency	26.0%	47.6%
Cyber-attack	15.7%	19.0%
Hazmat	15.4%	33.3%
Structure/industrial fire	19.4%	52.4%
Pandemic	15.4%	38.1%

Table 2 – Key hazards identified by the community and business owners

These were presented to the Shire emergency management team and it was agreed to prioritise a full risk analysis of 'bushfire' and 'power supply disruption'. Results of both the Metropolitan and South West District risk reports in relation to 'storm/severe weather', 'heatwave' and 'flood' were used to inform risk treatment approaches for those hazards.

4.7 Risk analysis

The bushfire and 'power supply disruption' hazards were examined by considering their likelihood and consequence(s) and assigning levels of risk and priority. A 'worst case' scenario was developed for both bushfire (see Appendix 3) and power supply interruption (see Appendix 4). These scenarios were developed in conjunction with expertise from the Shire and/or Local Emergency Management Committee members.

A series of risk statements were created (see Appendix 5 for bushfire risk statements and Appendix 6 for power supply disruption risk statements) to enable the likelihood and consequence of these risks to be examined. The risk analysis was undertaken at two workshops. These were attended by Local Emergency Management Committee members and key Shire staff, who examined the risks in detail. They were compared against specified criteria determining the likelihood of the risk occurring, the consequences if the risk occurred and the confidence the group had in those estimations.

4.8 Risk evaluation

The level of risk was compared with the risk criteria. This helped to assign a priority rating for each of the five identified risks based on its level of likelihood, consequence and confidence with which those decisions were made.

4.8.1 Bushfire - Priority Risk Statements

Risk statement(s) - Economy	Risk Level
will impact main road transport routes, impact bridges, or approaches to bridges and/or disrupt major freight routes, resulting in repair costs and/or financial losses.	High
will impact agricultural industry infrastructure (e.g. fencing, machinery, grain stores etc.) and/or impact on livestock (e.g. through death/injury/lack of pasture) and/or crops/cropping/plantations (and consequently expected harvests), resulting in recovery costs and/or financial losses.	Extreme
will impact private and commercial buildings and contents, resulting in financial losses.	Extreme
Risk statement(s) - Public administration	Risk Level
will require recovery works to be undertaken by local government(s), impacting on their ability to maintain core services.	High
will cause an increased demand (surge) on State Agencies (such as DFES, WA Health services etc) at the local level, impacting their ability to maintain core services.	Extreme
will impact transport infrastructure preventing or delaying emergency services from providing assistance.	High
will impact emergency service response buildings and facilities, preventing or delaying emergency services from providing assistance.	High
will impact critical infrastructure, such as communications, power, sewerage, natural gas and/or water supply, impacting the ability to maintain core services.	Extreme
will impact government offices, works depots and facilities, impacting the ability to maintain core services and recovery services.	High
Risk statement(s) - People	Risk Level
will impact the health of people and cause death(s).	Extreme
will impact the health of people and cause injury and/or serious illness.	Extreme

Risk statement(s) - Social Setting	Risk Level
will impact the health of residents in the area and cause death or serious injury/illness, impacting the wellbeing of the community.	High
will cause displacement, death or injury to animals, impacting the wellbeing of the community.	High
will impact residential dwellings and contents, impacting the wellbeing of the community.	High
will impact on the availability of essential supplies, basic products and services, impacting community services and wellbeing.	High
will affect day to day functionality of facilities for vulnerable people (aged, childcare, schools, disability), impacting community services and wellbeing.	High
will result in long term (> 14 days) displacement due to evacuation away from people's homes and work places, impacting the community wellbeing.	High
will impact heritage buildings, resulting in a loss of cultural significance.	High
will result in a loss of income/employment, impacting the community wellbeing.	Extreme
Risk statement(s) - Environment	Risk Level
will impact native vegetation and/or wildlife.	Extreme
will impact on vulnerable environmental ecosystems and/or identified critically endangered species.	Extreme
will cause contamination to the surrounding environment from the release of toxic substances (e.g. of non-natural materials - asbestos) and/or non-toxic substances (e.g. natural materials - effluent, sediments, debris).	High
will cause debris and pollutants to enter marine or estuarine/riverine environments, impacting marine ecology.	High

4.8.2 Power Supply Disruption - Priority Risk Statements

Risk statement(s) – Economy	Risk Level
will impact private and commercial buildings, contents and services, resulting in financial losses.	High
will disrupt communications, banking, fuel availability and commercial operations resulting in financial losses.	High – P2
will impact agricultural operations, refrigeration systems and food supply chains.	High
will impact tourism, accommodation and hospitality businesses through service disruption.	Medium – P2
Risk statement(s) – Public Administration	Risk Level
will impact critical infrastructure including communications, water supply, sewerage and fuel distribution systems.	Extreme
will impact emergency service response capability and coordination.	High – P2
will increase demand on State agencies and local government response and recovery services.	High
will impact government offices, depots and facilities affecting delivery of core services.	High
Risk statement(s) – People	Risk Level
will impact the health of people and may cause death(s), particularly vulnerable persons reliant on powered medical equipment.	Extreme – P1
will impact the health of people and cause injury and/or serious illness due to service disruption and extreme conditions.	Extreme – P1
will increase public safety risks associated with traffic management, generator use and community anxiety.	High
Risk statement(s) – Social Setting	Risk Level
will disrupt community wellbeing through prolonged loss of essential services and communications.	High

• will impact vulnerable populations including aged persons, people with disabilities and isolated residents.	Extreme
• will disrupt schooling, childcare, community services and cultural activities.	Medium
• will reduce access to food, fuel, banking and essential supplies.	High
Risk statement(s) – Environment	Risk Level
• will increase the risk of environmental contamination from sewage overflows, fuel spills and generator use.	Medium
• will increase bushfire ignition risks associated with infrastructure failure or alternative power sources.	High
• will impact flora and fauna through disruption to water and environmental management systems.	Medium

4.8.3 Storm - Priority Risk Statements

Risk statement(s) – Economy	Risk Level
• will impact private and commercial buildings and contents, resulting in financial losses.	High
• will disrupt transport routes and freight movement due to flooding, fallen trees and debris.	High
• will impact agricultural production and infrastructure including fencing, sheds and crops.	High
Risk statement(s) – Public Administration	Risk Level
• will impact emergency service response capability through damaged infrastructure and access constraints.	High
• will disrupt power, communications and water infrastructure impacting core services.	High
• will require extensive response and recovery coordination by local and state agencies.	High

Risk statement(s) – People	Risk Level
• will impact the health and safety of people and may cause death(s) through lightning, debris, flooding or vehicle incidents.	High
• will impact the health of people and cause injury and/or serious illness.	High
Risk statement(s) – Social Setting	Risk Level
• will impact residential dwellings and community infrastructure, reducing community wellbeing.	High
• will disrupt schooling, sporting, recreational and cultural activities.	Medium
• will result in temporary displacement and isolation of residents.	High
Risk statement(s) – Environment	Risk Level
• will impact native vegetation and wildlife through wind damage, erosion and debris.	High
• will cause pollution and debris to enter waterways and estuarine environments.	Medium

4.8.4 Flood - Priority Risk Statements

Risk statement(s) – Economy	Risk Level
• will impact transport infrastructure, bridges and freight routes resulting in repair costs and financial losses.	Extreme
• will impact agricultural land, livestock and businesses resulting in financial losses.	High
• will impact private and commercial buildings and contents through inundation.	Extreme
Risk statement(s) – Public Administration	Risk Level
• will require significant response and recovery operations impacting local government and agency core services.	Extreme
• will disrupt utilities including power, water, sewerage and communications.	High
• will impact emergency access and evacuation routes.	Extreme
Risk statement(s) – People	Risk Level
• will impact the health and safety of people and may cause death(s) due to floodwaters and isolation.	High
• will impact the health of people and cause injury and/or illness including contamination related illness.	High
Risk statement(s) – Social Setting	Risk Level
• will result in displacement of residents and disruption to community wellbeing.	High
• will impact vulnerable populations and isolated communities.	High
• will impact heritage and culturally significant locations.	High

Risk statement(s) – Environment	Risk Level
will cause erosion, sediment movement and damage to waterways and ecosystems.	High
will result in debris and contaminants entering riverine and estuarine environments.	High

4.8.5 Heatwave - Priority Risk Statements

Risk statement(s) – Economy	Risk Level
will impact agricultural productivity, livestock wellbeing and outdoor workforce productivity, resulting in financial losses.	High
will increase energy demand and disrupt commercial operations, resulting in financial losses.	High – P2
will impact tourism and outdoor events, reducing visitor activity and local business revenue.	Medium – P2
Risk statement(s) – Public Administration	Risk Level
will increase demand on health and emergency services, impacting their ability to maintain core services.	Extreme – P1
will impact critical infrastructure including power, communications and water supply systems.	High
will require recovery and welfare support services to be undertaken by local government and support agencies.	High

Risk statement(s) – People	Risk Level
will impact the health of people and cause death(s), particularly vulnerable populations.	Extreme – P1
will impact the health of people and cause injury and/or serious illness including heat stress and dehydration.	Extreme – P1
Risk statement(s) – Social Setting	Risk Level
will affect vulnerable populations including elderly persons, children and people with chronic illnesses.	Extreme
will reduce community wellbeing through prolonged exposure to extreme temperatures and service disruption.	High
will affect participation in community, sporting and cultural activities.	Medium
Risk statement(s) – Environment	Risk Level
will impact native vegetation, waterways and wildlife due to prolonged heat stress.	High
will increase the likelihood of bushfire ignition and environmental degradation.	Extreme

4.9 Risk treatment

Risk treatment options were considered and assessed at a workshop with the Shire's Emergency Management Team. The below treatment plans were a product of this workshop and detail the Shire's risk treatment priorities. The implementation of this work will be managed through ongoing work of the Local Emergency Management Committee and integrated into broader emergency management, business continuity and recovery arrangements.

Treatment actions and risk ratings should be reviewed annually and following any significant electricity supply disruption event to ensure continuous improvement and alignment with State Emergency Management Committee Emergency Risk Management guidance.

4.9.1 Bushfire – Risk Treatment Plan

Potential treatment options (in decreasing priority)	Lead Agency	Key Stakeholders	Tenure	Funding Source (Operational, External, Combination)	Timeframe	KPI (How will compliance & success be measured?)
1. Ensure that any applications for development comply with Bushfire State Planning Policy and Guidelines		- DFES - WAPC - Shire of Murray		SoM – Annual Operating		Compliance with SPP3.7
2. Building design and compliance, ensuring plans for new buildings comply with applicable development and construction standards		- Owners/Occupiers - DFES - Shire of Murray		SoM – Annual Operating		Compliance with SPP3.7
3. Establishing, maintaining and inspecting building fire safety systems that are compliant and fit for purpose		- Landowners/occupiers - Shire of Murray - DFES		SoM – Annual Operating		Compliance with SPP3.7
4. Fuel modification through firebreak and other hazard reduction measures: The Shire of Murray advertises and issues to every landowner within the Shire a notice under section 33 of the <i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i> requiring firebreaks	Shire of Murray	Landowners/ Occupiers	Private property	SoM – Annual Operating		- Total property inspections - Number of compliant properties

and other bushfire prevention work to be carried out and maintained for a set period as well as other measures to reduce fire risk.						• Number of penalty notices issued.
Conduct property inspections to ensure compliance with notices issued by the Shire under section 33 of the <i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i> .	Shire of Murray	• Landowners/ Occupiers	Private property			
Fuel reduction and modification through mechanical or chemical measures: mulching, slashing, mechanical removal, herbicide or controlled livestock grazing to reduce the amount or alter the structure of available fuel.	DFES		Unallocated Crown Land			
	DBCA		State Forest			
	Shire of Murray		Shire freehold and managed land			
	State Agencies/ Corporations		Private property			
	Landowners/o ccupiers		Private property			
Fire reduction through the declaration of Prohibited and Restricted Burning Times, Total Fire Bans, and Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans requiring permits and conditions to be followed.		• DBCA • DFES • Landowners/o ccupiers • Shire of Murray				

		Minister for Emergency Services				
Development and implementation of Bushfire Risk Management Plan for the Shire of Murray in accordance with the DFES Guidelines.		- DFES - Shire of Murray - DBCA				
Establishing bushfire safety and preparedness program to ensure the community is aware of the bushfire risk and have a plan established to respond and recover from bushfires.		- DFES - Shire of Murray				

4.9.2. Power Supply Disruption – Risk Treatment Plan

Potential treatment options	Lead Agency	Key Stakeholders	Tenure	Funding Source	KPI / Success Measure
Develop and maintain a Local Power Outage Response and Recovery Plan integrated with Local Emergency Management Arrangements.	Shire of Murray	Western Power, DFES, WA Police, Department of Communities	Annual / Ongoing	Operational / Combination	Plan reviewed and exercised annually
Identify and maintain facilities capable of operating as community relief and welfare centres during prolonged outages.	Shire of Murray	Department of Communities, Health Services, NGOs	Ongoing	Combination	Facilities identified, tested and maintained

Promote community preparedness messaging regarding prolonged outages and emergency kits.	Western Power	Shire of Murray, DFES	Seasonal	Operational	Preparedness campaign metrics
Improve resilience and redundancy of critical infrastructure including backup power systems.	Critical Infrastructure Owners	Western Power, Water Corporation, Telecommunications Providers	Ongoing	External / Combination	Backup systems installed and tested
Develop arrangements for vulnerable persons reliant on powered medical equipment during extended outages.	WA Health	Department of Communities, Local Government, Non-Government Organisations (NGOs),	Annual	Combination	Support arrangements reviewed annually
Enhance traffic management (State roads) and public safety arrangements during major outages.	Main Roads WA	WA Police, Shire of Murray, DFES	Ongoing	Operational	Traffic response arrangements exercised
Enhance traffic management (Local roads) and public safety arrangements during major outages.	Shire of Murray	WA Police, Main Roads WA (MRWA), DFES	Ongoing	Operational	Traffic response arrangements exercised
Enhance rail transport and public safety arrangements during major outages.	ARC Infrastructure	DFES, WA Police	Ongoing	Operational	Rail transport response arrangements exercised
Undertake regular multi-agency exercises involving extended electricity supply disruption scenarios.	Local Emergency Management Committee	All HMA and support agencies	Annual	Operational	Exercises completed and improvement actions implemented

Support continuity planning for businesses, schools, aged care facilities and critical community services.	Shire of Murray	Business Community, Department of Education, Aged Care Providers	Ongoing	Combination	Continuity plans developed and reviewed
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4.9.3 Storm – Risk Treatment Plan

Potential treatment options	Lead Agency	Key Stakeholders	Tenure	Funding Source	KPI / Success Measure
Maintain and improve stormwater drainage infrastructure and flood mitigation assets.	Shire of Murray	Main Roads WA, Water Corporation	Ongoing	Operational / External	Drainage inspection and maintenance schedules completed
Implement vegetation management programs to reduce tree fall risks near roads and powerlines.	Shared responsibility	Shire of Murray, Western Power, MRWA, Landowners	Annual	Operational	Vegetation management program completed
Undertake community preparedness campaigns regarding severe storm readiness and warnings.	DFES	Shire of Murray, BOM	Seasonal	Operational	Community engagement statistics
Review and exercise local evacuation, welfare and recovery arrangements for severe weather events.	Shire of Murray	Local Emergency Management Committee Agencies	Annual	Operational	Exercises completed and lessons incorporated

Enhance resilience of critical infrastructure and backup communications.	Critical Infrastructure Owners	Shire of Murray, DFES	Ongoing	Combination	Continuity and resilience measures implemented
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4.9.4 Flood – Risk Treatment Plan

Potential treatment options	Lead Agency	Key Stakeholders	Tenure	Funding Source	KPI / Success Measure
Maintain flood mapping, land use planning controls and development assessment processes.	DWER	Shire of Murray, WAPC	Ongoing	Operational	Floodplain planning controls applied
Maintain and improve Shire of Murray drainage infrastructure and flood mitigation works	Shire of Murray	Water Corporation	Annual	Operational / External	Drainage and mitigation works completed
Maintain and improve State drainage infrastructure and flood mitigation works	MRWA	Shire of Murray, Water Corporation	Annual	Operational	Drainage and mitigation works completed
Develop and maintain flood evacuation and public information arrangements.	DFES	WA Police, Shire of Murray	Annual	Operational	Evacuation plans reviewed and exercised
Undertake community education regarding flood preparedness and safe behaviour around floodwaters.	DFES	Shire of Murray, SES	Seasonal	Operational	Preparedness campaign metrics

4.9.5 Heatwave – Risk Treatment Plan

Potential treatment options	Lead Agency	Key Stakeholders	Tenure	Funding Source	KPI / Success Measure
Develop and maintain a Heatwave Response Plan aligned with WA Health and SEMC guidance.	Shire of Murray	WA Health, DFES, BOM, Department of Communities	SoM – Annual	Operational / Combination	Plan reviewed annually and exercised
Implement targeted community education and preparedness campaigns before summer.	Shire of Murray	DFES, WA Health, BOM, Local Service Providers, Australian Red Cross	Ongoing	Operational	Number of campaigns and engagement metrics
Identify and promote community cooling centres and welfare support arrangements.	Shire of Murray	Department of Communities, NGOs, Health Services	Annual	Combination	Cooling centres identified and publicly communicated
Enhance welfare checks for vulnerable persons during severe heatwave events.	Department of Communities	Local Government, Health Providers, NGOs	Seasonal	Combination	Activation records and welfare outreach statistics
Support resilience of critical infrastructure through backup power and continuity planning.	Western Power	Water Corporation, Telecommunications Providers, Shire of Murray	Ongoing	External / Combination	Critical infrastructure continuity measures implemented

4.10 Communication and consultation

Each phase of the risk assessment process is supported by two ongoing activities; communication and consultation. This approach aims to ensure two-way communication with internal and external stakeholders throughout the process.

Risk and emergency management is a shared responsibility. As a result, the Emergency Risk Management process should involve local government staff and elected members, Local Emergency Management Committee members, local industry groups, essential service providers, service organisations representing people at higher risk, community organisations and other community leaders to ensure a broad and representative understanding of community assets, values and vulnerabilities in order to achieve a comprehensive risk assessment. The Emergency Risk Management process in the Shire of Murray involved key stakeholders across the Shire. Supported by the Local Emergency Management Arrangements Review Project Group, the process utilised surveys of the community and business sector to establish issues of relevance to local emergency management and identify community perceptions of hazards and risk.

4.11 Community and Business surveys

Two separate surveys were developed, one targeting community members from across the Shire, and the second targeting businesses in the Shire.

The 'community survey' (see Appendix 1) was open from the 15 December 2025 through to the 2 February 2026 and the 'Business survey' (see Appendix 2) from the 6 January 2026 through to the 2 February 2026.

The surveys sought information about:

- general demographics,
- the likelihood and possible impacts of a local emergency,
- the types of hazards which are of most concern in the Shire
- levels of preparedness and emergency planning,
- what could help be better prepared for emergencies in the Shire
- perceptions of local emergency management and what could be improved.

The surveys were promoted through a variety of methods including:

- Consultation webpage – published 18 December 2025 – 2 Feb 2026
- On the homepage of the website for the duration of the survey - 18 December 2025 – 2 Feb 2026
- Murray News (Shire external newsletter) – 18 December 2025 and 15 January 2026
- Shire Wire (Shire internal newsletter) – January 2026 edition
- Social media posts – 18 December 2025 and 8 January 2026
- Social media stories – regular posting throughout the duration of the survey
- Facebook paid advertisement – ran for 9 days
- Targeted email sent to Murray database – 20 January 2026 (Community Survey)
- Targeted email sent to Murray Business database – 8 January and 20 January 2026 (Business Survey)

- Hard copy surveys were made available at the Shire of Murray Admin Office Reception.

Direct emails to Shire of Murray staff and elected members were sent to encourage their engagement with the survey.

4.12 Key stakeholders

This foundational data was used to develop content for two workshops with Local Emergency Management Committee members and Shire of Murray staff attending. These workshops undertook an in-depth analysis of 'bushfire' and 'power supply disruption' scenarios, as well as providing input into the wider Local Emergency Management Arrangements review project. Attendees fell into the following groupings

Knowledge specialists

- Shire of Murray - Project group representatives
- Shire of Murray – Emergency Management Team
- Shire of Murray - Staff
- Shire of Murray – Elected Members

Local Emergency Management Committee members - Government departments/Statutory authorities/ Hazard Management agencies

- Department of Communities
- Department of Fire and Emergency Services – District Officer
- Department of Fire and Emergency Services – District Emergency Management Advisor
- Department of Health
- St John Ambulance WA
- Western Australia Police Force (WA Police Force).

Local Emergency Management Committee members - Social service providers/Community

- Community representative
- Volunteer Fire and Rescue

4.13 Monitor and review

Ongoing review is essential to ensure that the risk treatment schedule is effective and remains current. Factors that may affect the likelihood and consequences of an outcome may change, particularly with the rapid population growth expected in the Shire of Murray, which may change community priorities and exposure/vulnerability to risk. Equally, factors, such as climate change or resource availability, may affect the suitability or cost of treatment options. It is therefore necessary to review risks management regularly.

Progress against the risk treatment should be incorporated into the Shire of Murray's performance management, measurement and reporting system. Monitoring and review also involve learning lessons by reviewing emergency events, the treatment plans and their outcomes.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Community Emergency Risk Management Survey

Community Emergency Risk Management Survey

Thank you for participating in this survey. The purpose of this survey is to understand your perceptions of emergency risks in our community, current preparedness and resilience, and areas for improvement. Your views will help inform the community's Emergency Risk Management (ERM) process including risk identification, analysis, evaluation and treatment.

