

CITY OF GREATER GERALDTON-ABROLHOS ISLANDS LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Name	Local Emergency Management Committee	Meeting No.	2/2015
Meeting Date	26 th February 2015		
Meeting Time	09:00		
Meeting Location	City of Greater Geraldton Council Chambers		
Attendees	Andrew Darbyshire (CGG Community Fire Manager) Anne Fraser (Red Cross) Cr Bob Hall (CGG Councillor) Cheryl Moore (Red Cross) Diane Blair (Durack) Garth Grimsley (DPAW) Mayor Ian Carpenter (CGG) Konrad Seidl (CGG LEMC Coordinator) Leonie Richards (Gtn Airport) Lynne Hunt (St Johns Ambulance) Hayley Williamson (CGG Environmental Health) Rod Gillis (Main Roads) Marlene Stevens (AFP) Shilo O'Neil (WA Police) Martin North (Geraldton Port) Murray Smith (Durack) Darren Cole (CGG Community Law and Safety) Johannes Muller, (LEMC Administrator)	By Invitation	Arthur Muhl (ABC Local Radio)
		Apologies	Ange Monaghan Bob Urquhart Craig Wing David Rose Jeff Milkins John Lane Jonelle Tyson Keith Shaw Margaret Denton Mark Chadwick Mark Salt Martin Haime Pip Allen Tiffanie Hutchinson
		Distribution	

Ian Carpenter
 28/4/2015

DECLARATION OF OPENING

Chair Ian Carpenter, welcomes all in attendance and declares the meeting open at 09:00.

CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THE 13th NOVEMBER 2014

Confirmed: **Cr Bob Hall** Seconded: **Unanimous**

AGENCY PRESENTATION

Ian Carpenter introduces and thanks Arthur Muhl, ABC Local Radio for his attendance and invites Arthur to give the committee an overview of ABC Radio's involvement in emergency management.

Arthur thanks Ian for the opportunity and explains the ABC role as broadcaster in emergency management - dot pointed below. Arthur invites spontaneous interjections should anyone have a question.

- The main broadcasting studio is located in Geraldton.
- Three transmitters are in use.
- A vast area is covered which includes Kalbarri, Meekatharra and as far afield as Ravensthorpe covering the entire Mid-West and Wheat belt.
- Some listeners complain about interruptions to cricket broadcasts but in the main listeners are generous with their comments recognising the importance of the service provided.
- The majority of the community want to be kept informed regarding adverse weather conditions, fire bans etcetera.
- The ABC is proud of its successes over the years and a range of ongoing improvements that have been achieved, entrenching the ABC service footprint in the community.
- Planning and development remains a continuous focus with other agencies and studios to ensure that all operate from the same script with synchronises broadcasts and information.
- Documentation is updated every October.

Ian Carpenter interposes and informs Arthur that it may prove beneficial for the ABC to have access to the Emergency Contacts Directory to augment their documentation and instructs Johannes to provide Arthur with a copy. (Done)
Arthur thanks Ian and continues with his informative presentation.

- The main aim of the broadcaster is to keep the community informed, involved and updated.
- Budget cuts to the broadcaster wont impact on servicing Emergency Management broadcasting. The broadcaster will adapt to meet this need.
- Currently the ABC is involved in a big push to utilise social media, focussing mainly mobile phones followed by Facebook and twitter. These have proved to be very useful tools providing instant updating and identified as the way of the future with less reliance on radio broadcasts as the main messaging platform.



Martin North asks if the Geraldton Studio is equipped with emergency power supply should this be required.

Arthur confirms that this is indeed the case. The ABC has a huge transformer and battery backup should this be required.

- Regional WA stations will in the near future have streaming capabilities, however Geraldton will unfortunately miss out as the satellite does not have sufficient channels available.
- DFES has generously indicated that they are willing to provide alternative accommodation for the broadcaster should the need arise to vacated their current location.
- Arthur stresses that agencies that provide the broadcaster with harvest ban/total fire ban alerts must ensure that this information is submitted to the ABC before 10:00am. It is most frustrating if these alerts are received after this time and in reality need not happen as this information is available well in advance of this cut off time.