Your participation is voluntary and responses are confidential.

Section 1: About You

1. What is your gender?

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| ☐ Male | ☐ Other |
| ☐ Female | ☐ I'd prefer not to say |
| ☐ Non-binary | |

2. What is your age group?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ Under 18 | ☐ 45 – 54 |
| ☐ 18–24 | ☐ 55 – 64 |
| ☐ 25–34 | ☐ 65 – 74 |
| ☐ 35–44 | ☐ 75 and above |

3. Which suburb or locality do you live in?

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| ☐ Barragup | ☐ Inglehope | ☐ Ravenswood |
| ☐ Birchmont | ☐ Keysbrook | ☐ South Yunderup |
| ☐ Blythewood | ☐ Meelon | ☐ Stake Hill |
| ☐ Coolup | ☐ Nambeelup | ☐ Teesdale |
| ☐ Dwellingup | ☐ Nirimba | ☐ West Coolup |
| ☐ Fairbridge | ☐ North Dandalup | ☐ West Pinjarra |
| ☐ Furnissdale | ☐ North Yunderup | ☐ Whittaker |
| ☐ Holyoake | ☐ Pinjarra | <hr/> |

4. How long have you lived in this locality?

- ☐ Less than 1 year
- ☐ 1–5 years
- ☐ 6–10 years
- ☐ More than 10 years

5. Do you identify as belonging to a culturally or linguistically diverse community and/or an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person?

- ☐ Yes – culturally/linguistically diverse
- ☐ Yes – Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander
- ☐ No
- ☐ I'd prefer not to say

6. How many people live in your household?

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ☐ 1 | ☐ 4 |
| ☐ 2 | ☐ 5 |
| ☐ 3 | ☐ more than 5 |

7. How many members of your household are under the age of 18?

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ☐ 0 | ☐ 3 |
| ☐ 1 | ☐ 4 |
| ☐ 2 | ☐ more than 4 |

8. Does your household include vulnerable individuals (e.g. young children, older adults, people with disability, pets) who may be less able to respond during an emergency?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I'd prefer not to say

If yes (optional),

9. What kind of help might this individual need during an emergency?

Section 2: Awareness of Hazards and Risks

10. How likely do you think it is that an emergency event will affect your community in the next 5 years?

- ☐ Very likely
- ☐ Likely
- ☐ Possible
- ☐ Unlikely
- ☐ Very unlikely

11. What type of hazards are most likely to cause an emergency event which may affect your community (name as many as you can think of)?

12. Which of the following hazards do you consider to be a serious risk to your community?
(Tick all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Bushfire / wildfire | ☐ Environmental emergency (water contamination, biological threat etc.) |
| ☐ Structure/industrial fire | ☐ Hazardous chemical incident |
| ☐ Flooding | ☐ Power outage / infrastructure failure |
| ☐ Storm / high winds / hail | ☐ Cyberattack causing community disruption |
| ☐ Heatwave | ☐ Terrorism/Mass shooting |
| ☐ Severe storm/lightning | ☐ Transportation emergency (train derailment, plane crash or major road crash) causing community disruption |
| ☐ Earthquake / tsunami | ☐ Other: _____ |
| ☐ Pandemic / major health incident | |

13. Thinking about the emergency events that you have selected, how serious could be the impact if the any of the events occurred in your area?

- ☐ Catastrophic
- ☐ Major
- ☐ Moderate
- ☐ Minor
- ☐ Insignificant

14. What level of understanding **do you personally** have about what to do in an emergency?

- ☐ Excellent understanding
- ☐ Good understanding
- ☐ Basic understanding
- ☐ Poor understanding
- ☐ No understanding at all

15. What level of understanding **does the community in your locality** have about what to do in an emergency?

- ☐ Excellent understanding
- ☐ Good understanding
- ☐ Basic understanding
- ☐ Poor understanding
- ☐ No understanding at all

Section 3: Preparedness and Capacity

16. Do you have a plan for what to do in an emergency?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

If yes,

16a. Is your emergency plan written down?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Some of it

16b. Does everyone who resides in your household know about the emergency plan?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not applicable

☐ Not sure

16c. Are the needs of vulnerable individuals (e.g. young children, older adults, people with disability, pets) included in your plan?

☐ Fully included

☐ Partially included

☐ Not included

☐ Not applicable

☐ Not sure

17. Do you have an emergency kit with supplies for at least 72 hours in your home?

☐ Yes, complete for 72+ hours

☐ Yes, partially complete

☐ No

18. What are the main barriers to your household being prepared for emergencies?

(Tick all that apply)

☐ I don't think my level of risk is high enough to spend the time

☐ Lack of guidance / information

☐ I don't know where to start

☐ Cost / financial constraints

☐ Lack of time

☐ Physical or health limitations

☐ Language / communication barriers

☐ I believe emergency services will manage the response for me

☐ Relying on others

☐ No significant barriers

☐ Other:

19. How confident are you in your ability to react effectively during an emergency event?

☐ Very confident

☐ Confident

☐ Somewhat confident

☐ Not very confident

☐ Not confident at all

20. What emergency alert or communication methods are you likely to use **to get information** during and after an emergency?

- ☐ Radio
- ☐ Official mobile apps (eg BOM (weather), Emergency WA)
- ☐ Social media from official sources
- ☐ Social media community groups, unofficial messaging apps
- ☐ Word of mouth/neighbours/friends/family
- ☐ Text message
- ☐ Television
- ☐ Not sure
- ☐ Other (please detail):

Section 4: Community Resilience and Support

21. How strongly do you agree with the following statements.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
People in this community look out for each other during emergencies.					
Neighbours would help each other if an emergency occurred.					
Local emergency services / agencies have communicated effectively with the community about risks which might affect them					
Local emergency services / agencies have communicated effectively with the community about getting prepared for an emergency					
Local emergency services / agencies have communicated effectively with the community about how to respond to an emergency					
Local emergency services / agencies are prepared to assist during emergencies.					
There are trusting relationships between the community and emergency services/authorities.					

22. What kind of information/training would you like to receive about preparing for emergencies?
(Tick all that apply)

- ☐ Household emergency plan
- ☐ Emergency kit
- ☐ Hazard-specific actions
- ☐ Evacuation procedures and shelters
- ☐ Helping vulnerable neighbours or family members
- ☐ Community alert systems / apps
- ☐ Recovery pathways & support after an event
- ☐ I don't need any further information
- ☐ Other:

23. How would you prefer to receive this information/training about preparing for emergencies?
(Tick all that apply)

- ☐ In person training
- ☐ Online webinar
- ☐ Information / fact sheets
- ☐ Email
- ☐ Shire of Murray website
- ☐ Emergency WA website
- ☐ Other: _____

Section 5: Priorities for Action

24. Are you aware of local resources available to help you prepare for an emergency?

- ☐ Yes, fully aware
- ☐ Somewhat aware
- ☐ No awareness

25. Which areas should local government / emergency management agencies prioritise?

(Tick up to 3)

- ☐ Increase hazard awareness / education campaigns
- ☐ Improve early-warning systems / communication channels
- ☐ Enhance evacuation planning and infrastructure
- ☐ Support vulnerable people / households
- ☐ Strengthen community volunteers / local organisations
- ☐ Invest in critical infrastructure / hazard reduction
- ☐ Improve post-event recovery support
- ☐ Other:

26. Any other comments or suggestions about emergency management in your community?

Thank you for your time and input.

The Shire of Murray is currently reviewing its Local Emergency Management Arrangements which help local planning before, during and after emergencies. There will be several opportunities for community members to be involved with this process. Please indicate how you would like to be involved and provide your contact details.

- ☐ Receive feedback on the survey results
- ☐ Emergency Risk Management/Emergency Management Plan workshop
- ☐ Local Recovery Plan workshop
- ☐ At-Risk Community Member Plan workshop

If you ticked one of the above boxes, please provide your contact details below (Your responses to the survey will remain confidential):

Name: _____

Email: _____

Mobile: _____

Emergency information for the Shire of Murray can be found on the website at

<https://www.murray.wa.gov.au/community-and-services/community-safety>

Appendix 2 - Business Emergency Risk Management Survey

Business Emergency Risk Management Survey

Thank you for participating in this survey. The purpose of this survey is to understand your perceptions of emergency risks in our business/organisation community, current preparedness and resilience, and areas for improvement. Your views will help inform the community's Emergency Risk Management (ERM) process including risk identification, analysis, evaluation and treatment.

Section 1: About you and your business

1. What is your gender?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Non-binary
- ☐ Other
- ☐ I'd prefer not to say

27. What is your age group?

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ Under 18 | ☐ 45 – 54 |
| ☐ 18–24 | ☐ 55 – 64 |
| ☐ 25–34 | ☐ 65 – 74 |
| ☐ 35–44 | ☐ 75 and above |

28. Which suburb or locality is your business/organisation located in?

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| ☐ Barragup | ☐ Inglehope | ☐ Ravenswood |
| ☐ Birchmont | ☐ Keysbrook | ☐ South Yunderup |
| ☐ Blythewood | ☐ Meelon | ☐ Stake Hill |
| ☐ Coolup | ☐ Nambeelup | ☐ Teesdale |
| ☐ Dwellingup | ☐ Nirimba | ☐ West Coolup |
| ☐ Fairbridge | ☐ North Dandalup | ☐ West Pinjarra |
| ☐ Furnissdale | ☐ North Yunderup | ☐ Whittaker |
| ☐ Holyoake | ☐ Pinjarra | |
-

29. Which sector best describes your business/organisation?

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing | ☐ Financial and Insurance Services |
| ☐ Mining | ☐ Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services |
| ☐ Manufacturing | ☐ Professional, Scientific and Technical Services |
| ☐ Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services | ☐ Administrative and Support Services |
| ☐ Construction | ☐ Public Administration and Safety |
| ☐ Wholesale trade | ☐ Education and Training |
| ☐ Retail Trade | ☐ Health Care and Social Assistance |
| ☐ Accommodation and Food Services | ☐ Arts and Recreation Services |
| ☐ Transport, Postal and Warehousing | ☐ Other (please describe) |
| ☐ Information Media and Telecommunications | <hr/> |

30. What best describes the size of your business?

- ☐ Sole trader
- ☐ 1-5 employees
- ☐ 6-20 employees
- ☐ 21-50 employees
- ☐ 50+ employees

31. Does your business rely on workers, customers, suppliers or contractors from any major industries in the Shire of Murray?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

If yes, please list what industries

32. If the listed industries reduced or ceased operations, how would this affect your business?

- ☐ Severe disruption
- ☐ Moderate disruption
- ☐ Minor disruption
- ☐ No disruption
- ☐ Unsure

Section 2: Awareness of Hazards and Risks

33. What type of hazards are most likely to cause an emergency event which may affect your business - name as many as you can think of:

34. Which of the following hazards do you consider to be a serious risk to your business/organisation?
(Tick all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Bushfire / wildfire | ☐ Transportation emergency (train derailment, plane crash or major road crash) causing community disruption |
| ☐ Structure/industrial fire | ☐ Other: _____ |
| ☐ Flooding | |
| ☐ Storm / high winds / hail | |
| ☐ Heatwave | |
| ☐ Severe storm/lightning | |
| ☐ Earthquake / tsunami | |
| ☐ Pandemic / major health incident | |
| ☐ Environmental emergency (water contamination, biological threat etc.) | |
| ☐ Hazardous chemical incident | |
| ☐ Power outage / infrastructure failure | |
| ☐ Cyberattack causing community or business disruption | |
| ☐ Terrorism/Mass shooting | |

35. How likely do you think it is that an emergency event will affect your business/organisation in the next 5 years?

- ☐ Very likely
- ☐ Likely
- ☐ Possible
- ☐ Unlikely
- ☐ Very unlikely

36. Following an emergency event, how are the following likely to disrupt to your business/organisation:

	Very likely	Likely	Possible	Unlikely	Very unlikely	N/A
Physical damage to a building						
Damage to or breakdown of machinery, systems or equipment						
Restricted access to a site or building						
Interruption of the supply chain including failure of a supplier or disruption of transportation of goods from the supplier						
Utility outage (e.g., electrical power or water outage)						
Loss of Communications						
Damage to, loss or corruption of information technology including voice and data communications, servers, computers, operating systems, applications, and data						
Lost sales and income						
Increased expenses (e.g., overtime labor, outsourcing, expediting costs, etc.)						
Staffing issues						
Contractual penalties or loss of contractual bonuses						
Customer dissatisfaction or defection						
Delay of new business/organisation plans/development						

37. Considering your answers to question 11, how serious would the impact be if a major emergency event affected your business/organisation?

- ☐ Catastrophic
- ☐ Major
- ☐ Moderate
- ☐ Minor
- ☐ Insignificant

38. What level of understanding do you personally have about what to do in an emergency?

- ☐ Excellent understanding
- ☐ Good understanding
- ☐ Basic understanding
- ☐ Poor understanding
- ☐ No understanding at all

Section 3: Preparedness and Capacity

39. Does your business/organisation have a plan for what to do during an emergency?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

If yes,

13a. Do all your staff know about the emergency plan?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ N/A

13b. Does your emergency plan consider managing visitors/customers during an emergency?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ N/A

40. If your business/organisation needs to be evacuated, do you have an emergency relocation kit?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

41. Does your business/organisation have insurance to protect against the impacts of an emergency?

- ☐ Yes, comprehensive insurance
- ☐ Yes, limited insurance
- ☐ No insurance

42. Does your business/organisation have a Business Continuity Plan?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

43. Does your business/organisation have a Recovery Plan for managing impacts after an emergency?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

44. Are there any barriers to your business/organisation getting prepared for an emergency event?

(Tick all that apply)

- ☐ I don't think my level of risk is high enough to spend the time
- ☐ Lack of guidance / information
- ☐ I don't know where to start
- ☐ Cost / financial constraints
- ☐ Lack of time
- ☐ Physical or health limitations
- ☐ Language / communication barriers

- ☐ I believe emergency services will manage the response for me
- ☐ Relying on others
- ☐ No significant barriers
- ☐ Other:

Section 4: Priorities for Action

45. Based on your business/organisational needs, which areas should local government / emergency management agencies prioritise? (Tick up to 3)

- ☐ Increase hazard awareness / education campaigns
- ☐ Improve early-warning systems / communication channels
- ☐ Enhance evacuation planning and infrastructure
- ☐ Support older adults, people with disability and other potentially at-risk groups
- ☐ Strengthen community volunteers / local organisations
- ☐ Invest in critical infrastructure / hazard reduction
- ☐ Improve post-event recovery support
- ☐ Provide business continuity planning support
- ☐ Other:

46. Any other comments or suggestions about emergency management relating to your business/organisations in the Shire of Murray?

Thank you for your time and input.

The Shire of Murray is currently reviewing its Local Emergency Management Arrangements which help local planning before, during and after emergencies. There will be several opportunities for community members to be involved with this process. Please indicate if you would like to be involved by:

- ☐ *Receiving feedback on the survey results*
- ☐ *Attending a Local Recovery Plan community workshop*
- ☐ *Attending an 'At-Risk' Community Member Plan workshop*

If you ticked one of the above boxes, please provide your contact details below (Your responses to the survey will remain confidential):

Name: _____

Email: _____

Mobile: _____

Emergency information for the Shire of Murray can be found on the website at

<https://www.murray.wa.gov.au/community-and-services/community-safety>

Appendix 3 - Bushfire Scenario for risk assessment workshop

Bushfire scenario

The bushfire scenario has approximately a 5% chance of occurrence in any given year.

During an extended dry, hot period, a series of suspicious fires start in the Shire of Murray district on the Australia Day long weekend. The first fire was reported at 10.40 am on Sunday 25th January, 2026.

It is an Extreme Fire Danger Day. The weather forecast is for a maximum temperature of 37°C, and 6% relative humidity (RH). Winds are SE at 40Kph with gusts of 60-70 Kph. The fire behaviour is erratic and unpredictable with the fires spotting at least one (1) kilometre ahead of the head fire with a Rate of Spread of at least 1.5Kph.

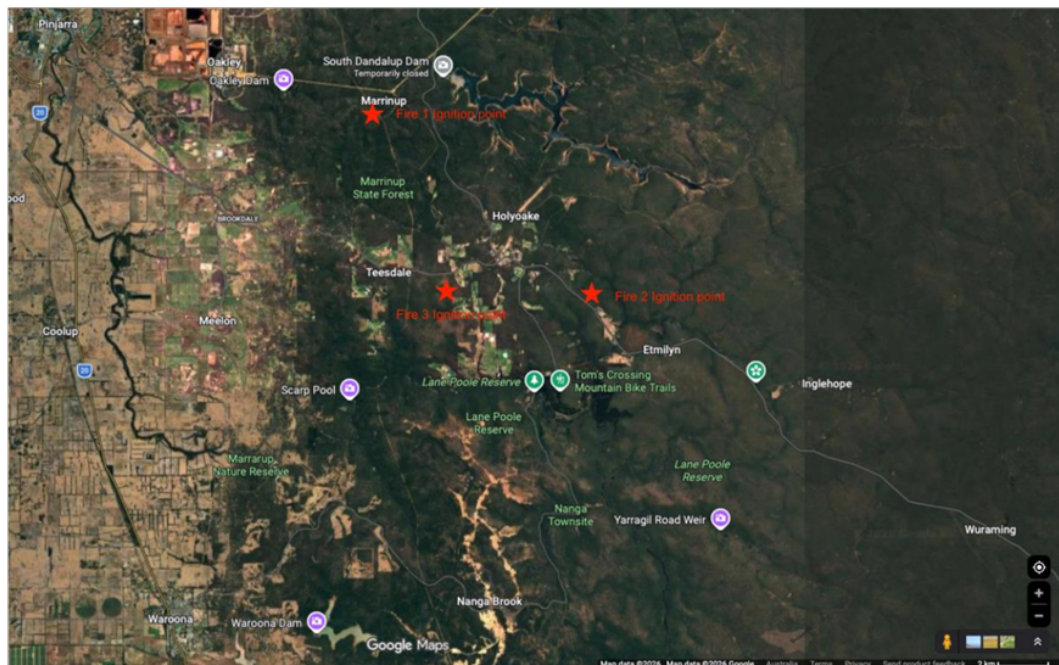


Figure 1 – Map showing ignition points of three fires in the region

Evacuation centres are established at Mandurah and Waroona. The Murray Aquatic & Leisure Centre, in Pinjarra was not considered safe due to the possible need for Pinjarra to be evacuated.

Fire 1 is located in Marrinup in the Shire of Murray at the corner of Hatch Rd and North Spare Rd. (Figure 2). The Alcoa Refinery has been notified to evacuate their site and the Incident Controller has advised the Director Murray District Hospital and CEO of the Beddingfield Aged Care to enact

their Emergency Plans. There are major power transmissions lines within the area of the fire as well as the main conveyer system for the Alcoa Refinery.



Figure 2 – Fire 1 - Marrinup location

Fire 2 is located South East of Dwellingup. The Dwellingup Trails and Visitor Centre advised that accommodation and campsites in the region are at capacity. There is a vintage car club in the area as well as approximately 150 members of the Perth Mountain Biking Club who are also staying locally.



Figure 3 – Fire 2 – SE of Dwellingup

Fire 3 was first reported in the vicinity of the communication's tower near Pinjarra-Williams Road and Ora Road. Redgum Wine Estate were hosting a 100-guest wedding when the call for evacuation was received. Most guests had been transported to the venue by buses, which have returned to base and are no longer onsite.

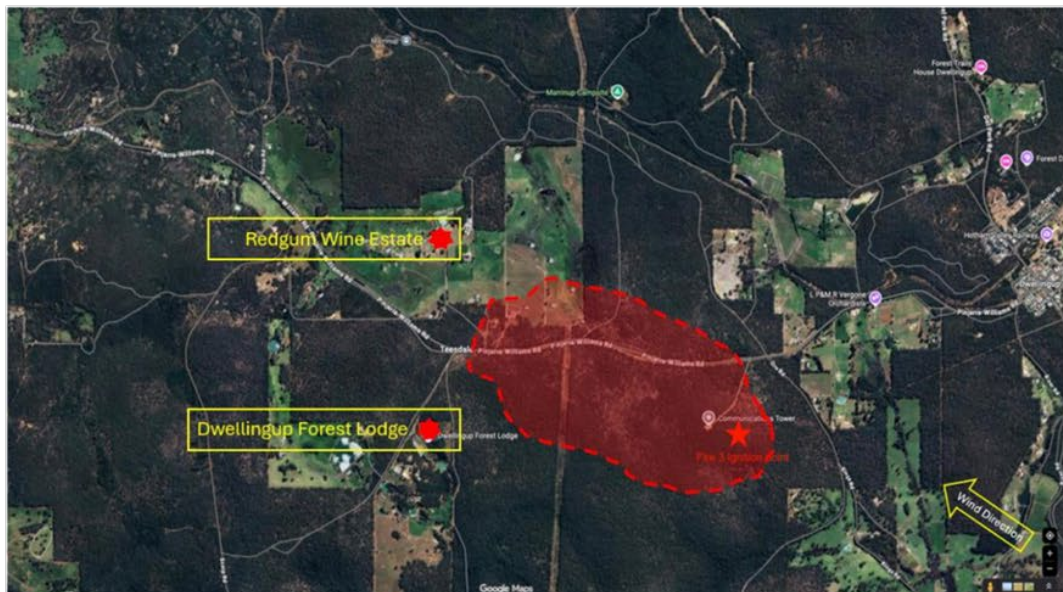


Figure 4 – Fire 3 – Near Pinjarra-Williams Road and Ora Road Communications tower

Possible impacts of bushfire

The possible impacts of bushfire include:

- **People**
Bushfires can cause fatalities, injuries. Early evacuation can minimise these impacts. Shire of Murray has areas where egress is limited to one road and may impact people's ability to evacuate. Smoke from bushfires can also impact people's health
- **Economy**
Bushfires may result in economic loss, as a result of physical damage, this can include damage to homes and other buildings, disruption to services, restrictions on transport routes, and impacts on various industries. Bushfires commonly occur during peak tourism seasons and can negatively impact the tourism industry. The agricultural sector may experience economic impacts due to the loss of livestock, crops and plantations. Indirect losses can also be experienced as a result of disruption to business activities and displacement of local people, both in the short and long term.
- **Public Administration**
The provision of services can be impacted as a result of bushfires. These can be short or long-term depending on the severity of impacts. Local Government is responsible for undertaking recovery activities and this can impact their delivery of core services to the wider community, particularly in the short term.
- **Infrastructure**
Bushfires can damage critical infrastructure such as roads, rail, communications, power, and water. These impacts could cause short-term and localised supply disruptions (one week to one month).
- **Social setting**
Bushfires often result in temporary impacts on communities, including displacement of people and disruption to services such as schools, child care, rubbish collection and other social services. Depending on the severity of impact these disruptions can last from week to years.
- **Environment**
Bushfires can have various environmental impacts, including spreading contaminants such as heavy metals or asbestos, soil erosion, releasing debris and pollutants into waterways, impairment of ecosystem function, and increased pressure on endangered species.

Appendix 4 - Power Supply Disruption Scenario for risk assessment workshop

Power Outage Scenario

The power outage scenario has approximately a 2% chance of occurrence in any given year.

At approximately 1:00pm on Wednesday 11 February 2026, a fast-moving supercell thunderstorm develops. Temperatures throughout the week are forecasted to reach a peak of 42°C with the next 3 consecutive days forecasted to be 40°C.

The storm brings lightning strikes and destructive winds which cause significant damage to several network towers and critical infrastructure resulting in power outages to over 250,000 customers across the South West region including more than 10,000 customers in the Shire of Murray. Pinjarra, Ravenswood, Nambeelup and North Dandalup are all without power.

Communication networks are severely impacted with widespread mobile and NBN outages.

There are reports of widespread building damage, roads damaged/blocked and power lines down. Calls from residents are increasing and social media misinformation is spreading.

Western Power have deployed emergency response crews to assess the situation and have confirmed that there is major transformer damage. Estimated restoration estimates are exceeding 48-72 hours. Repair crews are being hampered by access issues from fallen trees and ongoing extreme heat conditions affecting. Damaged infrastructure is also slowing power restoration efforts. Western Power will prioritise the restoration of essential services.

It has been confirmed that the Bedingfeld Aged Care Facility is without power and their generator has failed.

High temperatures are affecting vulnerable groups and people are looking for areas of respite.

Pharmacy refrigeration has been compromised and there has been an increase ambulance call outs due to heat stress.

Appendix 5 - Bushfire scenario risk statements from risk assessment workshop

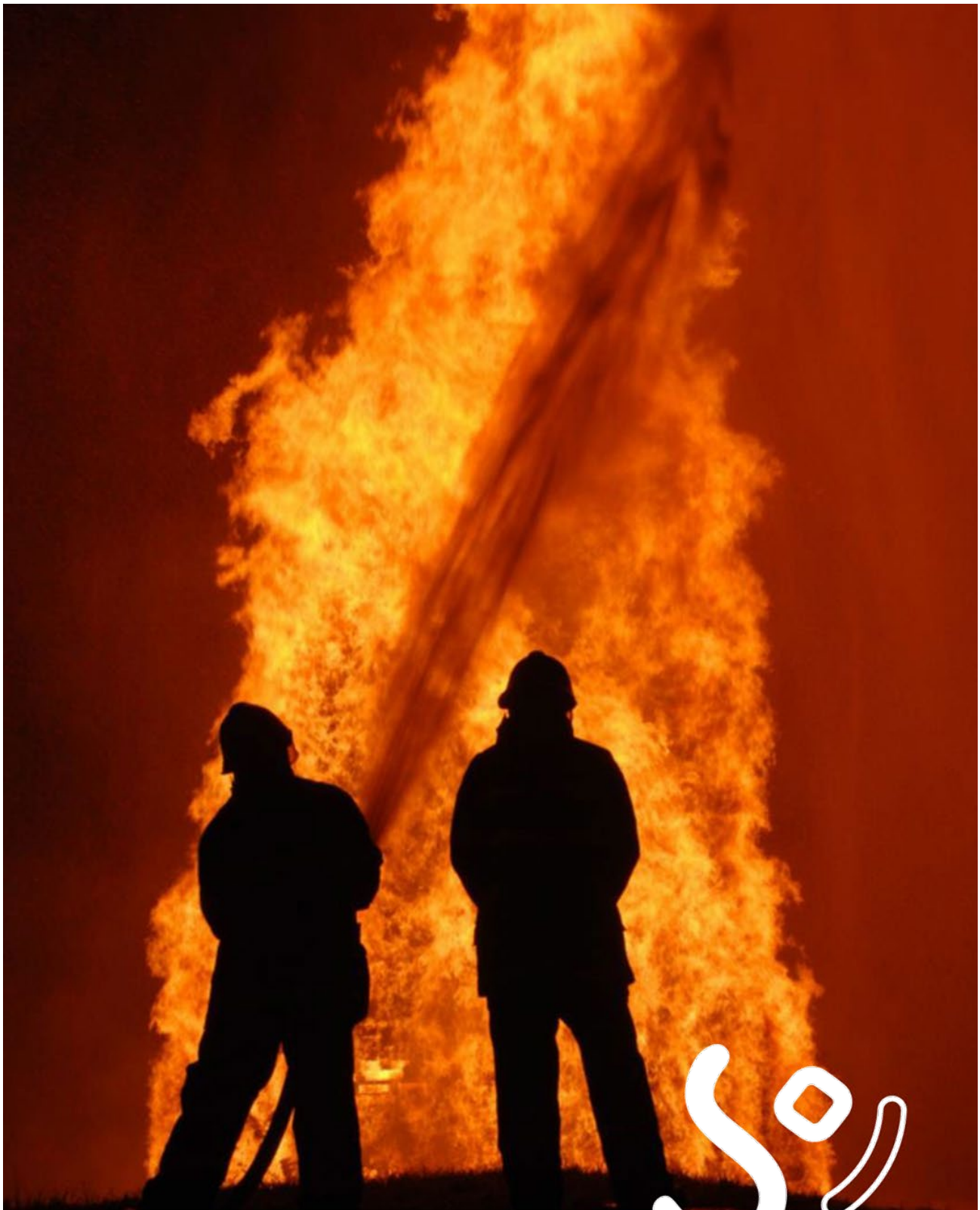
Bushfire	
ECONOMY	
<i>There is a potential that the Bushfires within the Shire of Murray will</i>	
1	will impact private and commercial buildings and contents, resulting in financial losses.
2	will impact main road transport routes, impact bridges, or approaches to bridges and/or disrupt major freight routes, resulting in repair costs and/or financial losses.
3	will impact critical infrastructure, such as communications, power, sewerage, and/or water supply resulting in repair costs and/or financial losses.
4	will result in recovery activities, resulting in costs to local government.
5	will impact tourism (and aspects that support tourism such as camp sites, facilities, places of interest etc.), and/or result in disruption to major events, resulting in financial losses.
6	will impact agricultural industry infrastructure (e.g. fencing, machinery, grain stores etc.) and/or impact on livestock (e.g. through death/injury/lack of pasture) and/or crops/cropping/plantations (and consequently expected harvests), resulting in recovery costs and/or financial losses.
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	
<i>There is a potential that the Bushfires within the Shire of Murray will</i>	
7	will require recovery works to be undertaken by local government(s), impacting on their ability to maintain core services.
8	will cause an increased demand (surge) on State Agencies (such as DFES, WA Health services etc) at the local level, impacting their ability to maintain core services.
9	will impact transport infrastructure preventing or delaying emergency services from providing assistance.
10	will impact emergency service response buildings and facilities, preventing or delaying emergency services from providing assistance.
11	will impact critical infrastructure, such as communications, power, sewerage, natural gas and/or water supply, impacting the ability to maintain core services.
12	will impact government offices, works depots and facilities, impacting the ability to maintain core services and recovery services.
13	will impact on home-based services and service providers (such as NGOs, meals on wheels, silver chain, WACHS, home care provisions), impacting on their ability to maintain core functions.
PEOPLE	
<i>There is a potential that the Bushfires within the Shire of Murray will</i>	
14	will impact the health of people and cause death(s).

15	will impact the health of people and cause injury and/or serious illness.
SOCIAL SETTING	
<i>There is a potential that the Bushfires within the Shire of Murray will</i>	
16	will impact the health of residents in the area and cause death or serious injury/illness, impacting the wellbeing of the community.
17	will cause displacement, death or injury to animals, impacting the wellbeing of the community.
18	will impact residential dwellings and contents, impacting the wellbeing of the community.
19	will impact on the availability of essential supplies, basic products and services, impacting community services and wellbeing.
20	will affect day to day functionality of facilities for vulnerable people (aged, childcare, schools, disability), impacting community services and wellbeing.
21	will result in short term (< 14 days) displacement due to evacuation away from people's homes and work places, impacting the community wellbeing.
22	will result in long term (> 14 days) displacement due to evacuation away from people's homes and work places, impacting the community wellbeing.
23	will impact heritage buildings, resulting in a loss of cultural significance.
24	will result in a loss of income/employment, impacting the community wellbeing.
25	will impact the aesthetics of the area, impacting the community wellbeing.
ENVIRONMENT	
<i>There is a potential that the Bushfires within the Shire of Murray will</i>	
26	will impact native vegetation and/or wildlife.
27	will impact on vulnerable environmental ecosystems and/or identified critically endangered species.
28	will cause contamination to the surrounding environment from the release of toxic substances (e.g. of non-natural materials - asbestos) and/or non-toxic substances (e.g. natural materials - effluent, sediments, debris).
29	will cause debris and pollutants to enter marine or estuarine/riverine environments, impacting marine ecology.

Appendix 6 - Power Supply Disruption scenario risk statements from risk assessment workshop

Power Supply Disruption	
ECONOMY	
<i>There is a potential that a Power Supply Disruption within the Shire of Murray will</i>	
1	will impact water supply resulting in repair costs and/or financial losses.
2	will impact sewerage systems resulting in repair costs and/or financial losses.
3	will impact communications resulting in financial losses.
4	will impact supply chains
5	will result in recovery activities, resulting in costs to local government.
6	will impact tourism (and aspects that support tourism such as camp sites, facilities, places of interest etc.), and/or result in disruption to major events, resulting in financial losses.
7	will impact train lines, resulting in financial losses.
8	will impact industry operations and disrupt business activities, resulting in a lack of production and/or financial losses.
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	
<i>There is a potential that a Power Supply Disruption within the Shire of Murray will</i>	
9	will cause an increased demand (surge) on the power company at the local level, impacting their ability to maintain core services.
10	will cause an increased demand (surge) on State Agencies (such as WA health services, St John Ambulance etc) at the local level, impacting their ability to maintain core services.
11	will impact government offices, works depots and facilities, impacting the ability to maintain core services.
12	will impact critical infrastructure, such as communications, power, sewerage, natural gas and/or water supply, impacting the ability to maintain core services.
13	will impact on home-based services and service providers (such as NGOs, meals on wheels, silver chain, WACHS, home care provisions), impacting on their ability to maintain core functions.
PEOPLE	
<i>There is a potential that a Power Supply Disruption within the Shire of Murray will</i>	
14	will impact the health of people and cause death(s).
15	will impact the health of people and cause injury and/or serious illness.

16	will cause health services (e.g. ICU units, hospitals, remote nursing posts, small country hospitals, clinics) to be overwhelmed, resulting in further deaths directly attributable to the hazard event.
SOCIAL SETTING	
<i>There is a potential that a Power Supply Disruption within the Shire of Murray will</i>	
17	will impact the health of residents in the area and cause death or serious injury/illness, impacting the wellbeing of the community.
18	will impact on the availability of essential supplies, basic products and services, impacting community services
19	will impact on the availability of essential supplies, basic products and services, impacting wellbeing.
20	will affect day to day functionality of facilities for vulnerable people (aged, childcare, schools, disability), impacting community services.
21	will affect day to day functionality of facilities for vulnerable people (aged, childcare, schools, disability), impacting wellbeing.
22	will result in a loss of income/employment, impacting the community wellbeing.
23	will result in the breakdown of existing family and support networks (including social community networks), impacting the community wellbeing.
24	will result in short term (< 14 days) displacement due to evacuation away from people's homes and work places, impacting the community wellbeing.
ENVIRONMENT	
<i>There is a potential that a Power Supply Disruption within the Shire of Murray will</i>	
25	will cause contamination to the surrounding environment from the release of non-toxic substances (e.g. effluent).
26	will cause pollutants to enter marine or estuarine/riverine environments, impacting marine ecology.
27	will impact native vegetation and/or wildlife.



**Shire of
Murray**

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Local Emergency Management Plan 2026



Disclaimer

The Local Emergency Management Arrangements have been produced by the Shire of Murray in good faith and are derived from sources believed to be reliable and accurate at the time of publication. Nevertheless, the reliability and accuracy of information cannot be guaranteed, and the Shire of Murray expressly disclaims any liability for any act or omission done or not done in reliance of the information and for any consequences whether direct or indirect arising from such occasion.

The Local Emergency Management Arrangements comprise of a series of documentations including but not limited to:

- Local Emergency Management Plan 2026
- Local Emergency Management Recovery Plan 2026
- Local Emergency Management Evacuation Plan 2026

These documents so should be read and considered collectively as a suite of documentation rather than individually. The most up to date LEMA documentation is available on the Shire of Murray's website: [Emergency Management](#).

Requests for further authorisation should be directed to the Manager Ranger and Emergency Management, Shire of Murray, PO Box 21, PINJARRA WA 6208 or via email at mailbag@murray.wa.gov.au.

Acknowledgements

The Shire of Murray would like to acknowledge the Local Emergency Management Committee, local businesses and the community for their contribution to the development of this plan and ongoing support to the review of emergency management arrangements within the Shire. The Shire would also like to acknowledge the State Emergency Management Committee and All West Australian's Reducing Emergencies (AWARE) Program for providing grant funding to assist with the review of the Shire's Local Emergency Management Arrangements and associated Emergency Management Plans.

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Authority

This Local Emergency Management Plan forms part of the Shire of Murray's Local Emergency Management Arrangements, which are a requirement under section 41 of the *Emergency Management Act 2005*.

The Local Emergency Management Plan was endorsed by the Local Emergency Management Committee on XXX.

This Local Emergency Management Plan was adopted by Shire of Murray Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on XXX.

A copy of this Plan has been provided to the State Emergency Management Committee for noting pursuant to section 41(5) of the *Emergency Management Act 2005*.

Chairperson Date:

Cr. Stuart Kirkham

Shire of Murray LEMC

Shire President Date

Cr. Douglas McLarty

Chief Executive Officer Date

Mr. Dean Unsworth

Shire of Murray

Review and Amendment Record

Various assessment tools exist to assist in assessing community disaster resilience and preparedness including:

- United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction: Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities
- Collaboration4Inclusion: Disability Inclusive Emergency Management (DIEM) Organisational Emergency Preparedness Profile

The Shire of Murray may also undertake further community disaster resilience assessments, as it did in 2025/2026 through the community and business consultation.

Documents within the Local Emergency Management Arrangements should be reviewed:

- After an event or incident that requires the activation of an Incident Support Group or significant recovery coordination
- After training or drills that exercise the arrangements
- Every five (5) years
- Any other time the Shire considers appropriate; or
- A unanimous decision by the Shire's Local Emergency Management Committee.

Reviews which entail only minor administrative amendments can be noted and adopted by the Shire's Local Emergency Management Committee. Substantial amendments require endorsement by the Shire's Local Emergency Management Committee and adoption by the Shire of Murray Council.

Amendments to the Emergency Management Plan will be recorded in the following document amendment table:

Nº	Amendment Date	Details	Resolution Number	Amended by (Position)
1	XX 2026	New Plan		

Document Distribution and Availability

A copy of the Emergency Management Plan is provided to all members of the Local Emergency Management Committee and made publicly available through the Shire Website www.murray.wa.gov.au/emergencymanagement. Members of the public may request a copy, free of charge, or view the Emergency Management Plan during business hours at:

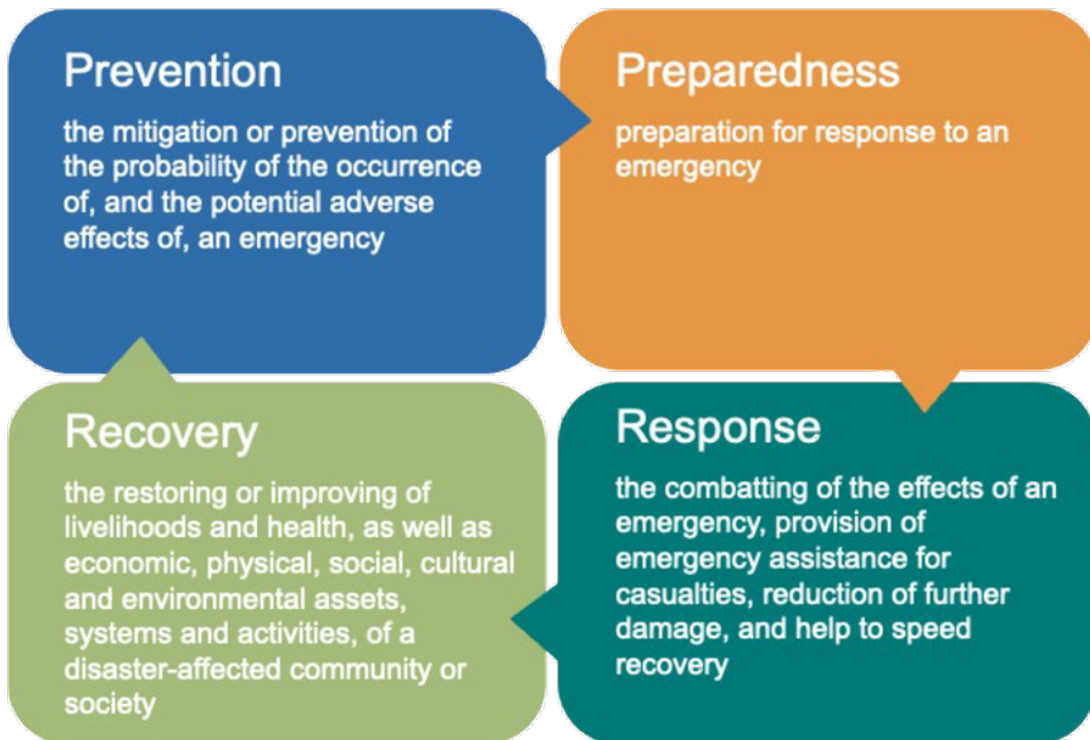
- Shire of Murray Administration Building, 1915 Pinjarra Road, Pinjarra
- Murray Library, Corner Pinjarra Road and Forrest Street, Pinjarra
- Dwellingup Trails and Visitor Information Centre, Marrinup Street, Dwellingup

Refer to **Appendix 1** for a full distribution list of stakeholders who have received a copy of the Local Emergency Management Arrangements.

1. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

1.1. Introduction to Emergency Management

Emergency management is defined as the management of the adverse effects of an emergency through prevention, preparedness, response and recovery (**PPRR**). It is based on planned and coordinated approaches that allow the State to respond effectively regardless of the scale or nature of the emergency. This is referred to as the comprehensive approach to emergency management (EM).



The *Emergency Management Act 2005* (**EM Act**) and the State Emergency Management Policy, Plan and Procedures (**EM Framework**) set out the roles and responsibilities of State agencies, local governments and other organisations.

Hazard Management Agencies (**HMA**) are assigned responsibility for managing specific hazards. Each HMA is responsible for ensuring that effective arrangements are in place across the prevention, preparedness, response and recovery phases, including the development of hazard-specific plans and coordination of planning activities. The *Emergency Management Regulations 2006* prescribe the HMA for each specific hazard. A local government is never a HMA. Examples of current HMAs are the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner for the hazards of fire, cyclones and floods amongst other hazards and the Commissioner for Police for road crash and a terrorist act amongst other hazards.

A Controlling Agency is an agency that has been assigned responsibility in the relevant State Hazard Plan to control the response activities for an incident. The Controlling Agency is dependent on the hazard type and location. As an example, Department of Fire and Emergency Services (**DFES**), Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (**DBCA**) or the local government could all be designated Controlling Agencies for fire depending on their legislative responsibilities.

Role of Local Government

Local governments have responsibilities across PPRR for all hazards to:

- Identify, mitigate and manage local risks
- Prepare for emergencies in the district
- Support emergency response activities
- Manage community recovery following an emergency.