Ian Carpenter thanks Arthur for his candid and interesting presentation which is confirmed by an enthusiastic nodding of heads.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS DIRECTORY

Ian Carpenter encourages all to advise Johannes of any updates/changes to the emergency contacts directory. It is important that this document be kept up to date and current at all times.

AERODROME EMERGENCY PLAN

Leonie advised that as a practical Aerodrome Emergency exercise was conducted during 2014 a desktop exercise is required during 2015 to meet the Civil Aviation Safety Authority requirements. The exercise is planned for mid-June and invitations will be forwarded once the date has been confirmed.

POST INCIDENT REPORTS

Andy Darbyshire briefs the committee regarding Bush Fire Brigade activities since the last meeting.

- 48 fires were attended by various brigades.
- Of these the main incidents can be attributed to dumped cars being set alight.
- Pole top fires and
- Fires getting away from persons not familiar with restrictions and summer conditions.
- Bush fire brigade members have performed in an exemplary manner to date which includes protecting our immediate community and volunteering deployment to assist brigades struggling with several fires down South.
- Currently the focus is on servicing equipment and conducting intensive training sessions which has been identified as essential as older and experienced members ready themselves for retirement.



- There is concern that more total fire bans have been imposed this year compared to previous years. In many instances this has proved to be unnecessary and overkill. Unnecessary bans make it impossible for the community and agencies such as Western Power to conduct their daily business adequately.

Garth Grimsley advises that DPAW attended six major and twenty minor fires to date. DPAW brigade members were also deployed down South to assist there.

POST EXERCISE REPORTS

No items for this meeting.

ERM PROGRESS

Konrad Seidl informs the committee regarding the WALGA tool and advises that State funding will be sought for workshops.

Konrad mentions that the Shire of Irwin is looking into electronic roadside signage to make the community aware of fire bans etcetera. Konrad suggest we approach them and investigate a joint venture and also discuss any relevant issues around this with Main Roads.

Currently this type of messaging is on the City's website but this only informs persons who access the data directly. Electronic signs will be more visible and reach a bigger audience which is what we want to achieve.

Ian Carpenter mentions that he has recently been in conversation with the City CEO about this and Ken (CEO) thought it was a great idea which could be utilised for varied community messages.

Konrad advises that he would continue following this up.

TREATMENT STRATEGIES PROGRESS

As per ERM progress (bottom of page 5)

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Ian Carpenter highlights the need for planning around the Abrolhos Islands. Formerly the City had no jurisdictional involvement with the Island which fell under the control of Northampton, however now that a boundary change has been realized the City is in a position to do so formally and early planning will be of the essence.

Konrad Seidl agrees and points out that a greater understanding of the Islands demographics is required to facilitate proper planning.

Ian Carpenter asks if Konrad has a plan to take this forward.



Konrad Seidl mentions that we are still in the early stages of this new addition. Currently we are looking at major stakeholders who will be tasked to formulate and deliver a workable plan.

Ian Carpenter wants to know if the Port will be involved, for instance should there be an event such as an oil spill.

Martin North confirms that this will indeed be the case. Geraldton Port has been deputised as the HASMAT and will certainly respond as and when required.

Leonie Richards asks if Shine Aviation will be included. They are the main air charter to the Islands and know the landing strips well. Leonie also wants to know who controls the landing strips now that the Islands are under the City jurisdiction.

Ian Carpenter replies that he thinks it may fall under Fisheries however this is something we will investigate further as we develop our plans.

Konrad Seidl suggests amongst other things that we embark on a fly over to prepare our thinking and get a better idea of what we are dealing with.

Bob Hall agrees and mentions that this is a prudent time to get our heads around this matter and not be found wanting.

Ian Carpenter mentions that the Tourism Commission including four ministers have been invited to visit the Islands. Ian thinks it will be logical to team up with them to advance our requirements. It makes perfect sense that if our tourist trade blossoms as a result of the Islands then so must our preparedness to deal with emergencies.

Ian points out that the West End leased land has been identified by the Department of Planning as an inundation risk location. The risk to timely evacuation is a threat as there is basically only one road in and one road out.