Local governments also have other legislative responsibilities in the context of emergency management:

- responsibilities for the management of fire (*Emergency Management Regulations 2006* and the *Bush Fires Act 1954*)
- responsibilities and powers to prepare for a cyclone (*Emergency Management Act 2005*)
- responsibilities for waste management, animal management, traffic management, environmental health, inclusion and public safety as defined in other legislation and regulations.

Shire of Murray

The Shire of Murray (**Shire**) is committed to maintaining and testing local emergency management arrangements which reflect the local community and their priorities and aims to build community resilience through a strong understanding of local risks, risk reduction and preparedness at all levels, including individuals, households, businesses and local government.

1.2. Local Emergency Management Arrangements

Local governments must prepare and maintain local emergency management arrangements (known as **LEMA**) which set out the local government's policies, strategies and plans to undertake its roles and responsibilities in emergency management and support community safety.

The Shire's LEMA documentation is provided as a guideline and are to be used at the local level. Incidents may arise that require action or assistance from district, state or federal level. The Shire's LEMA documentation is available on the Shire's website.

1.3. Priorities for Emergency Management

The WA Community Disaster Resilience Strategy outlines the following four key emergency management priorities:

1. Open up Emergency Management
2. Work Locally to Increase Preparedness
3. Collaborate to Reduce Risk
4. Embed Person-Centred Approaches into Emergency Management

The Shire supports and encompasses these priorities in its own Council Plans and strategies. Outcome 6 of the Shire's Council's Plan 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2033 is for "a resilient community equipped to respond to natural disasters and other emergencies".

The major risks identified for the Shire are discussed further in **2.2. Likely Emergencies in Our Community**.

2. EMERGENCY RISKS

Our emergency management planning is informed by emergency risks in the Shire. This section provides information about our community and the likely emergencies in the area. It summarises our risks and vulnerabilities as well as our strengths and the actions we take to reduce risk.

2.1. About the Shire of Murray

Located approximately 96 kilometres south of Perth, the Shire covers approximately 1,700Km². The district is home to just over 20,000 people and has significant cultural heritage as part of the traditional lands of the Bindjareb People of the Noongar Nation, with the area recognized as a sacred, spiritual dreaming place.

The Shire of Murray consists of the following localities;



The Shire comprises of the primary town centre of Pinjarra, riverside and canal communities including Ravenswood, North Yunderup and South Yunderup and the smaller towns and rural communities of Coolup, Dwellingup and North Dandalup. Much of the district is rural, forested or conservation land, with extensive waterways, wetlands and the Murray River forming important natural features. These characteristics contribute to the Shire's exposure to hazards including bushfire, flood and severe weather and can affect access and movement during emergencies.

The Shire has a dispersed and growing population, which is expected to increase significantly over coming decades. Older residents, people with disability or long-term health conditions, residents in

isolated areas and visitors unfamiliar with local hazards may require additional consideration during emergencies. The district also attracts significant numbers of visitors to Dwellingup, Lane Poole Reserve and other recreation and tourism destinations, resulting in seasonal and event-based increases in population.

The local economy includes agriculture, tourism, mining, alumina processing and industrial development. Major industrial and economic areas include Alcoa's operations, the Huntly Bauxite Mine, Pinjarra Industrial Area and Peel Business Park. The district is supported by major road and rail networks and essential community infrastructure; however, some communities are geographically separated from major services. Local hospital services are available in Pinjarra, while the nearest hospital emergency departments are located outside the Shire.

The Shire is supported by established community organisations, emergency service volunteers, bush fire brigades and community facilities across its towns and settlements. These local networks provide important community connections and capability that contribute to preparedness, response and recovery.

Further information about the Shire's population and economic trends and forecasts can be found [Here](#).

2.2. Likely Emergencies in Our Community

In preparing this Local Emergency Management Plan (**EM Plan**), community consultation was undertaken to understand community and business perceptions of emergency risks in the Shire. In addition to risks, the levels of preparedness and resilience were explored. There was also opportunity for respondents to identify areas for improvement in local emergency management locally and ways to build local resilience to emergencies. Detailed information on the community consultation outcomes is outlined in the **Emergency Risk Management Report 2026** available on the Shire's website.

Consultation results were used to inform risk identification and evaluation and to highlight priorities for local emergency management planning in the Shire. The major risks identified for the Shire during consultation were:

- Bushfire
- Power supply disruption
- Storm
- Flood
- Heatwave

The **Emergency Risk Management Report 2026** considers the likelihood and consequence of these five hazards. Treatment Plans for each hazard has been developed and are managed through the Local Emergency Management Committee (**LEMC**).

The Shire has also already acknowledged these risks to in the [Environmental Sustainability Strategy February 2024](#). This Strategy identifies key challenges for the Shire including increases in annual temperatures, extreme weather events, decreased rainfall, longer fire seasons and sea level rise and outlines actions to overcoming these challenges.

The increasing frequency, severity and complexity of emergencies, driven by climate change, demographic changes and other factors point towards a need to consider a systemic approach to risk.

The Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience refers to systemic risks as those that *'emerge from the interactions of climate change and natural hazards, with the complex, interdependent and interconnected networks of social, technical, environmental and economic systems'*. This approach moves away from traditional hazard-by-hazard approaches to risk and requires an understanding of how systems may be interrupted, intersected or fail, and how this may change or overwhelm a society's capacity to cope.

As a result, emergency management increasingly needs to work across sectors and with communities to help drive resilience initiatives on the ground. This not only better prepares us for frequently occurring hazards but also compounding and cascading events. This whole-of-society approach where everyone has a role to play in our collective safety is commonly referred to as the principle of shared responsibility.

Climate change has significant social, economic and legal implications for local government. The Shire is already experiencing the effects with higher summer temperatures, more severe heatwaves, major storms, south tracking tropical cyclones and a longer bushfire season.

The Shire has a critical role in responding to climate change through its responsibilities for land use planning, emergency management, ownership of public infrastructure and delivery of community services. For more information, refer to the [Environmental Sustainability Strategy February 2024](#).

Increasing community awareness and understanding of these hazards will help build local resilience and encourage individuals, households, businesses and local service providers to prepare for them.

2.3. Who and What is at Higher Risk

The **Persons at Higher Risk Plan** forms part of the Shire's LEMA. This Plan ensures the safety, equitable support, and inclusion of high-risk residents before, during, and after disasters. It systematically identifies those who may need specialised assistance and coordinates local resources to protect them.

2.4. Risk Management Plans

Risk management is a critical component of the emergency management process. Building a sound understanding of the hazards and risks likely to impact the community will enable the Shire's LMEC to work together to implement treatments. This process helps to build the capacity and resilience of the community and organisations which enable them to better prepare for, respond to and recover from a major emergency. The process and mandate for local governments to undertake risk management is detailed in State Emergency Management Policy section 3.2.

For further information on the progress on the Shire's Risk Management Plans refer to the **Emergency Risk Management Report 2026** available on the Shire website.

3. LOCAL GOVERNMENT PREPAREDNESS

3.1. Local Emergency Management Committee

The Shire's has established the Local Emergency Management Committee (**LEMC**) in accordance with section 38(1) of the EM Act as an advisory committee that assists the Shire of Murray to ensure local emergency management arrangements are established, maintained, reviewed and tested.

The LEMC is not an operational committee, rather it is a collaborative, multi-agency committee established and facilitated by the Shire to ensure that the Local Emergency Management Arrangements are written and placed into effect for its district. The LEMC plays a vital role in preparing for emergencies within the district and offers a valuable, continuous improvement approach to emergency management in the Shire.

Further information on the LEMC membership, roles and responsibilities and when the LEMC meets is available in the LEMC Terms of Reference available on the Shire's website.

3.2. Bush Fire Brigades

The Shire recognises the critical role that Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades (VBFBs) play in bushfire prevention, preparedness, response and recovery (PPRR), and acknowledges the significant contribution of Bush Fire Brigade volunteers in protecting the community and supporting community safety.

In accordance with the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, the Shire has enacted the *Bush Fire Brigades Local Law 2024*, which provides for the establishment, governance, management, funding and resourcing of the Shire's VBFBs. The Shire has also established a Bush Fire Advisory Committee to support the coordination and development of Brigades, facilitate training and provide advice on bushfire management matters.

The Shire employs dedicated staff to manage and support the operation of its VBFBs and has established Standard Operating Procedures to provide a consistent framework for Brigade activities and operations.

Relevant Shire staff, the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (CBFCO), Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officers (DBFCO), Brigade Captains and Brigade Training Officers coordinate Brigade-based training and formal training courses delivered by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES). This training framework is designed to ensure that VBFB members maintain the minimum competency and training standards established by DFES and the Shire, enabling members to safely undertake normal Brigade activities, including the response to and extinguishment of fires and assistance during other emergencies.

The *Bush Fire Brigades Local Law 2024* is available here: [Shire of Murray Bush Fire Brigades Local Law 2024](#)

3.3. Testing and Exercising

Testing and exercising are essential to ensure that the Local Emergency Management Arrangements are workable and effective. The testing and exercising of arrangements are an important role of the LEMC and ensures that individuals and organisations remain appropriately aware of what is required of them during an emergency response situation.

The exercising of a HMA's response to an incident is the responsibility of the HMA; however, it may be incorporated into a Shire LEMC exercise.

Exercising the LEMA will allow the Shire's LEMC and Shire staff to:

- Test the effectiveness of the Local Emergency Management Arrangements;
- Bring together members of Murray Local Emergency Management Committee/Shire of Murray staff and give them knowledge of, and confidence in, their roles and responsibilities.
- Help educate the community about local arrangements and programs;
- Allow participating agencies an opportunity to test their operational procedures and skills in simulated emergency conditions, and
- Test the ability of separate agencies to work together on common tasks, and to assess the effectiveness of coordination between them.

As per the requirements as established by the State Emergency Management Framework, exercising should occur at least once annually. This allows the Shire's LEMC and Shire staff to test local emergency management arrangements, including procedures and knowledge.

3.4. Agreements and Partnerships

Emergency management works best through collaboration and shared efforts to build community resilience and reduce risks. As such, the Shire is a partner in the Memorandum of Cooperation - Provision of Emergency Support 2025 – 2030 with local governments in the South Metropolitan area.

Parties to the agreement include the following local governments:

City of Armadale	City of Melville
City of Cockburn	Shire of Murray
City of Fremantle	City of Rockingham
City of Kwinana	Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale
City of Mandurah	Shire of Waroona

The Memorandum of Cooperation formalises cooperative arrangements between local governments for the sharing of emergency management information and knowledge, as well as the provision of support for disaster recovery activities.

The Shire also has operational arrangements with DFES to support fire response.

4. PREPARING OUR COMMUNITY

The below outlines the Shire's strategies to build community preparedness, engage the community in emergency management planning and to support people who may be at higher risk in an emergency. The arrangements to support animal welfare are also described.

4.1. Planning for an Emergency

Having a plan for yourself, family, animals and/or colleagues or customers of what to do in an emergency is important to keep everyone safe and allows emergency services to do what they need to do to reduce safety hazards and protect lives.



Figure 1: Person-centred emergency preparedness capability wheel showing the eight areas to think about your personal strengths and support needs (from Collaborating 4 Inclusion)

Note: Information in this section can be used as advice for planners, developers and facility managers, particularly for the application of State Planning Policy 3.7 (SPP 3.7) – Bushfire and the associated Planning for Bushfire Guidelines (the Guidelines).

Emergency planning for hazards likely to have a rapid impact on people, such as heatwaves, bushfires and storms, must extend beyond a home's boundaries or a facility's emergency assembly point.

4.2. Persons at Higher Risk

Vulnerable land uses are facilities where people need specific care or may be unable to respond independently, such as schools, aged care facilities, retirement villages, hospitals, residential care, childcare centres and family day care.

These facilities should plan to shelter-in-place where possible to reduce exposure of people at higher risk to danger. Sheltering in place is a good alternative to leaving whereby you may be exposed to danger or harm from the hazard, such as heat, harmful chemicals, fire or unsanitary water.

Planning for evacuation should include decision triggers to evacuate early, such as when advice is issued via Emergency WA website or app. Evacuation beyond the emergency assembly point should be to a like-for-like facility, a safe distance away from the hazards of the emergency, particularly for vulnerable land uses. This ensures that appropriate equipment, supervision, and safety from the emergency/hazards can be maintained.

For example, a childcare centre should prearrange to evacuate to another childcare facility a practicable distance away to maintain appropriate facilities, staff qualifications, and security.

Facilities owned by the Shire, private entities or otherwise should not be nominated as a place of evacuation without prior written approval from the Shire. This ensures there is a plan for arrival and accessing the facility with agreement by both parties. Nominated evacuation centres by the Shire and/or the Department of Communities are usually not suitable for large groups/organisations of people (such as schools, aged care or retirement villages) seeking to evacuate. For further information refer to **5.4 Evacuation Centres and Emergency Relief and Support and the At Higher Risk Persons Plan**

4.3. Animal Welfare Emergency Planning

Planning should also include consideration for pets and livestock, this includes Shire of Murray kennel and cattery businesses, horse owners and primary producers. Responding to the welfare of animals in an emergency may involve evacuating animals outside of the potential impact area, or relocation to a safer area on the property. Prior planning and preparation can improve the outcomes of both evacuation and relocation to safer areas.

Pets and livestock (collectively referred to as animals) are ultimately the responsibility of the owners. Please refer to the **Shire's Emergency Animal Welfare Plan** available on the Shire's website for assisting with animals evacuated or impacted due to an emergency.

5. INCIDENT MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

5.1. Overview of Incident Management Arrangements

In Western Australia, incident management during emergencies is undertaken using a structured and coordinated system, which enables agencies to work together effectively during an emergency.

An Incident Controller, supported by an Incident Management Team, is responsible for coordinating response activities. Other agencies contribute to combat or support roles, based on their capabilities and expertise.

The Shire plays a key role in supporting the Incident Controller and Incident Management Team during an emergency.

5.2. Fire Response Arrangements

During an emergency where there are active operations to address a hazard, areas on public and/or private property may be demarcated from the general public. These areas may require training, qualifications, and personal protective equipment/clothing (PPE/C) in order to enter.

In most circumstances, it would only be appropriate for emergency services to enter what can be referred to as the 'hot zone' where active emergency response is occurring. There may also be a warm zone, where there is area demarcated from the general public and incident management teams are coordinating and Shire staff with the relevant training and PPE/C may attend to provide support.



Figure 2: Areas of operations demonstrating appropriate access, and training and PPE/C for emergency operational areas.

5.3. Informing the Community

Communication is one of the most critical components of emergency management. Communities threatened or impacted by emergencies have an urgent and important need for information and guidance; to be aware of the emergency and to take appropriate actions to safeguard life and property. Effective, timely and accurate communication is essential to maintaining public trust, supporting coordinated response efforts, and ensuring the safety and wellbeing of residents, staff and stakeholders.

During an emergency, the Controlling Agency is responsible for emergency public information, with Emergency WA as the source for all emergency alerts and updates. The Shire will support emergency response communications and lead emergency recovery communications to ensure the community is fully informed.

5.4. Evacuation Centres and Emergency Relief and Support

The Department of Communities is responsible for managing evacuation centres and providing emergency relief and support services when directed by the Incident Controller. This includes the provision of emergency accommodation, food, clothing and personal requisites, personal support services, registration and reunification and final assistance as required. Local arrangements for the provision of emergency relief and support services are detailed in the Local Emergency Relief and Support Plans- Bindjareb Region available through the Department of Communities.

The Shire, with the assistance of the LEMC, will support evacuation and relief activities by:

- Identifying and making available suitable facilities for use as evacuation centres or places of refuge.
- Providing local knowledge to assist in identifying community needs and people who may need additional support to evacuate.

Referencing relevant evacuation planning from adjoining local areas may assist where the impact of a hazard may not be confined to the local government boundaries and may offer the most suitable evacuation options for some emergencies.

Evacuation planning includes all five stages of an evacuation decision, warning, withdrawal, shelter and return. Not all phases are applicable to all emergencies.

Stages	Description
1. Decision	is getting people out the best option?
2. Warning	telling people of the need to go
3. Withdrawal	self-evacuation, recommend evacuation or direct to evacuate using emergency powers
4. Shelter	where can people go to receive support?
5. Return	allocation of people back and supporting their return

For more information, refer to Local Emergency Welfare Plan – Peel Region, available through the Department of Communities.

For more information on local evacuation planning, including who in the Shire is trained, and how to establish and manage an evacuation centre, refer to the Emergency Operational Support Manual and Emergency Evacuation Plan.

Animals, excluding support animals, are not permitted in evacuation centres for safety and health reasons. For arrangements regarding animals during evacuation, please refer to the [State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies](#) and the Shire’s Emergency Animal Welfare Plan.

5.5. Local Recovery Planning

In accordance with the EM Act, recovery management is the coordinated process of supporting “emergency affected communities in the reconstruction and restoration of physical infrastructure, the environment and community, psychosocial and economic wellbeing” (section 3).

Under section 36(b) of the EM Act, it is a function of local government to manage recovery following an emergency affecting the community in its district.

An effective and successful recovery management should follow the National Principles for Disaster Recovery:

- Understanding the context
- Recognising complexity
- Using community-led approaches
- Ensuring coordination of all activities
- Employing effective communication, and
- Acknowledgment and building capacity.

The Shire’s Local Recovery Plan provides detailed arrangements and information for recovery activities and outlines how to do operational recovery. For more information, refer to the **Local Recovery Plan** available on the Shire’s website.

5.6. Lessons Management

Lessons management following an emergency should be guided by the State Emergency Management Committee’s advice and guides. In the absence of official guidance, refer to the Australia Disaster Resilience Handbook on Lessons Management. The Shire’s internal Emergency Operational Support Manual provides Debrief templates to capture lessons learnt after an emergency

Appendix 1 – Distribution List

Representative	Hard Copy / Electronic Copy
Chief Executive Officer/LRCG Chairperson	Hard
SoM Shire President	Electronic
LEMC Chairperson / Shire of Murray Councillor	Electronic
Director Place, Community and Economic Development/ LRC	Electronic
Director Infrastructure Services / Deputy LRC	Electronic
Director Planning and Sustainability	Electronic
Manager Building Services	Electronic
Manager Environmental Health	Electronic
Director Corporate Services	Electronic
Manager Information Services	Electronic
Manager Governance	Electronic
Manager Ranger and Emergency Management	Electronic
Emergency Management and Resilience Coordinator	Electronic
Emergency Management and Mitigation Coordinator	Electronic
Ranger and Emergency Services Support Officer	Electronic
Manager Community and Library Services	Electronic
Murray Aquatic & Leisure Centre	Electronic
Executive Manager Strategy & Engagement	Electronic
CEO Executive Support Officer / Admin. Support Officer	Electronic
Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (CBFCO)	Hard
Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (DCBFCO)	Hard
Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades (VBFB)	Hard
Murray State Emergency Services Unit	Hard
Dwellingup Visitors Centre	Hard
Administration Office	Hard
Murray Library	Hard
Shire of Murray website	Electronic
DFES - District Officer – Emergency Management - South West	Electronic
Murray State Emergency Services Unit	Electronic
Pinjarra Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service	Electronic
St John Ambulance - Station Manager – Pinjarra Sub Centre	Electronic
Murray Waroona Schools – Network Principal	Electronic
Quambie Park Waroona Inc. - Representative	Electronic
Belswan Lifestyle Village	Electronic
Community Representative - Shire of Murray	Electronic
DoH - Manager Emergency Preparedness Disaster Response	Electronic

Representative	Hard Copy / Electronic Copy
DBCA Parks and Wildlife - Senior Ranger	Electronic
DPIRD – Manager, Emergency Preparedness	Electronic
Harvey Water - Project Engineer	Electronic
Main Roads WA	Electronic
Water Corporation – Operations Manager	Electronic
Western Power – Field Operations Team Leader	Electronic
Department of Communities Emergency Relief and Support	Electronic
DFES – Superintendent – South West	Electronic
WAPOL – Superintendent – Metropolitan South	Electronic
Western Power – Resource Manager South Metropolitan	Electronic
CEO – Shire of Boddington	Electronic
CEO – City of Mandurah	Electronic
CEO – City of Rockingham	Electronic
CEO – Shire of Serpentine/Jarrahdale	Electronic
CEO – Shire of Wandering	Electronic
CEO – Shire of Harvey	Electronic
DBCA – Dwellingup Office	Electronic
DBCA – Mandurah Office	Electronic
Department of Education – South Metro Regional Education Office	Electronic
Alcoa World Alumina – Refinery and Mine Site Managers	Electronic
Rotary Club – Pinjarra Branch	Electronic
Salvation Army – Mandurah	Electronic
Murray District Hospital	Electronic
DEMC – South Metro	Electronic
State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC)	Electronic



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Local Emergency Management Evacuation Plan 2026



Disclaimer

The Local Emergency Management Arrangements have been produced by the Shire of Murray in good faith and are derived from sources believed to be reliable and accurate at the time of publication. Nevertheless, the reliability and accuracy of information cannot be guaranteed, and the Shire of Murray expressly disclaims any liability for any act or omission done or not done in reliance of the information and for any consequences whether direct or indirect arising from such occasion.

The Local Emergency Management Arrangements comprise of a series of documentations including but not limited to:

- Local Emergency Management Plan 2026
- Local Emergency Management Recovery Plan 2026
- Local Emergency Management Evacuation Plan 2026

These documents so should be read and considered collectively as a suite of documentation rather than individually. The most up to date LEMA documentation is available on the Shire of Murray's website: [Emergency Management](#).

Requests for further authorisation should be directed to the Manager Ranger and Emergency Management, Shire of Murray, PO Box 21, PINJARRA WA 6208 or via email at mailbag@murray.wa.gov.au.

Acknowledgements

The Shire of Murray would like to acknowledge the Local Emergency Management Committee, businesses and the community for their contribution to the development of this plan and ongoing support to the review of emergency management arrangements within the Shire. The Shire would also like to acknowledge the State Emergency Management Committee All West Australian's Reducing Emergencies (AWARE) Program for providing grant funding to assist with the review of the Shire's Local Emergency Management Arrangements and associated Emergency Management Plans.

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Authority

This Local Emergency Management Evacuation Plan forms part of the Shire of Murray's Local Emergency Management Arrangements, which are a requirement under section 41 of the *Emergency Management Act 2005*.

The Local Emergency Management Evacuation Plan has been produced in accordance with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) Local Plan for Animal Welfare in Emergencies Guide and Template (July 2020).

The Local Emergency Management Evacuation Plan was endorsed by the Local Emergency Management Committee on XXX.

Local Emergency Management Evacuation Plan was adopted by Shire of Murray Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on XXX.

A copy of this Plan has been provided to the State Emergency Management Committee for noting pursuant to section 41(5) of the *Emergency Management Act 2005*.

Chairperson Date:

Cr. Stuart Kirkham

Shire of Murray LEMC

Shire President Date

Cr. Douglas McLarty

Chief Executive Officer Date

Mr. Dean Unsworth

Shire of Murray

Review and Amendment Record

Documents within the Local Emergency Management Arrangements should be reviewed:

- After an event or incident that requires the activation of an Incident Support Group or significant recovery coordination
- After training or drills that exercise the arrangements
- Every five (5) years
- Any other time the Shire considers appropriate; or
- A unanimous decision by the Shire's Local Emergency Management Committee.

Reviews which entail only minor administrative amendments can be noted and adopted by the Shire's Local Emergency Management Committee. Substantial amendments require endorsement by the Shire's Local Emergency Management Committee and adoption by the Shire of Murray Council.

Amendments to the Local Emergency Management Evacuation Plan will be recorded in the following document amendment table:

Nº	Amendment Date	Details	Resolution Number	Amended by (Position)
1	XX 2026	New Plan		Link EM

Document Distribution and Availability

A copy of the Local Emergency Recovery Plan is provided to all members of the Shire's Local Emergency Management Committee and made available through the Shire Website www.murray.wa.gov.au/emergencymanagement. Members of the public may request a copy, free of charge, or view the Local Recovery Plan during business hours at:

- Shire of Murray Administration Building, 1915 Pinjarra Road, Pinjarra
- Murray Library, Corner Pinjarra Road and Forrest Street, Pinjarra
- Dwellingup Trails and Visitor Information Centre, Marrinup Street, Dwellingup

Refer to Appendix 1 of the Local Emergency Management Plan for a full distribution list of stakeholders who have received a copy of the Local Emergency Management Arrangements.

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Local Emergency Management Evacuation Plan is to provide important information to the community and to assist any Controlling Agency and/or Local Emergency Coordinator (**LEC**) to rapidly develop an effective evacuation plan for any emerging hazard or current emergency event.

Effectiveness of the plan relies on:

- Effective liaison with the incident Hazard Management Agency and/or Controlling Agency.
- Up-to-date information being maintained within the Department of Communities Local Emergency Emergency Relief and Support Plan – Bindjareb Region.
- Effective links with the media and community warning systems.
- Community emergency preparedness.
- Knowledge and skills developed in conjunction with these arrangements for those responsible for implementing evacuations.
- Up-to-date LEMA resource and contacts list relevant to the evacuation requirements.

2. Scope

This Emergency Evacuation Plan is limited to the boundaries of the Shire of Murray (Shire) and forms a part of the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA).

The Shire consists of the following localities;



This Emergency Evacuation Plan:

- is applicable to hazards likely to require community evacuation such as; but not limited to, bushfire, flood, storms, hazardous materials incidents
- will identify resources and services that are needed and outline how they are to be obtained in an emergency, including mobility and communication for at-risk persons
- will identify arrangements, agency responsibilities and systems, where practicable, for each of the five stages of evacuation (refer below).

Decisions relating to evacuation during an emergency rest with the Controlling Agency and/or Hazard Management Agency (HMA). It is not the intent of this document to detail the procedures for those agencies, as the procedures for an evacuation should be detailed their own individual plans. Responsibility for decisions relating to the 'return of evacuated residents' also rests with the Controlling Agency or HMA.

This information is to serve as a guide to be used at the local level. Incidents may arise that require action or assistance from district, state or federal level.

3. What is Evacuation?

Evacuation is a risk management strategy that may be used to mitigate the effects of an emergency on a community. It involves the movement of people to a safer location and their return (when it is safe to do so). For an evacuation to be effective it must be appropriately planned and implemented. The decision to evacuate will be made by the HMA, Controlling Agency or an authorised officer.

4. Types of Evacuation

For planning purposes, any evacuation can be categorised as one of the following types:

Immediate evacuation: this results from a hazard impact that forces immediate action, thereby allowing little or no warning and limited preparation time. Hazardous material emergencies, air crash, bushfire or earthquakes are examples that may require immediate action.

Pre-warned evacuation: this follows the receipt of sufficient and reliable information that prompts a decision to evacuate ahead of a hazard impact. Examples include cyclone and storm surges.

Self-evacuation: this is a spontaneous type of evacuation involving the self-initiated movement of people such as individuals, family or community groups.

5. Evacuation Planning Principles

Depending on the risk, the need for long or short-term evacuation and immediate or planned evacuation may be necessary. The general policy of the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) is that:

- To be effective it is essential the community be involved in the evacuation planning process. It is critical that communities are fully informed of the risks that they may face and the options, including evacuation and shelter in place, which may apply during an emergency.
- Planning should also recognise that other plans, such as the Department of Communities' State Support Plan - Emergency Relief and Support Plan.

- The evacuation plan should include arrangements for training exercises and testing of evacuation procedures.
- HMAs should develop and implement community education programs and warning systems for those hazards for which they are responsible. This will provide community members with the capability to make an informed decisions when threatened by an emergency.
- Warning systems should be developed in partnership with local governments and other emergency management agencies.

See State Emergency Management (EM) Policy 5.7 – Community Evacuation for more detailed evacuation planning principles.

5.1. Planning by ‘At-Risk’ facilities

There are a variety of facilities within the Shire, whose residents, users and/or visitors can be considered at higher risk to the impact of emergencies. Examples include, but are not limited to, schools, hospitals, aged care and childcare facilities and tourist accommodations or visitor attractions.

It is vital that these facilities each have their own separate emergency evacuation plans. These entities cannot rely on the availability of emergency service personnel to undertake their evacuation, instead their evacuation plans should go ‘beyond the carpark’. This may include reciprocal arrangements with other like facilities for accommodation and transportation arrangements.

For more information refer to the internal Shire’s **Persons At Higher Risk Plan**.

5.2. Factors which can influence evacuation behaviour

The [National Evacuation Handbook](#) highlights that evacuation can be stressful for people. A range of personal, social, and environmental factors may influence how individuals behave and make decisions during an emergency evacuation. In addition to the immediate risk to life, these factors may include, but are not limited to:

- Concern for family, friends, and animals — Individuals may delay evacuation to ensure the safety and welfare of loved ones, pets, or livestock.
- Protection of property and livelihoods — Some people may remain behind or return to at-risk areas to safeguard homes, possessions, or business assets.
- Dependence on others for evacuation — People with disabilities, limited mobility, or those reliant on carers or transport support may be unable to evacuate without assistance.
- Reliance on essential equipment or medical supports — Individuals who require medical devices, medications, or life-sustaining equipment may face additional barriers to timely evacuation.
- Exposure to misinformation — Incorrect or misleading information shared through social media or informal networks can influence decision-making and delay evacuation.
- Influence of peers and community networks — Decisions may be shaped by the actions, opinions, or expectations of family members, neighbours, or influential community figures.
- Social isolation or limited community connections; Individuals who are socially isolated or disconnected from mainstream services may not receive timely warnings or support.
- Cultural or linguistic barriers — Language differences, cultural practices, or unfamiliarity with emergency systems may hinder understanding of warnings or instructions.

- Lack of trust in authorities — Distrust of government agencies or emergency services may reduce compliance with evacuation directives.

6. Evacuation Management

The Controlling Agency (where authorised by the HMA) has overall responsibility for the management of evacuation during an incident and when an emergency response is implemented.

The Controlling Agency is responsible for the management of a recommended evacuation and/or where authorised by the HMA, responsible for the management of a directed evacuation and this continues during an emergency response (State EM Policy 5.7).

Should there be a need for additional powers to direct the movement of persons, animals and vehicles around or out of an emergency area, the Controlling Agency can request the declaration of a emergency situation by the HMA. A emergency situation declaration must be declared in accordance with the *Emergency Management Act 2005 (EM Act)*. This will allow for the authorisation by the HMA of relevant persons to exercise the powers of Hazard Management Officers.

During an emergency situation or state of emergency, the Controlling Agency must comply with the directions of the relevant HMA or the State Emergency Coordinator, respectively.

WA Police can be requested to effect and control evacuations of persons to a location predetermined by the Controlling Agency. The Controlling Agency is to liaise with the appropriate Local Emergency Coordinator, emergency relief and support agencies/authorities, including Department of Communities and the Shire, to ensure the appropriate arrangements for registration and support are in place for evacuees.

The return of evacuated residents will be conducted in consultation with the affected community and relevant health and support agencies including Department of Communities and the Department of Health. Further details can be found in this Plan under Section 2.1.5 - Stage 5 – Return.

It is the responsibility of local government (in partnership with the Controlling Agency) to ensure adequate arrangements are in place to support evacuation. This includes the provision of evacuation centres and applicable support functions.

All evacuations shall be managed as per State EM Plan 5.3.2 – Community Evacuation and the “Western Australia Community Evacuation in Emergencies Guideline”. Refer to **Part 5 Evacuation – Roles and Responsibilities** for further information on the roles and responsibilities of evacuation for each stakeholder, including the Shire, relevant to evacuation.

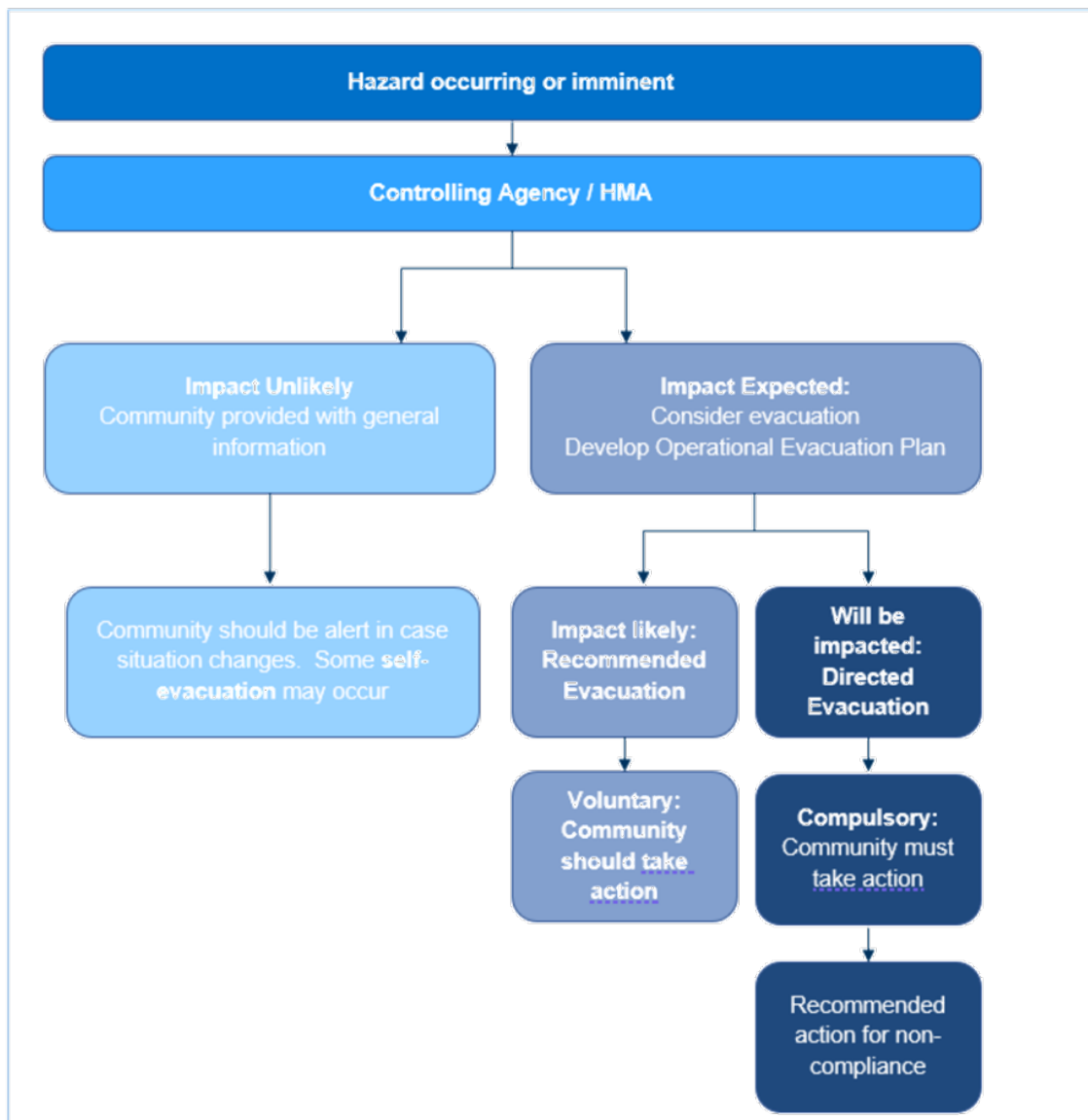


Figure 1: Decision Making Process for Evacuation

6.1. The Five Stages of Evacuation

The evacuation process encompasses five stages: Decision, Warning, Withdrawal, Shelter and Return.



6.2. Stage 1 - Decision

Evacuation is a complex process and often occurs during a stressful time for people in the community. Risk of harm to their life may be in conflict with their wish to protect their property and/or care for dependents and animals.

Deciding if getting people out of the area (i.e. evacuating) is the best option can be done by the HMA, Controlling Agency, Hazard Management Officer, Authorised Officer or Police Officer, as applicable.

Determining if the evacuation is to be recommended (voluntary) or directed (compulsory) will also be decided by the same entities. A directed evacuation can only be made if an emergency situation declaration has been made by the HMA or State Emergency Coordinator or a state of emergency declared by the Minister for Emergency Services pursuant to the EM Act. If a emergency situation declaration or state of emergency has been declared, a Hazard Management Officer, Authorised Officer or Police Officer can direct an evacuation.

Alternatives such as shelter in place or “prepare, act, survive” should be considered. Any decision to evacuate or recommend evacuation should be made as early as is practical as late evacuation may expose communities to greater levels of risk.

Legislative Powers

Legislative provisions for evacuation powers are as follows:

- section 14B(2)(b) of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* - powers of authorised persons and police officers during authorised periods; and
- sections 67 and 71 of the *Emergency Management Act 2005* - powers concerning movement and evacuation.

It is important to note that the legislation clearly stipulates who has powers of evacuation depending on the Act relevant to the hazard, incident or emergency.

Risk Management

The decision to recommend or direct an evacuation will reflect a consideration of relative risks. There are many factors which that may influence the decision whether or not to evacuate which need to be considered; these include but are not limited to:

- the nature and probability of the threat presented by the hazard;
- any other risk management strategies that may be in place (such as community and / or asset preparedness);
- the potential consequences of evacuation when compared with shelter in place (e.g. building characteristics, community and individual vulnerability);

- the wellbeing and safety of At-risk individuals or groups within the community that may require special consideration (e.g. unaccompanied children, schools, aged care facilities, hospitals, and tourists or visitors to the district);
- engagement with relevant stakeholders (e.g. those who may be required to assist with an evacuation or with responsibilities for groups of the community such as aged care facilities, schools, hospitals etc);
- the potential consequences of making a decision to evacuate too early or too late (e.g. to determine appropriate trigger points for action);
- the direct and indirect risk to evacuees, and emergency workers and support staff in undertaking an evacuation;
- the likely loss of any infrastructure that will affect the community's capacity to remain in place (such as industry, schools, water, electricity and other 'lifeline' services, roads, bridges);
- the risks involved in sheltering;
- whether a full or partial evacuation is required and whether the evacuation should be phased or prioritised;
- any other relevant information that may be available, such as weather and historical data;
- any time constraints to undertake the evacuation safely;
- the anticipated time and location of the impact of the hazard; and
- whether there is sufficient time to evacuate.

Resource Requirements

Resource availability and capacity may influence the decision to evacuate. Resources to consider include:

- personnel and equipment
- traffic management plans, including safest routes to get evacuees out, emergency workers and essential services in and out.
- transport options, within and external to the community.
- The Shire maintains an internal document with relevant contact details for support services.

Operational Evacuation Plan

An Operational Evacuation Plan template is included in the Shire's internal Operational Support Manual.

Evacuation Support Services

Detailed information is available in the the Department of Communities Local Emergency Emergency Relief and Support Plan – Bindjareb Region and the internal Operational Support Manual.

Animals

Individual animal owners and/or carers are responsible for the welfare and preparedness of their animals prior and during any emergency event. This includes the response to and recovery from an emergency or disaster event.

In an evacuation, owners and carers should first seek to evacuate animals in their care to the property of friends, family or private shelters outside the emergency area.

Decisions made by the Controlling Agency will need to include recommended or directed action for people with animals (including domestic and livestock animals) as this will affect the likelihood of

compliance for many. Due to health and safety issues, animals are not permitted inside evacuation centres excepting those that are assistance animals.

The Shire has identified alternative available accommodation options for animals. Refer to the Shire's **Emergency Animal Welfare Plan**.

DPIRD will assist with the coordination, in collaboration with local governments, to advise the public of locations to house evacuated animals if available.

The [State Support Plan - Animal Welfare in Emergencies](#) outlines arrangements, including organisational and individual responsibilities, for animal welfare during emergencies.

6.3. Stage 2 – Warning

The purpose of a warning is to provide public information in the form of advice or recommendations from the responsible agency. Warnings are intended to achieve two primary outcomes:

- (a) to inform the community of an impending or current threat; and
- (b) to promote appropriate protective actions of which evacuation could be an outcome.

A warning must be structured to provide timely and accurate information: the effectiveness of the evacuation will depend largely on the quality of the warning.

It is the responsibility of the Controlling Agency or HMA to provide community warnings and timely advice on the likely threat of an emergency and any recommended or required actions that the community should take. This should be taken in accordance with the [State Support Plan – Emergency Public Information](#).

Communication

To ensure a wide audience is reached, it is recommended that multiple methods of communication are used. This may include mass audience methods such as social media and/or specific (targeted) methods, including meeting the needs of at risk persons. This is particularly important where there is disruption to services such as electricity, mobile phone coverage and internet networks. For more information refer to the Shire's internal Crisis Communications Framework.

Public Information Strategy

The establishment of the public information strategy is the responsibility of the Controlling Agency and/or HMA, including determining the most appropriate methods of communication. The strategy may be included in the Operational Evacuation Plan. For more information refer to the internal Operational Support Manual.

The Controlling Agency and/or HMA may consider the following content where an evacuation is recommended or directed for part or all of a community:

- what is known/not known about the incident;
- the action being taken to combat the hazard;
- what the community is being asked to do;
- the expected duration of the evacuation, as far as can be predicted;
- what evacuees should take with them (such as identification or medication);
- what they should not bring;
- advice to secure premises and personal effects as they leave, but ideally leaving gates to properties unlocked for ease of access to emergency workers;
- advice to restrict use of telephones during emergencies to avoid system overload;

- the recommended evacuation route(s);
- advice about how to obtain updates (such as local ABC radio – 102.5FM or www.emergency.wa.gov.au);
- details of the nominated evacuation centre(s), including if any of them will accept people with pets and/or livestock;
- information about any registration systems that have been activated such as the Red Cross “Register.Find.Reunite”;
- a reminder that those that choose to remain behind cannot expect to be rescued if the situation worsens, or be provided with assistance to protect property and livestock, and
- available assistance, such as transport or health services

Shelter in Place Warnings

If Shelter in Place is recommended or directed for part or all of the community, the Controlling Agency and/or HMA may consider further message content that could include:

- advice to maximise personal safety
- guidance to support self-sufficiency for the duration of the hazard, particularly if the duration can be estimated
- any specific protective actions in relation to the hazard (such as closing windows or isolating air conditioning systems)
- any re-supply information in relation to food, water, power or other essential services (which may include for livestock if evacuation is being advised for people and there is no time or no facility to accommodate this)
- how to assess possible shelter for suitability, which may be based on location or type, and be a building or open space; and
- a consideration of mental and physical fitness (most relevant for recommended evacuation).

Community Warnings

A warning provides point-in-time information about a hazard that is impacting or is expected to impact communities. It describes the impact and expected consequences for communities and includes advice on what people should do.

In the Australian Warning System there are three warning levels:

Advice (Yellow):

An incident has started. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes.

Watch and Act (Orange):

There is a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family.