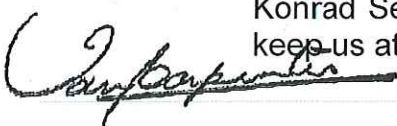
Konrad Seidl agrees and points out that the original evacuation plan is old, outdated and fails to identify an HMA who will be required to make a call should an evacuation be required. Leases at West End will expire in 2024 and we need to identify the risks before this date to identify whether the responsibility lies with the State or Local Government. We are however restricted as we await the Department of Planning to complete their study.

Rod Gillis points out that in the event of a Tsunami the Marine Research Centre will be gone and asks if this will be included in the planning.

Ian Carpenter points out that current research indicates that a Tsunami event should come from the North and in effect would miss the research centre; however we will await the inundation study which should shed more light on this and formulate our thinking and planning.

EXERCISE SCHEDULE

Konrad Seidl points out that we need to seriously commit to training exercises to keep us at the pointy end of emergency management.



Konrad suggests that we concentrate on something in the locality of the West End. We could consider an explosion in the Port with the emission of toxic fumes being emitted from fuel lines.

Martin North agrees with Konrad and sites this as a good idea.

Bob Hall mentions that a gas leak in the area could also prove very challenging.

BEGIN ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN

Konrad reminds all that in terms of SEMC Policy 2.5 we need to have this done.

- New Risk Profile
- Conduct an exercise

AGENCY UPDATES

Shilo O'Neil (WA Police) extremely busy in many areas but none related to emergency management.

Andrew Darbyshire (CGG Community Fire Manager)

- DFES currently involved in fine tuning strategies.
- Community awareness lacking which could translate into serious ramifications.
- Annual firebreak inspections has been completed and proved very successful. Infringements have dropped significantly compared to previous years and clearly shows that the message is getting out there. Thanks to Konrad and his staff who did a sterling job in administrative work considering that staffing was down.

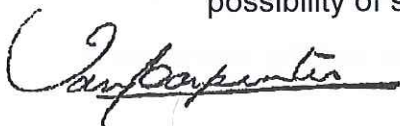
Ian Carpenter concurs.

- There is a tendency for over indication when fire bans are implemented. This over cautious reaction does not help agencies such as Western Power to conduct business
- DFES needs to re-evaluate and be more flexible.

Martin North (Geraldton Port) Recent State Emergency Management Plan (Marine) requires further defining and interpretation as it fails to identify the HMA for a vessel on fire

Leonie Richards (Gtn Airport) An airport attendance group has been set up to meet bi-monthly. Should any agency require discussion at this meeting please contact Leonie.

Konrad Seidl advises that the previous Aero Medical centre will house the Community Fire Manager and Chief Bush Fire Control Officer as well as Moonyoonooka brigade. The facility will provide more training room as well as the possibility of setting up an operations room.



Cr. Bob Hall asks if the locality of the Moonyoonooka brigade will assist in responses to the airport and is there an adequate water source.

Leonie confirms that the brigade will be in a position to assist and a tap in line is available via a booster pump.

Hayley Williamson (CGG Environmental Health) advises of District Emergency Management training coming up soon. Invitations will be distributed closer to the date.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Ian Carpenter raises the question of uniting the City of Greater Geraldton, Northampton and Chapman Valley LEMC. DEMC is of the opinion that this will increase our collective collaboration and support.

Merging these LEMC bodies will increase our attendance figures but I don't see this being a major problem. Unanimously accepted by all.

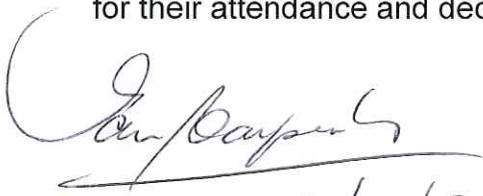
Konrad Seidl mentions that the animal welfare plan is on track. As part of the grant agreement we are required to execute the plan and compile a video. As for the recovery plan we are still in discussion with the State to develop this plan

NEXT MEETING – DATE, TIME & VENUE

Chair Ian Carpenter advises that the next meeting of the City of Greater Geraldton – Abrolhos Islands Local Emergency Management Committee meeting will be held at the City of Greater Geraldton Council Chambers on Thursday 21st May 2015 commencing at 09:00am.

MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business for discussion, Chairman Ian Carpenter thanks all for their attendance and declares the meeting closed at 10:10.


8/4/2015