Emergency Warning (Red):

An Emergency Warning is the highest level of warning. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay now puts your life at risk.

Refer to DFES for further information regarding the Public Warning systems: [Australian Warning System](#).

6.4. Stage 3 - Withdrawal

Withdrawal is the third of the five stages of the evacuation process and involves the orderly movement of people from a dangerous or potentially dangerous area to one that is safer.

Self-Evacuation

Self-evacuation may occur in response to general awareness of or information about an emergency either prior to, or in the absence of, a recommendation or direction to leave. It may occur as a consequence of the issuing of an 'Advice' level of community warning or in response to a perceived risk through personal observation or other sources of information.

The goal is to ensure that community members have sufficient, timely and relevant information to assist them recognise the threat, so they feel able to make an informed decision.

Recommended Evacuation

A recommended evacuation is likely when there is a possible threat to the lives of community members or property, but this threat is not believed to be imminent or significant and it is believed that members of the community have the capacity and capability to make an informed decision.

A recommended evacuation is most likely to be incorporated into a 'Watch and Act' warning, where advising a community to leave for a safer place is seen as the most appropriate action to the circumstances. A recommended evacuation is associated with the use of words such as "you should..." in the message content.

Direction to Evacuate

Should a situation worsen, the issuing of a recommendation to evacuate does not preclude a later direction to evacuate (a compulsory evacuation).

A directed evacuation may be incorporated into either a 'Watch and Act' or 'Emergency Warning' level of community warning where evacuation is seen as the most appropriate action in the circumstances. A directed evacuation is associated with words such as "you must" in the message content.

It is important to note that sometimes when an 'Emergency Warning' level of community warning is issued, it may be too late to evacuate safely and that other urgent action may be required.

The Controlling Agency will, as far as practicable, take steps to

- notify community members of the most suitable location to evacuate to, based on the prevailing situation (such as a safer place, evacuation centre or refuge site);
- establish a traffic management system
- assist with egress and prevent other persons entering the evacuated area
- facilitate transportation of evacuees, including evacuation by water and accessing suitable vehicles, with consideration of at-risk persons.

Although it is an offence for people to refuse a direction to evacuate, there is discretion for the person issuing the direction to remove a person refusing to leave or to take punitive action for failure to comply with the direction. Factors that may be taken into account when deciding whether to forcibly remove a person failing to comply with a direction to evacuate include:

- the resources that would need to be diverted from responding to the emergency; and
- the safety of personnel.

The personnel conducting the evacuation need to ensure, as far as practicable, that those who refuse to evacuate understand the risks of staying and are capable of making an informed decision. Where possible, procedures should be developed to track remaining residents' welfare; however, this should not be undertaken in such a manner as to endanger response personnel.

Unaccompanied children should not be left in an area subject to any evacuation direction and should be placed in the care of the Department of Communities.

The following table is an example of the relationship between the type of evacuation and the expectation of compliance, associated warning level and public access likely to be permitted for each type of evacuation for bushfire:

Types of Evacuation (applicable to Bushfire)			
Name	Compliance	Fire Warning System	Public Access
Self-Evacuation	Voluntary	Advice	Unrestricted or limited access
Recommended Evacuation	Voluntary	Watch and Act or Emergency Warning	Restricted – Incident Controller authorisation required
Directed Evacuation	Compulsory	Watch and Act or Emergency Warning	Denied

Refer to the internal Operational Support Manual for more information including an example of a message and handout that may be used by personnel delivering a door-to-door message in a recommended or directed evacuation. This has been developed by DBCA, in consultation with DFES and WAPOL, for use in a bushfire, to enhance and/or reinforce the level of information that may be provided verbally to the resident. Tools such as these provide consistency in the delivery of information to the community.

Securing the Area

The Controlling Agency and/or HMA should ensure, as far as practicable, the security of the area that has been evacuated and, where possible the well-being of remaining persons and property.

This may be undertaken by regular patrols in the affected area, where safe and practicable to do so, and by the continuation of controlled access to the affected area post impact until evacuees are able to return. The Controlling Agency and/or HMA may seek assistance with this function from WAPOL, local government and security and/or traffic management contractors, depending on the specific circumstances of the situation. However, the safety of personnel remains paramount.

6.5. Stage 4 – Shelter

Shelter is the fourth of the five stages of evacuation process and involves provision of basic needs for affected people away from the immediate or potential effects of the hazard. Shelter provides for the temporary respite of evacuees and is regarded as a dynamic social process. The needs of individuals may vary over time and the different phases of sheltering may not necessarily be sequential.

Phases of sheltering may include:

- immediate sheltering (where there is limited time to take protective action)

- temporary sheltering (e.g. evacuation centres) and
- temporary housing (for more long-term evacuations).

Not all phases are applicable to all emergencies.

Evacuation Facilities

Where the Controlling Agency establishes one or more evacuation centres, they must take all reasonable steps to ensure evacuees are properly received and supported via support agencies and/or the local government.

The Department of Communities is responsible for providing and coordinating Emergency Relief and Support (ERS) services for people impacted by an emergency. ERS services are delivered across six functional domains: emergency accommodation, emergency food, emergency clothing and personal requisites, personal support services, registration and reunification, and financial assistance.

The Department of Communities is responsible for planning the provision of emergency relief and support services and the specific social needs resulting from an evacuation, in collaboration with the Shire. Local arrangements for the provision of ERS services are detailed in the Local Emergency Relief and Support Plan (LERSP) – Bindjared Region.

Should facilities in the local area not be considered suitable or sufficient to ensure the safety of all evacuees, welfare staff and volunteers, an evacuation centre may be activated within an adjacent jurisdiction. A Memorandum of Cooperation - Provision of Emergency Support 2025 – 2030 has been established with local governments in the South Metropolitan area for the sharing of emergency management information and knowledge, as well as the provision of support for disaster recovery activities.

As far as practicable, consideration should also be given to evacuation centres that may be established spontaneously by members of the community during an emergency, in addition to the formally established centres. These informal/ makeshift centres may not be ideal for the coordination of information, services and support; however, they may be a valuable addition in some circumstances, for example for communities isolated during a flood emergency.

The management of other facilities, such as agricultural grounds or other facility where people with animals may evacuate to, will need to be determined independently. In most cases, this will be supported by the local government or facility staff.

Refer to the Shire's **Emergency Animal Welfare Plan** for further details.

6.6. Stage 5 - Return

The final stage of the evacuation process is the return of the effected community. In most circumstances the return of evacuees will be the responsibility of the Controlling Agency and/or HMA that determined the need for the evacuation in the first place. However, in some circumstances, particularly where the impacts of a hazard have had lasting effects, the incident may have been handed over to a Recovery Coordinator and/or Recovery Coordination Group (at either the local or State level).

The decision to allow a community to return, planning for the return and providing accurate and timely information to the displaced community are the responsibilities of the HMA, or Controlling

Agency's Incident Controller. Where other agencies are assisting, it is important that this assistance is confirmed and decisions swiftly disseminated to relevant personnel.

Safety and Risk Assessment

- **Hazard clearance:** Authorities confirm the immediate danger has passed and check for structural damage, tree hazards, or toxic materials before reopening areas.
- **Staged access:** Return is often phased, prioritising emergency workers, essential service crews, and specific low-risk zones first.
- **Utilities check:** Power, water, and gas lines are inspected and repaired to ensure basic habitability.

Traffic and Security Operations

- **Access control:** Police and traffic controllers manage checkpoints on entry routes to prevent unauthorised access until an area is officially deemed safe.
- **Property protection:** Increased patrols are deployed in evacuated zones to deter unlawful entry and property theft.
- **Transport support:** Coordinated transport options may be arranged for evacuees who lack private vehicles.

Community Recovery and Support

- **Welfare coordination:** Evacuation centres transition to providing ongoing recovery updates, financial aid info, and emotional support.
- **Local recovery liaison:** Local recovery committees work directly with returning community groups to identify immediate clean-up and health needs.

A reference template providing relevant information pertaining to the return of evacuees can be found in the internal Operational Support Manual.

Safety Assessment

The relevant person responsible (from the Controlling Agency or HMA or Recovery Coordination Group) will need to ensure that an appropriate assessment has been carried out to confirm that the area is safe and identify if any special conditions need to be applied, before allowing evacuees to return. Factors to be considered include:

- the hazard itself or any consequential hazards
- the conditions to which evacuees would be returning, such as, availability of food, sanitation and health
- the physical and emotional wellbeing and capacity of evacuees
- the short- and long-term economic viability of evacuated area
- support services for those returning
- the continuing need for public information, particularly about essential services; and
- whether or not the area is a protected forensic area or a restricted access area.

Staged Return

The return phase of evacuation may be executed in stages and the operational plan for this stage should consider matters such as community safety, restoration of essential services and provision of welfare support services. There may be other reasons to delay or restrict access to an evacuated

area, such as the preservation of a crime scene or as part of a coronial investigation, where applicable.

Restricted Access Permits may be used to allow residents, property owners, business owners, and utility companies (unless escorted) inspecting critical infrastructure/properties to access the designated restricted area. Refer to the [State Emergency Management Restricted Access Permit System Guideline](#).

Conflict may arise where evacuees and people outside of the evacuated area at the time of the evacuation are prevented from entering/re-entering before the area has been formally re-opened but other residents have remained against either a recommendation or direction to leave. This will need to be carefully managed and may extend to the provision of escorts for returning evacuees, by agreement.

7. Persons at Higher Risk

Particular attention is needed for some cohorts of the community who may be more vulnerable to the impacts of an emergency. These include, but are not limited to:

- Children and Youth,
- Elderly People,
- Nursing Homes,
- Lifestyle Villages
- Aged Care Facilities,
- Persons with Disabilities,
- Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CaLD) Community,
- Schools,
- Childcare Centres,
- Family Day Care Providers,
- Playgroup Centres,
- Hospitals,
- Tourist Facilities; and,
- Caravan Parks and Camp Grounds.

For further information refer to the Shire's **At Higher Risk Persons Plan**.

8. Major Events

Visitors to the Shire can be considered more at risk to the impacts of emergencies in the district. They can have a poor awareness of local risk and limited preparedness to respond should they occur. Events which bring large numbers of visitors to the Shire can result in additional pressure on evacuation management and communication requirements.

Major Events in the Shire of Murray

The following are the major public events that are held within the Shire. Responsibility for the annual review and updating of the events list is the responsibility of the LEMC in consultation with the Shire's Community Development team.

Major Events	Location	Key Dates	Comments
Dwellingup Log Chop and Community Fair	Marrinup Street, Dwellingup	March/April (usually the Saturday prior to or just after Easter)	Event attendance at any onetime is 3000ppl. Local Police are informed and may be present onsite. Emergency Services/first aid tent is available onsite. No road closures in place as the event happens on the Dwellingup Oval and bump-in/bump-out typically occurs early morning and late afternoon. Structural signoff is required for the amusements brought in as well as for staging. An Occasional Liquor Licence is also provided by Racing, Gaming & Liquor.
Fairbridge Festival	Fairbridge Village, Pinjarra	Mid-April	Event attendance is between 1000-5000ppl across entire event (max 2000ppl at any one time). Event is held on private property and requires a ticket to enter. There is a dedicated first aid tent with 24hr staff and a Traffic Management Plan for their staff to assist with bump-in and bump-out of patrons who are driving a vehicle in to setup a campsite.

Major Events	Location	Key Dates	Comments
MAX Car Show	Sir Ross McLarty Oval, Pinjarra	April – first Sunday	Attendance at any one time is usually over 1000ppl. Emergency services/first aid are onsite and sometimes required event organiser to provide structural signoff on larger marquees.
ANZAC Day Commemorations	Pinjarra	25 April	Maximum event attendance is around 500ppl at any one time. Only one march/parade happens just prior to the 11am service, in which local police pause traffic on George St for 5-10mins for this to occur. If local police are called away on an urgent task, Shire Rangers are often tasked with being available to help with traffic management.
Pinjarra Festival	Edenvale Heritage Precinct	June long weekend	Event attendance at any one time is usually over 5000ppl. There is a dedicated Emergency services/first aid post along with an ambulance onsite. Local police will often pop down to have a quick patrol of the site. Road closures are in place along Murray St, Henry St and Forrest St for the duration of the event. Structural signoff is required for our larger marquees and for the stage.

Major Events	Location	Key Dates	Comments
Dwellingup 100 MTB (Mountain Bike) Classic	Dwellingup Oval	September	Event attendance at any one time is around 2000ppl. Emergency services and an event doctor will be onsite, as well as 2 security guards. Event is also approved to have an occasional liquor licence from Racing, Gaming & Liquor. Road closures will be in place, but not for the entire duration of the event, and these will be manned by experienced event volunteers. Structures at this event do require signoffs to be complete by reputable company erecting the structures.
Hotham Valley Railway's Anniversary Festival	Dwellingup	September	Event attendance at any one time is around 1000ppl. Expected attendance across the event day is around 2000ppl (according to event organiser) however attendance can often be up to 4000ppl. No TMP or structural signoffs required for this event. Event has a first aid area setup and local police are informed of the event.
Coolup Camp Draft	Murray Equestrian Association, Coolup	November	Event attendance at any onetime for this event is max 500ppl and event is held at a location established for the type of activity occurring

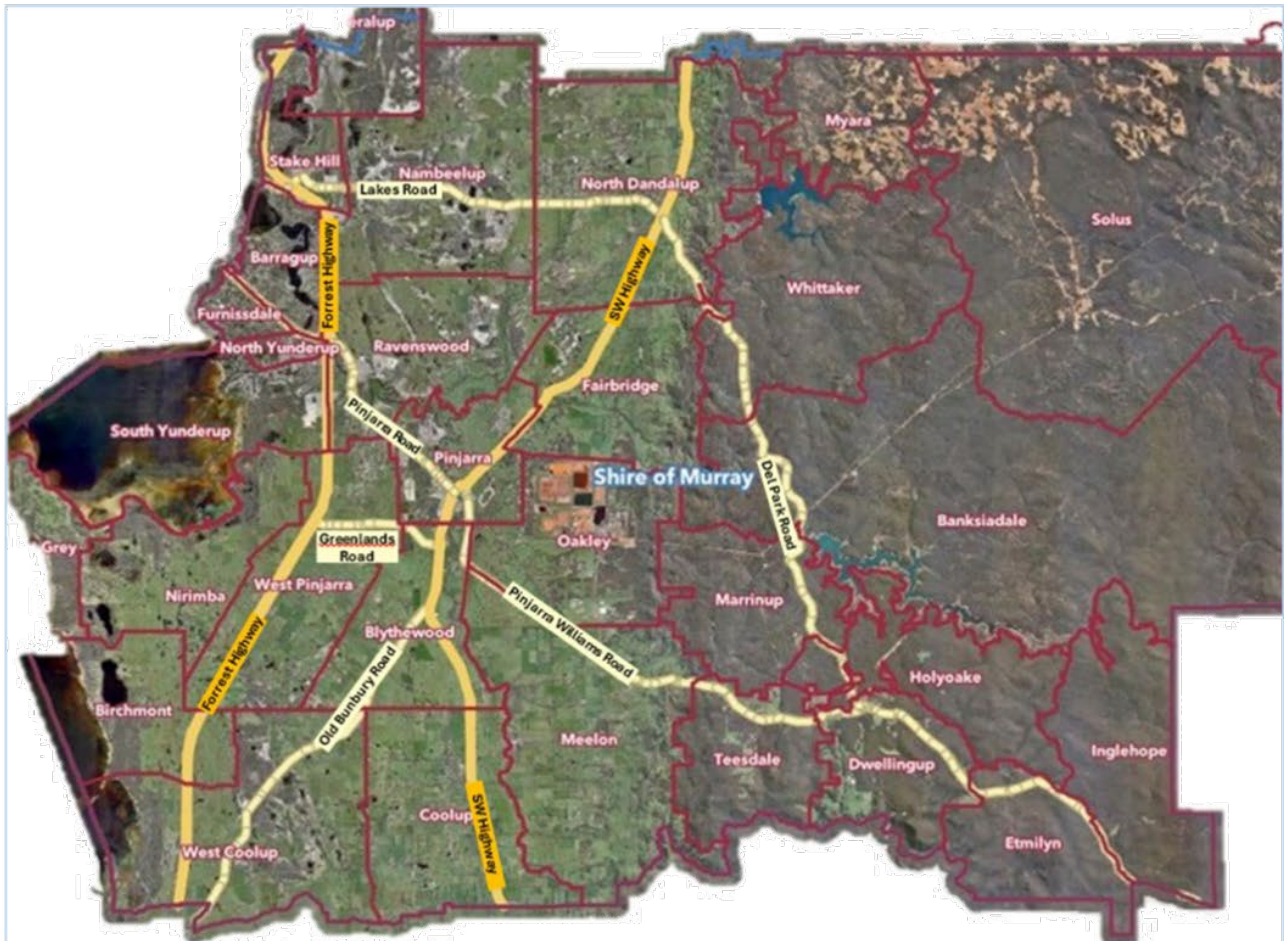
Major Events	Location	Key Dates	Comments
Pinjarra Christmas Festival	Pinjarra	December – first Thursday	This event usually only sees a maximum of 900-1000 people. Each year we get an updated and endorsed Traffic Management Plan that is implemented by business QTM and only involves have Portal Traffic Control Device on each side of George St at the existing crossing.
Pinjarra Garden Day	Edenvale Heritage Precinct	October – third Sunday	Event can see a maximum attendance of 2000ppl, but likely between 500/600ppl at any one time. St Johns are onsite for first aid.
6 Inch Trail Marathon	North Dandalup	December	Attendance numbers are around 350-500 participants at any one time. Event held at a time of year that can often have bushfires and participants are in bushland. There are aid stations located along the route and a pre-event briefing, providing info on emergency management, is delivered to all participants.

Note: Event information as provided in the above table can be constantly changing and therefore contact should be made with the Shire's Event Team to gain the most up to date event information for Shire approved events.

9. Evacuation Routes - Traffic Considerations

Evacuation routes are principally from evacuation assembly areas to Evacuation Centres. They will relate to evacuation departure points to be used and will be designated at the time of an incident by the Controlling Agencies Incident Controller, in consultation with the Local Emergency Coordinator.

The below figure provides details of the main roads that may be used for evacuation routes in various localities within the Shire and also the location of Evacuation Centres:



9.1. Traffic Access and Bridges – Shire of Murray

TRAFFIC ACCESS AND BRIDGES	ACCESS FORM	TERRAIN
BRIDGES		
Unknown Creek – Coolup East Road	Double lane Road	No identified seasonal issues
Nambeelup Brook – Lakes Road	Double lane Road	No identified seasonal issues
North Dandalup Rive – Lakes Road	Double lane Road	No identified seasonal issues
Serpentine River – Lakes Road	Double lane Road	No identified seasonal issues
North Dandalup River – McMahon Road	Double lane Road	No identified seasonal issues
Dandalup River – Paterson Road	Double lane Road	No identified seasonal issues
Nambeelup Brook – Paterson Road	Double lane Road	No identified seasonal issues
Balgobin Brook – Hopelands Road	Double lane Road	No identified seasonal issues
Unknown Drain – Hopelands Road	Double lane Road	No identified seasonal issues
Buchanan's Drain – South Yunderup Road	Double lane Road	No identified seasonal issues
Crows Creek – Nicholson Road	Double lane Road	No identified seasonal issues
Alcoa – Del Park Road	Double lane Road	No identified seasonal issues
Old Alcoa Haul Road – Del Park Road	Double lane Road	No identified seasonal issues
South Dandalup River – Del Park Road	Double lane Road	No identified seasonal issues
Unnamed – Del Park Road	Double lane Road	No identified seasonal issues
Murray River – Nanga Road	Single Lane	Pedestrian
Murray Lakes Canal – Pateman Place	Pedestrian	Pedestrian

TRAFFIC ACCESS AND BRIDGES	ACCESS FORM	TERRAIN
Redcliffe Barn – Peel Zoo Entrance Road	Pedestrian	Pedestrian
Murray River – James Street Foot Bridge	Pedestrian	Pedestrian
Dandalup River – Beau sovereign Court	Pedestrian – Single lane	Pedestrian
Murray River – Blake Road	Traffic Causeway – Single lane	Seasonal Flooding

TRAFFIC CHOKE POINTS		
South West Highway – near Pinjarra Senior High School Camp Road – near Pinjarra Senior High School Wisteria Crescent – near Carcoola Primary School Dixon Avenue, Roe Avenue and Havil Street – near Pinjarra Primary School George Street and Camp Road – near St Joesph’s Primary School Hines Road – near North Dandalup Primary School Inlet Boulevard – near Austin Lakes Baptist College – Primary School California Crescent – near Austin Lakes Baptist College – Secondary School Newton Street – near Dwellingup Primary School		Impacted by school hours
BEACH / RIVER ACCESS Serpentine River, Peel Estuary Boggy Bay, Nirimba Herron Point, Birchmont	Tonkin Drive, North Yunderup Carrabungup Road, Nirimba Herron Point Road, Birchmont	Unsealed road Unsealed road Sealed road
PINJARRA JUNCTION CARPARK	Over 550 car parking bays	Underground and above ground bays. Ease of access

10. Isolation and Quarantine

During a Human Biosecurity emergency, the State Emergency Welfare Plan may be activated to assist with the provision of welfare support services. These services may be extended to those individuals, their family household, and others who have been placed under home isolation or quarantine as part of the emergency response. The provision of these services will be prioritised by the Department of Communities in consultation with WA Health. In the situation of a human epidemic associated with a high mortality or disability rate, the Department of Communities will prioritise its services towards the care of children and dependents of deceased or seriously ill individuals. The WA health system, in consultation with local clinicians and public health officials, will decide if, and when, isolation and/or quarantine of persons and closure of places are required to reduce the risk of disease transmission. These measures will not be implemented without considering the effectiveness and feasibility of less disruptive disease control measures. If isolation, quarantine or closures are required, the establishment of a State Emergency Coordination Group may be requested by the Incident Controller to facilitate a coordinated multi-agency approach to the relocation of displaced persons.

11. Emergency Evacuation Planning Data

DEMOGRAPHICS							DWELLINGS		
	POPULATION	MALES %	FEMALES %	MEDIAN AGE	FAMILIES	AVERAGE CHILDREN/FAMILY	PRIVATE DWELLINGS	AVERAGE PER DWELLING PEOPLE	MOTOR VEHICLES
BARRAGUP	940	51.4	48.8	45	258	1.9	333	3.0	3
BIRCHMONT	86	52.3	52.3	45	27	2.3	41	2.6	2.4
BLYTHEWOOD	85	51.8	43.5	57	26	2.1	42	2.1	2
COOLUP	420	51.7	48.3	38	126	1.9	160	3.1	2.8
DWELLINGUP	524	48.6	51.4	49	140	1.8	275	2.4	2.1
FAIRBRIDGE	55	52.7	56.4	53	14	2	21	3	3.4
FURNISSDALE	1061	52.3	47.7	58	274	1.6	580	2	1.9
HOLYOAKE	22	50	36.4	57	0	0	22	1.6	1.6

	POPULATION	MALES %	FEMALES %	MEDIAN AGE	FAMILIES	AVERAGE CHILDREN/FAMILY	PRIVATE DWELLINGS	AVERAGE PER DWELLING	
								PEOPLE	MOTOR VEHICLES
INGLEHOPE	18	44.4	66.7	52	5	1.5	10	2.8	4
KEYSBROOK	265	56.6	43.4	51	69	1.8	113	2.4	2.6
MEELON	174	53.5	46.5	46	48	1.8	92	2.4	2.8
NAMBEELUP	361	53.2	46.8	38	96	1.9	126	2.9	3
NIRIMBA	80	46.2	52.5	41	26	1.7	36	2.7	3.5
NORTH DANDALUP	863	48.1	51.9	40	248	2	310	3	2.8
NORTH YUNDERUP	840	51.6	48.4	52	237	1.7	477	2.2	2.2
PINJARRA	4914	48.3	51.7	43	1303	1.9	2120	2.4	2
RAVENSWOOD	2483	48.3	51.7	41	706	2	1119	2.4	2
SOUTH YUNDERUP	3860	49.9	50.1	47	1119	1.8	1933	2.4	2.1
STAKE HILL	469	47.7	52.3	45	144	1.8	162	3.1	3.1
TEESDALE	89	53.9	48.3	51	25	1.8	50	2.5	2.6
WEST COOLUP	182	55.5	44.5	44	49	1.7	91	2.6	2.8
WEST PINJARRA	448	49.6	50.4	38	123	2.3	159	3.2	2.7
WHITTAKER	9	33.3	55.6	51	4	1.5	6	3	2.7

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics - 2021 Census

No data available for Banksiadale, Etmilyn, Keralup (part), Marrinup, Myara, Oakley, Solus in the Shire of Murray

12. Evacuation - Roles and Responsibilities

12.1. Controlling Agency

The overall responsibility for the management of any evacuation rests with the Controlling Agency. Responsibilities include:

- Ensuring appropriate agencies are engaged
- Risk assessment and decision arising that evacuating a community represents the best option for community safety
- Ensuring that appropriate action is taken across all phases to meet the evacuees needs
- Ensuring the supporting agency undertaking the evacuation is aware of the level of the evacuation
- Public information and media management during a voluntary evacuation

The Controlling Agency may direct an evacuation under the *Emergency Management Act 2005* if authorised by the HMA or under other legislation.

12.2. Hazard Management Agency (HMA)

Where an evacuation is being undertaken for a hazard for which an agency or individual is prescribed as the HMA, the HMA can access powers provided under the *Emergency Management Act 2005*, to direct the movement of people and animals if the HMA make a formal declaration of an emergency situation. An emergency situation can also be declared for any hazard by the State Emergency Coordinator. In most circumstances, the HMA will be same as the Controlling Agency for an emergency arising from that hazard.

12.3. State Emergency Coordinator

Should the Minister declare a State of Emergency, the State Emergency Coordinator may direct an evacuation as an Authorised Officer (s.3) or may appoint Authorised Officers to access Part 6 powers under the *Emergency Management Act 2005*, including the power to direct an evacuation.

12.4. Hazard Management Officer and Authorised Officer

When a state of emergency is declared Hazard Management Officers appointed under section 55 of the *Emergency Management Act 2005*, and Authorised Officer appointed under section 61 of the *Emergency Management Act 2005*, may access Part 6 powers, including the power to direct an evacuation. When the Hazard Management Officer or Authorised Officer is directing an evacuation, they are responsible for:

- Maintaining overall responsibility for the evacuation
- Ensuring appropriate agencies are engaged
- Supporting agencies are aware of the level of evacuation, the legislative power for evacuation and the preferred action to be taken if people refuse to evacuate
- Managing public information and media management

12.5. Western Australian Police Force (WAPOL)

WA Police Force are often requested to assist with an evacuation by the Controlling Agency or Hazard Management Agency. They may be required to undertake specific duties during the withdrawal phase of an evacuation or be tasked with overseeing the entire evacuation planning process on behalf of the Controlling Agency or HMA.

There may be some instances where WAPOL are not able to assist and other agencies may be more effectively placed to assist. An example of this may be a remote region effected by cyclones where the State Emergency Service of DFES or other groups may be better placed to provide assistance.

WAPOL will:

- Support the Controlling Agency in the evacuation process
- Establish and maintain an appropriate cordon to the emergency area, as requested.
- Support the orderly evacuation of people to the nominated evacuation centre/s.
- Maintain road safety in the access and egress routes for the withdrawal around the evacuation centre.
- Assist with security of the evacuated area, as requested.

12.6. Shire of Murray

During an emergency evacuation event, the Shire will be responsible for:

- Making available suitable municipal buildings to be used as evacuation centres by the Department of Communities to coordinate welfare support during the emergency.
- Establish additional facilities where those with animals may evacuate to, with appropriate resources to manage as outlined in the joint AWP which forms part of the LEMA documents.
- Provide relevant local information with regard to communities at risk.
- Keep informed during the response phase in order to affect a smooth transition to recovery when appropriate.

12.7. Main Roads WA (MRWA)

MRWA has an important role to play in any traffic management plan for the withdrawal phase, through the provision of information about road networks and infrastructure capabilities, staffing and/or contractors to assist with vehicle control points or undertaking detailed traffic management plans for extended emergencies.

MRWA will assist the Controlling Agency or HMA and/or WAPOL with the development of Traffic Management Plans and/or activities supporting its implementation, as requested.

12.8. Department of Communities

The Department of Communities is the support organisation responsible for providing and coordinating Emergency Relief and Support (ERS) services. ERS services provide immediate and ongoing social supports to alleviate, as far as practicable, the effects on individuals impacted by an emergency.

The Department of Communities has primary responsibility for coordinating the provision of ERS services across six functional domains:

- emergency accommodation
- emergency food
- emergency clothing and personal requisites
- personal support services
- registration and reunification
- financial assistance.

The Department of Communities is responsible for preparing and maintaining Local Emergency Relief and Support Plans (LERSPs) as part of the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA), in collaboration with partner agencies at State and local levels. Local level ERS preparedness, response and recovery activities are conducted in line with the LERSP – Bindjareb Region and the *State Support Plan – Emergency Relief and Support*.

In relation to community evacuation planning, the Department of Communities is responsible for planning the provision of ERS services and the specific social needs resulting from an evacuation, in collaboration with local government. When activated by the HMA or Controlling Agency, the Department of Communities coordinates the provision of ERS services to people impacted by an emergency.

12.9. Australian Red Cross

Red Cross may provide assistance when requested by Department of Communities by providing a registration and reunification service. This may include the use of the Red Cross “Register. Find. Reunite” system. Red Cross may also provide Psychosocial support for evacuees at evacuation centres and in early recovery.

12.10. Department of Health (WA Country Health)

The roles and responsibilities of WA Country Health include:

- Coordinate medical support including services such as St John Ambulance, Royal Flying Doctor in accordance with the State Health Emergency Response Plan
- Coordinate medical evacuation to major medical centres as appropriate
- Assist welfare agencies in crises counselling and critical stress management

12.11. Department of Education

The role of the Department of Education is to:

- Liaise with Department of Communities and relevant Local Governments in relation to the use of educational facilities as evacuation centres
- Provide up-to-date information about schools in the affected area to be available to Controlling Agency, Hazard Management Agency or WAPOL, including appropriate contact information.
- Ensure evacuation plans that extend beyond the carpark are in place for each facility.

12.12. Department of Defence

In certain circumstances, i.e. where the capabilities of agencies are insufficient or unavailable, the Department of Defence may provide assistance in accordance with State EM Policy 5.10 and State EM Plan 5.6.

12.13. Organisations responsible for educational and care facilities, and other specialist sites for at risk persons

Responsibilities include:

- Provide up-to-date information about their location and appropriate contact information
- Ensure that emergency evacuation plans include arrangements that extend beyond the carpark and include considerations for transportation to a place of safety

Appendix 1 – Glossary of Terms

Terminology used throughout this Emergency Evacuation Plan shall have the meaning as prescribed in Section 3 of the *Emergency Management Act 2005* or as defined in the State Emergency Management Glossary.

Assembly Areas – Designated locations used for the assembly of persons affected by the emergency. This area may also incorporate an emergency relief centre. A prearranged, strategically placed area, where support response personnel, vehicles and other equipment can be held in readiness for use during an emergency.

At Risk Persons - Anyone who may have difficulty either receiving or responding to emergency public information, e.g. those with physical or intellectual disabilities or other health related issues, children, the aged, tourists/travelers, those who are homeless, those who are socially isolated and those from remote or culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Emergency Accommodation – The provision of temporary shelter for persons requiring shelter during an emergency, or due to evacuation from an emergency, ranging from short to medium term accommodation, coordinated by Department of Communities.

Evacuation – The planned relocation of persons from dangerous or potentially dangerous areas to safer areas and eventual return.

Directed Evacuation – a direction for members of a community to evacuate with which they are obliged to comply in circumstances where it is believed there is an imminent and real threat to life should they remain. Under the *Emergency Management Act 2005*, as directed evacuation can occur only during an emergency situation or state of emergency. Only a Hazard Management Officer, Authorised Officer or Police Officer may issue a direction for members of a community to evacuate in circumstances where it is believed there is an imminent and real threat to life should they remain. A direction to evacuate is a lawful instruction.

Immediate Evacuation – This results from a hazard impact that forces immediate action, thereby allowing little or no warning and limited preparation time (e.g. hazardous materials emergencies, air crashes, bushfires or earthquakes).

Pre-warned Evacuation – This follows receipt of sufficient and reliable information that prompts a decision to evacuate ahead of a hazard impact (e.g. cyclones and storm surges).

Controlled Evacuation – A recommended or directed evacuation, where a Controlling Agency is undertaking specific activity to manage the withdrawal of people from an area that is at risk, or subject to the effects of, a hazard.

Recommended Evacuation – A controlled evacuation whereby a Controlling Agency provides advice to members of a community that they evacuate, when the Incident Controller believes this represents the best option to mitigate the effects of an emergency on a community, based on the agency's risk assessment at that time, but where the risk is not perceived as extreme / imminent.

Self-Evacuation – The voluntary evacuation of community members who have assessed their risk and have decided to move to a safer place, either a place established for the hazard or a place of their opinion.

Evacuee – A person who has withdrawn or been removed from a place of danger.

Evacuation Centre – A centre that provides affected people with basic human needs including accommodation, and water. In addition, to enhance the recovery process, other welfare/recovery services may also be provided.

Immediate Sheltering - Includes shelter in place, assembly areas and places of last resort.

Place of Last Resort – A place where members of a community can go/ be taken at the last minute to seek shelter from an imminent threat when it is too late to evacuate. It should only be used when all other plans have failed and no other option exists. This may be a shed, area of the home, swimming pool, dam or other place appropriate to the hazard.

Refuge Site – A place where the community may take shelter within the community that is suitable to the hazard that presents. This may be an open space, building or other suitable place of shelter. It may be determined at the time of the emergency.

Relocation – A term sometimes used in place of self-evacuation. It can also be used to refer to an individual's choice to move to a location of reduced risk of an emergency occurring under certain conditions even before an emergency has occurred (e.g. on a day where a catastrophic fire weather danger rating has been issued).

Safer Place – A nearby location where members of the community can relocate or evacuate to quickly that is safer than the location being threatened by the hazard.

Safest corridor – The route that evacuees take that presents the safest way to move away from the threat to a place of safety or 'safer place', sometimes known as the recommended egress for evacuation.

Shelter in Place – the advice to community to remain in their location, this may be an open space, building, indoors or other suitable place of shelter, usually with additional advice from emergency services as to how to take actions to reduce their exposure to the hazard.

Specialist facilities – May be required when evacuees are unable to care for themselves or require additional care (e.g. hospitals, aged care or similar facilities, and disability care).

Temporary accommodation – Accommodation provided over an extended period of days, weeks or months, for individuals or families affected by an emergency. It is different from emergency shelter.

Temporary sheltering – Includes family, friends or commercial accommodation outside the impact zone, refuge sites, evacuation centres and specialist facilities.

Welfare Centre – A facility that may provide for evacuation, reception, accommodation and relief and recovery for an impacted community. Welfare centres may continue the extended provision of services into the recovery phase.



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Local Emergency Management Recovery Plan 2026



Disclaimer

The Local Emergency Management Arrangements have been produced by the Shire of Murray in good faith and are derived from sources believed to be reliable and accurate at the time of publication. Nevertheless, the reliability and accuracy of information cannot be guaranteed, and the Shire of Murray expressly disclaims any liability for any act or omission done or not done in reliance of the information and for any consequences whether direct or indirect arising from such occasion.

The Local Emergency Management Arrangements comprise of a series of documentations including but not limited to:

- Local Emergency Management Plan 2026
- Local Emergency Management Recovery Plan 2026
- Local Emergency Management Evacuation Plan 2026

These documents so should be read and considered collectively as a suite of documentation rather than individually. The most up to date LEMA documentation is available on the Shire of Murray's website: [Emergency Management](#).

Requests for further authorisation should be directed to the Manager Ranger and Emergency Management, Shire of Murray, PO Box 21, PINJARRA WA 6208 or via email at mailbag@murray.wa.gov.au.

Acknowledgements

The Shire of Murray would like to acknowledge the Local Emergency Management Committee, businesses and the community for their contribution to the development of this plan and ongoing support to the review of emergency management arrangements within the Shire. The Shire would also like to acknowledge the State Emergency Management Committee All West Australian's Reducing Emergencies (AWARE) Program for providing grant funding to assist with the review of the Shire's Local Emergency Management Arrangements and associated Emergency Management Plans.

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Authority

This Local Emergency Management Recovery Plan forms part of the Shire of Murray's Local Emergency Management Arrangements, which are a requirement under section 41 of the *Emergency Management Act 2005*.

The Local Emergency Management Recovery Plan was endorsed by the Local Emergency Management Committee on XXX.

This Local Emergency Management Recovery Plan was adopted by Shire of Murray Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on XXX.

A copy of this Plan has been provided to the State Emergency Management Committee for noting pursuant to section 41(5) of the *Emergency Management Act 2005*.

Chairperson Date:

Cr. Stuart Kirkham

Shire of Murray LEMC

Shire President Date

Cr. Douglas McLarty

Chief Executive Officer Date

Mr. Dean Unsworth

Shire of Murray

Review and Amendment Record

Documents within the Local Emergency Management Arrangements should be reviewed:

- After an event or incident that requires the activation of an Incident Support Group or significant recovery coordination
- After training or drills that exercise the arrangements
- Every five (5) years
- Any other time the Shire considers appropriate; or
- A unanimous decision by the Shire's Local Emergency Management Committee.

Reviews which entail only minor administrative amendments can be noted and adopted by the Shire's Local Emergency Management Committee. Substantial amendments require endorsement by the Shire's Local Emergency Management Committee and adoption by the Shire of Murray Council.

Amendments to the Local Emergency Management Recovery Plan will be recorded in the following document amendment table:

Nº	Amendment Date	Details	Resolution Number	Amended by (Position)
1	XX 2026	New Plan		

Document Distribution and Availability

A copy of the Local Emergency Management Recovery Plan is provided to all members of the Shire's Local Emergency Management Committee and made available through the Shire Website www.murray.wa.gov.au/emergencymanagement. Members of the public may request a copy, free of charge, or view the Local Recovery Plan during business hours at:

- Shire of Murray Administration Building, 1915 Pinjarra Road, Pinjarra
- Murray Library, Corner Pinjarra Road and Forrest Street, Pinjarra
- Dwellingup Trails and Visitor Information Centre, Marrinup Street, Dwellingup

Refer to Appendix 1 of the Local Emergency Management Plan for a full distribution list of stakeholders who have received a copy of the Local Emergency Management Arrangements.

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Local Emergency Management Recovery Plan is to:

1. describe the arrangements for effectively managing recovery at a local level, including accountability and responsibility; and
2. address and support the restoration of emotional, social, economic, environmental and physical wellbeing of the community, the reconstruction of infrastructure, renewal and the provision of support services following an emergency.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the Local Recovery Plan are to provide strategic guidance for coordination of the local recovery planning and implementation by:

1. Engaging the community in shaping their own recovery through inclusive planning, decision-making and governance processes
2. Providing a structure to support the delivery of appropriate recovery activities, which meet the unique needs of local individuals, community, businesses and organisations
3. Ensuring that recovery activities are community-led, utilising person-centered approaches
4. Ensuring that available government and non-government support is targeted and reflects local priorities and needs
5. Assisting communities to rebuild in a way that enhances social, built, economic and natural environmental value
6. Building preparedness and resilience in the Shire of Murray
7. Ensuring that lessons learnt through the recovery process are captured and available to improve future recovery processes
8. Establishing a structure for the coordination of recovery resources and activities at the local level
9. Promoting effective liaison and collaboration between the community, services and agencies involved in recovery
10. Ensuring a coordinated approach to public education and information in relation to recovery communications within the Shire of Murray
11. Ensuring the Local Recovery Plan is reviewed and kept up-to-date.

3. Scope

The scope of the Local Recovery Plan is limited to the local government district of the Shire of Murray (Shire).

The Shire consists of the following localities;



4. Recovery

The Australian Disaster Recovery Framework (2022) defines recovery as “the restoring or improving of livelihoods and health, as well as economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets, systems and activities, of a disaster-affected community or society, aligning with the principles of sustainable development and ‘build back better’, to avoid or reduce future disaster risk”.

The impacts of disasters on individuals and communities can be extensive and long-lasting. As a result, recovery goes beyond restoring or replacing what was lost, rather it is a complex social/developmental process, where communities work together to enhance social infrastructure, natural and built environments and economies. When done well, recovery can improve all of these aspects beyond what existed prior to the disaster.

Recovery should be considered across four ‘domains’ or ‘environments’ of recovery:

1. The **social domain** focuses on the health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities, including safety, security and shelter, health and psychosocial wellbeing.

2. The **built domain** focuses on physical infrastructure, including essential services, commercial and industrial facilities, public buildings, assets and housing.
3. The **natural environment domain** focuses on land-based, aquatic, coastal and marine ecosystems, and environmental values that are of cultural, local and/or national significance. This area includes the management and disposal of waste and management of environmental health issues.
4. The **economic domain** focuses on the economy, including jobs, businesses, primary producers and industries.

5. Shire of Murray Recovery Principles

Recovery is multi-dimensional and requires the balancing of many different aspects and needs. Guiding principles such as the National Principles for Disaster Recovery, help to guide ethical and best practice recovery coordination in this complex environment. These principles are:

- Understanding the Context
- Recognising the Complexity
- Use Community-led approaches
- Coordinate all approaches
- Communicate effectively
- Recognise and build Capacity

The Shire will endeavor to incorporate these principles in their recovery planning and operationally through their recovery activities.

Further, this Plan is guided by the Future Vision for the Shire of Murray to “be an outstanding place for community lifestyle and opportunity”, described in the Shire of Murray Council Plan 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2033. Recovery will reflect community priorities relating to five core areas; people, planet, place, prosperity and performance.

6. Shire of Murray Recovery Values

The Shire will apply sound disaster recovery values to all recovery activities by:

1. Considering consequences of actions to disaster affected communities within the capacity of the Shire;
2. Providing leadership for our community;
3. Recognising that the Shire’s key role in recovery is to foster collaboration between the Shire, partner agencies and the community;
4. Empowering individuals and groups to effectively carry out recovery activities;
5. Managing resources effectively and avoiding duplication of services and programs within the community;
6. Acting as quickly as possible, whilst planning for the long term and eventual transition to normal services,
7. Reviewing the actions taken during Recovery and capturing the ‘lessons learnt’ to enable ongoing planning to build knowledge, capacity and resilience.

7. Recovery Activation

7.1. Recovery during response

Recovery planning and activities should be undertaken in three phases known as preparing for recovery, early recovery, and recovery operations (see Figure 1).

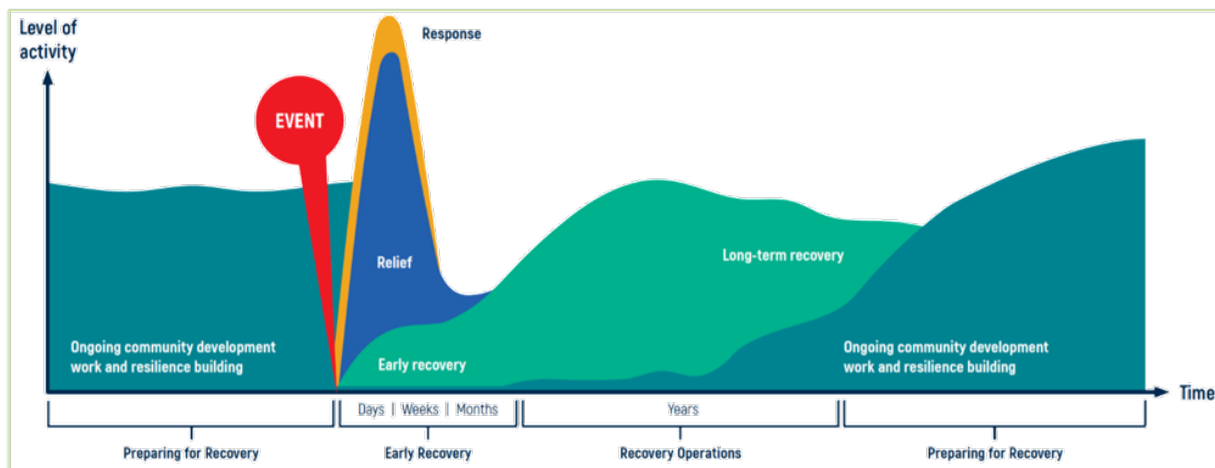


Figure 1: The phases of recovery

Recovery activities should commence immediately following the impact of an emergency event, normally when response activities are still in progress. Key decisions and activities undertaken during the response phase may directly influence and shape the recovery process.

To ensure appropriate recovery activities are initiated as soon as possible after the impact of the event, the Incident Controller of the Hazard Management Agency (**HMA**) is to ensure that the Local

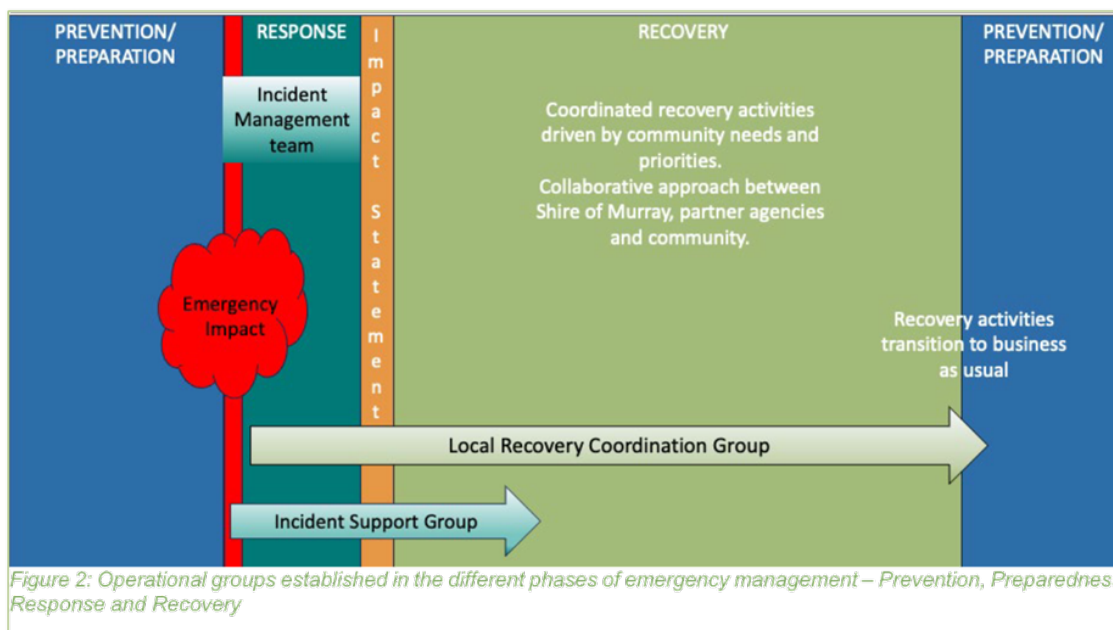


Figure 2: Operational groups established in the different phases of emergency management – Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery

Recovery Coordinator is notified of the event and is included as a member of the Incident Management Team/Incident Support Group.

During response activities, many of the agencies with recovery roles are heavily committed, therefore the inclusion of the Local Recovery Coordinator into the Incident Management Team/Incident Support Group will ensure:

- (a) the alignment of response and recovery priorities;
- (b) liaison with key agencies;
- (c) awareness of the key impacts and tasks,
- (d) awareness of most vulnerable sectors of the community,
- (e) identification of the recovery requirements and priorities as early as possible
- (f) opportunity to advocate for local needs and priorities during response activities should this be needed.

The Local Recovery Coordination Group should be established as soon as possible to brief members about the emergency to ensure a smooth transition from response to recovery.

For more detail refer to Part 8 - Local Recovery Coordination Group Roles and Responsibilities.

8. Activating the recovery plan

The Shire's Chief Executive Officer (**CEO**) will activate the Local Recovery Plan on advice from the Local Recovery Coordinator. When making this decision, impacts across all four domains (Social, Natural, Economic and Built) will be considered. This recognises that recovery impacts can be both tangible (e.g. damage to infrastructure, essential services, property, fencing) but also intangible (e.g. psychosocial impacts, health impacts economic impacts).

This decision will be guided by impact information from:

- The Hazard Management Agency
- The Incident Support Group
- Community needs assessment information

When the Local Recovery Plan is activated, the Local Recovery Coordinator will convene a meeting of the Local Recovery Coordination Group. This should happen as soon as is practicable, normally during the response phase of an emergency.

9. Impact Statement

The Controlling Agency will complete an 'Impact Statement' in collaboration with:

- Members of the Incident Support Group
- State government agencies and authorities responsible for the management of impacts
- Deputy State Recovery Coordinator
- District Emergency Management Advisor
- Local Recovery Coordinator
- Department of Fire Emergency Services (DFES) Recovery Manager
- Disaster Recovery Funding Officer
- Community service providers and groups

The Impact Statement contains point in time information about all of the known and emerging impacts. This helps to identify how the community has been affected and will inform the early recovery needs assessment to guide recovery planning.

A key part of the formal handing over of responsibility of the incident from the Controlling Agency (Incident Response) to the Shire (Recovery Phase) is the provision of the 'Impact Statement'. The acceptance of the 'Impact Statement' is the responsibility of, and at the discretion of, the CEO and Local Recovery Coordinator.

For more information refer to the [Impact Statement template available from the State Emergency Management Committee](#).

9.1. Transfer of Responsibility

Following ongoing communication between the local government (CEO and Local Recovery Coordinator), Controlling Agency and if appropriate State Government Recovery team members, a 'Transfer of Responsibility' meeting will occur. The draft Impact Statement will be discussed. When transitioning the coordination of recovery activities to the local government, the Controlling Agency should brief the local government and provide clear information about:

- Residual risks and actions in place to manage those risks.
- The impacts identified.
- Relief and early recovery activities already underway, and the responsible agency for those activities.
- Ongoing response activities (if any) and arrangements for coordination between response and recovery.
- Public information arrangements.

Relief and support services initiated during the response phase—such as those provided by the Department of Communities and other organisations— must be reviewed and considered for continuation or transition into recovery management.

9.2. Needs Assessment

When a community is affected by an emergency event it is essential to determine the needs and priorities of the community. This is a function of the Local Recovery Coordination Group throughout the duration of recovery. Needs assessments identify what has been affected, across the social, built, natural and economic environments, what information is needed by the community to inform effective decision making and what are the priorities for recovery activities.

There are typically two types of needs assessments:

- **rapid needs assessment:** conducted during response and early recovery phase, using limited information to identify urgent recovery activities and programs.
- **comprehensive needs assessment:** developed during recovery operations phase, informed by detailed data and community engagement to support long term planning.

Resources to assist the needs assessment process are available in the internal Emergency Operational Support Manual.

9.3. Operational Recovery Plan

The Operational Recovery Plan will assist the Shire to address the specific impacts of the emergency which has affected the area. It will be based on the outcomes of a comprehensive needs assessment process. The Local Recovery Coordination Group is responsible for creating the Operational Recovery Plan, ensuring the process is collaborative and driven by community needs and priorities. The Operational Recovery Plan will be developed as soon as is practical after the transition to recovery has occurred.

A template to assist with the preparation of the Operational Recovery Plan is available in the internal Emergency Operational Support Manual or via the [WA Gov website](#).

9.4. Long Term Recovery Strategy

Where appropriate, a Long Term Recovery Strategy should be developed in collaboration between key stakeholders engaged in the recovery activities and the affected community. This strategy will reflect holistic, long-term approaches which enhance social, natural, built and economic outcomes for the individuals, families and communities and build resilience in preparation for future emergencies.

This will include a standard process for capturing the 'Lessons Learnt' during Recovery based on debriefs, reviews and analysis.

9.5. Managed Withdrawal

The Operational Recovery Plan will ensure the reduction and eventual withdrawal of recovery services is well planned and communicated in a timely manner to the community. Recognising that recovery needs can continue for many years, recovery services may also be transitioned to business-as-usual activities of local government or local service providers as required.

The decision to conclude recovery efforts will be made by the Local Recovery Coordination Group in consultation with the community.

9.6. Debriefing and Evaluation

Following any operational activity, it is important to identify and adopt any 'Lessons Learnt' so actions can be undertaken to continuously improve operations. Debriefs and reviews should be undertaken regularly to ensure a continuous improvement approach to the Recovery.

A Post Incident Analysis should be conducted by the Local Recovery Coordination Group as soon as practicable after the cessation of recovery activities, and then as necessary longer term to ensure effective long-term recovery from an emergency event.

In the event of a Community Recovery funded by Category C, Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements WA, an external recovery evaluation may be required. Refer to the internal Emergency Operational Support Manual for further information.

The findings of the post incident analysis, debrief or review should be presented to the Local Emergency Management Committee and amendments made to the Local Emergency Management Arrangements as necessary.

9.7. Mainstream Services

The CEO is aware of the responsibility to ensure normal Shire Business Continuity during an emergency event. The Shire is in the process of reviewing and updating its Business Continuity Plan that identifies resourcing, structures and provides opportunities for external assistance should it be necessary. Plans in place are adaptable to cover evolving situations and scenarios as they arise.

10. Recovery Roles and Responsibilities

10.1. Recovery Coordination Model

Complex incidents may arise that require action or assistance from a district, state or federal level. The State Emergency Management Framework outlines recovery arrangements for WA. Depending on the complexity of the recovery response required, the level of state involvement will change. The State Recovery Coordinator is responsible for assessing and recommending the recovery level of an event. Local government may request that the State Recovery Coordinator undertake an assessment or reassessment of the level of State support needed for recovery.

In all levels of recovery, the Shire will have a role to play. For less complex incidents, local government will manage and coordinate the recovery program, for more complex recovery programs, the State will 'lead' the recovery coordination, whilst local government will lead 'community focused and local level recovery activities'. The [Recovery Coordination Model can be found online](#) or in the internal Emergency Operational Support Manual.

10.2. Shire of Murray responsibility in Recovery

Section 36(b) of the *Emergency Management Act 2005* establishes the function of local government is to "to manage recovery following an emergency affecting the community in its district." The Shire must prepare, maintain and test a Local Emergency Management Recovery Plan (this Plan) and appoint at least one Local Recovery Coordinator.

The Shire must establish a Local Recovery Coordination Group when needed and coordinate local-level recovery activities in accordance with plans, strategies and policies that it determines.

10.3. Local Recovery Coordinator

The Officer positions within the Shire likely to be appointed as a Local Recovery Coordinator are;

- Director Community and Economic Development
- Director Infrastructure Services
- Director Corporate Services
- Manager Ranger and Emergency Management

The Shire's CEO has the discretion to appoint any of the above or an alternate Shire Officer as the Local Recovery Coordinator depending on the scale and nature of recovery.

The Local Recovery Coordinator has responsibilities before, during and after an emergency to help ready the community for Recovery. This involves planning, preparedness and community engagement activities. Refer to the internal Emergency Operational Support Manual for further information on the roles and responsibilities of the Local Recovery Coordinator.

10.4. Local Recovery Coordination Group

The Local Recovery Coordination Group's role is to coordinate and support local management of the recovery processes by assessing the consequences of the event and coordinating recovery activities to rebuild, restore and rehabilitate the social, built, economic and natural environments during and after an emergency event.

It is a multi-agency, collaborative body which has the strategic, decision-making responsibility for managing and coordinating all aspects of the recovery. It provides a collaborative forum to assess needs, manage resources and funding and establish the required sub-committee structures to meet the community's need and priorities.

The Local Recovery Coordination Group can be convened by the Shire CEO and/or the Shire's appointed Local Recovery Coordinator.

Refer to the internal Emergency Operational Support Manual for further information on the membership and the roles and responsibilities of the Local Recovery Coordination Group.

10.5. Inclusive Community Involvement

The Shire is committed to creating an inclusive recovery where all voices are heard. Inclusive engagement is essential to effective emergency management. Actively involving culturally and socially diverse communities helps ensure emergency planning, communication and response/recovery arrangements are accessible, relevant and responsive to the needs of all people. By working collaboratively with diverse groups, recovery agencies can build trust, strengthen community resilience and support equitable outcomes before, during and after emergencies.

Effective recovery requires that community members are able to actively participate in their own recovery, by determining their own needs and shaping recovery programs and activities. Collaborative, community-led approaches should be encouraged through the Local Recovery Coordination Group. Community led recovery has been shown to be faster and more effective, resulting in better outcomes by building on inherent strengths which exist within communities. This involves a community driven approach which encourages strong, inclusive community participation and leadership in planning, implementation and evaluating recovery processes.

10.6. Local Recovery Coordination Group Subcommittees

The Local Recovery Coordination Group may, depending on the scale, impact and complexity of an emergency event, form additional Subcommittees to assist the Local Recovery Coordinator and the Local Recovery Coordination Group during the recovery process. Subcommittees may be formed in-line with following themes or as otherwise determined:

- Community (Social) Environment Subcommittee,
- Built Environment Subcommittee,
- Natural Environment Subcommittee,
- Economic Environment Subcommittee.

The work of all sub-committees should be driven by community priorities in the short, medium and long term and embody the National Principles of Disaster Recovery in their approaches.

For further information on the membership and roles and responsibilities of these subcommittees refer to the internal Emergency Operational Support Manual.

10.7. Communications

Information management and two-way communication is critical to the success of all aspects of recovery. It is integral to facilitating community involvement in recovery and effective decision making. Information will be accessible to a range of diverse audiences, in a variety of situations.

During emergencies, established communication channels can be disrupted, which may result in the community feeling disconnected and isolated from their families, friends, existing community networks and services.

A communication plan to meet the specific short, medium and long term requirements of the recovery will be developed.

11. Resources and Facilities

11.1. Resources and contacts

A comprehensive list of the resources and contact details for recovery have been identified and can be found in the internal Shire of Murray Contacts and Resource Register.

11.2. Local Recovery Centre

The Local Recovery Coordination Group may establish a Local Recovery Centre. This Local Recovery Centre, or 'One Stop Shop' enables the affected community to easily gain access to information, assistance and support from various Shire services and other agencies. Further information pertaining to the establishment of the Local Recovery Centre can be found in the internal Emergency Operational Support Manual.

11.3. Financial Arrangements

The primary responsibility for safeguarding and restoring public and private assets affected by an emergency rests with the asset owner. However, government recognises that communities and individuals do not always have the resources to provide for their own recovery and therefore financial assistance is available in some circumstances.

It is important to note that such assistance is not provided as an alternative to commercial insurance or other mitigation strategies, and generally it remains the asset owner's responsibility to safeguard assets.

For further information refer to the internal Emergency Operational Support Manual.

11.4. Insurance of Assets

The Shire have arrangements in place to insure their assets. Refer to the internal Emergency Operational Support Manual for further information.

11.5. Internal Funding

The Shire has arrangements in place to be financially prepared to undertake and fund recovery activities, if necessary.

In an emergency, section 6.8(1)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1995* allows expenditure from municipal funds, not included in the annual budget, to be authorised by the Shire President at the time of an emergency. Regulation 11 (2) of the *Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996* states that tenders do not have to be publicly invited if goods and services are obtained from expenditure authorised in an emergency.

The Shire's Policy G11- Purchasing provides information on emergency purchases.

11.6. Financial Records

To ensure accurate records of costs associated with an emergency, the Shire have specific cost codes to which all costs associated with the recovery process will be allocated.

Refer to the Internal Emergency Operational Support Manual for further information.

11.7. External Funding

The State EM Policy 6 - "Recovery" and State EM Plan 6.10 - "Financial Assistance" outlines the States recovery funding arrangements.

11.8. Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements Western Australia (DRFAWA)

DRFA-WA is a joint arrangement between the State and Commonwealth Governments. It provides relief measures to assist communities recover from an eligible natural disaster event. DFES is the State Administrator of DRFA-WA.

Should a large-scale/costly event impact the Shire of Murray, the Shire shall contact the DFES Recovery Funding Team as soon as possible.

DRFAWA can be contacted via:

Phone: 1800 920 659

Email: drfawa@dfes.wa.gov.au

11.9. Premier's Natural Disaster Recovery Fund

The Premier's Natural Disaster Recovery Fund has been introduced to provide additional support to supplement the existing support mechanisms funded through Local, State and Commonwealth Government allocations, by tailoring support to the needs of the specific community and assessing applications and allocating funds in a timely manner. The Premier's Natural Disaster Recovery Fund will provide financial support to individuals, households, local businesses and community groups facing ongoing disruption and losses as they recover from natural disasters.

11.10. Public Appeals - Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund (LMDRF)

All cash donations resulting from public appeals should be directed to the LMDRF, as detailed in State EM Recovery Procedure 1 - "Management of Public Fundraising and Donations". Calls for public donations to assist with any emergency should be initiated by the Board of the LMDRF. Such calls may be either on the initiative of the Board itself or by the Board in consultation with any Government or statutory body. The commencement of an appeal fund does not override the statutory obligations, on the part of various government agencies, to provide welfare, relief and reconstruction assistance to those affected by emergencies.

Further information in regard to the LMDRF can be found on the following link:
<https://appealswa.org.au>

11.11. Services Australia (Centrelink)

Centrelink will ensure that payments to its existing clients in the area affected by the emergency are not disrupted and may provide financial assistance to any person whose livelihood has been affected by the emergency. Services Australia coordinates the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment.

12. Donated Goods and Services

Where possible, donations of goods should be discouraged as they are difficult to manage. Cash donations provide the opportunity to utilise local services which in turn assists with the recovery of local businesses. Monetary donations will be referred to the Lord Mayors Distress Relief Fund if established.

12.1. Spontaneous Volunteers

Where possible, people who are interested in volunteering should register before an emergency happens. More information is available on the following website:
<https://emergency.volunteer.org.au>.

Coordination and management of spontaneous volunteers should be conducted through the Local Recovery Coordination Group. Further assistance may be sought from Volunteering WA with details contained in their fact sheet.

Responsibilities under the *Work, Health and Safety Act 2020* should be addressed when managing volunteers involved in providing recovery activities and programs. The safety and wellbeing of volunteers that are utilised in recovery activities and programs will be the direct responsibility of the Shire unless the volunteers are members of a volunteer organisation.

For more information refer to the internal Operational Resource Manual.

12.2. Shire of Murray Staff

Shire of Murray staff will be a critical resource to manage recovery. The extent of recovery operations should not be underestimated as recovery can be a lengthy and complex process. Depending on the nature of the event, some services may be required for months and often years after the emergency impact.

When managing employees during an emergency event and subsequent recovery, Managers should be aware of the impact of stress, fatigue and pressure on personnel. Exposure to vicarious trauma, changes to work roles and long hours can impact employee wellbeing. As the majority of Shire employees live and work in the Shire of Murray community, Managers should also be aware that some employees may have been personally impacted by the emergency event. The Shire's Fatigue Management Statement provide advice on ensuring employee wellbeing.

In an effort to adequately manage personnel resources, Managers are to complete Recovery Attendance Roster forms and Recovery Attendance Forms (Timesheet).

12.3. Additional personnel requirements

Depending on the extent of the emergency, additional employees may be required to meet the demands of the recovery operations as well as the need to continue the day to day operations of the Shire. The number of employees required should be determined as soon as possible to ensure adequate resources are available. In the medium to long term, recruitment of additional personnel to meet ongoing demand, may be a necessity.

An Memorandum of Cooperation - Provision of Emergency Support 2025 – 2030 has been signed between the Shire and the City of Armadale, City of Melville, City of Cockburn, City of Fremantle, City of Rockingham, City of Kwinana, Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale, City of Mandurah and Shire of Waroona, which outlines sharing of resources, including human resources, during emergencies and during post-incident recovery which affects one or more of the partnering local governments.



**Shire of
Murray**

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