

**SHIRE OF  
MT MARSHALL**



**Local Emergency Management  
Committee**

**Minutes of the Mt Marshall Local Emergency  
Management Committee meeting held in Council  
Chambers, 80 Monger St, Bencubbin on Tuesday 9  
November 2021,  
commencing at 4.00pm.**

This page has  
been left blank intentionally

---

# **DISCLAIMER**

## **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE REQUESTED TO READ THROUGH AND FAMILIARISE THEMSELVES WITH THE DISCLAIMER**

No responsibility whatsoever is implied or accepted by the Shire of Mt Marshall for any act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council or Committee meetings. The Shire of Mt Marshall disclaims any liability for any loss whatsoever and howsoever caused arising out of reliance by any person or legal entity on any such act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during Council or Committee meetings. Any person or legal entity who acts or fails to act in reliance upon any statement, act or omission made in a Council or Committee meeting does so at that person's or legal entity's own risk.

In particular and without derogating in any way from the broad disclaimer above, in any discussion regarding any planning application or application for a license, any statement or intimation of approval made by a member or officer of the Shire of Mt Marshall during the course of any meeting is not intended to be and is not to be taken as notice of approval from the Shire of Mt Marshall. The Shire of Mt Marshall warns that anyone who has an application lodged with the Shire of Mt Marshall must obtain and should only rely on written confirmation of the outcome of the application, and any conditions attaching to the decision made by the Shire of Mt Marshall in respect of the application.

**Minutes of the Mt Marshall Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting  
held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

- 1. Declaration of Opening**
- 2. Record of Attendance/Apologies/Approved Leave of Absence**
- 3. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings**
  - 3.1 Minutes of the Mt Marshall Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 10 August 2021.**
- 4. Reports of Officers**
- 5. Other Reports**
- 6. General Business**
- 7. New Business of an Urgent Nature Introduced by Decision of the Meeting**
- 8. Next Meeting – Tuesday 15 February 2022, commencing at 4.00pm**
- 9. Meeting Closure**

Minutes of the Mt Marshall Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting  
held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021

**1.0 Declaration of Opening / Announcement of Visitors**

Cr Sachse welcomed committee members to the meeting and declared the meeting open at 4:00pm.

**2.0 Record of Attendance / Apologies**

**In Attendance**

Cr Anthony Sachse	Shire President/Chair
Mr John Nuttall	Chief Executive Officer
Mr Peter Geraghty	SJA Co-ordinator Kununoppin SC
Mr Craig Lewington	Principal – Beacon PS
Miss Rebecca Watson	Community Development Officer
Ms Lisa Malatesta	Principal – Bencubbin PS
Ms Jo Spadaccini	DESO – Dept of Communities
Ms Sue Scully	Bencubbin Silver Chain RAN
Mrs Yvette Grigg	DEM Advisor DFES
Mr Damian Tomas	Chief Bushfire Control Officer
Cr Leeanne Gobbart	Councillor
Mr Ian Dawson	SJA Community Paramedic

**Apologies**

Ms Karen Horsley	Operations Manager East WACHS
Snr Const Robert Duffey	Acting Deputy Chair/WAPOL
Sgt David Tapscott	WAPOL
Mr Daniel Hendriksen	Area Officer DFES
Mr Noel Miguel	Captain Beacon VESU
Mr Scott Rastall	SJA Community Paramedic
Mr Matt Grinter	Relief Beacon Silver Chain RAN

**3.0 Confirmation of Minutes**

**3.1 Minutes of the Mt Marshall Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held Tuesday 10 August 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings**

**LEMC2021/004 OFFICER RECOMMENDATION / COMMITTEE DECISION:**

*That the minutes of the Mt Marshall Local Emergency Management Committee meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings.*

**Moved: Mr P Geraghty**

**Seconded: Mr Ian Dawson**

**Carried 13/0**

## **4.0 Reports of Officers**

### **4.1 Regulatory Officer**

At the Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting held on Friday 1 October 2021, a recommendation to increase the restrictions on burning garden refuse was made. It was recommended that restrictions on burning garden refuse throughout the restricted burning period should be increased to include a permit being required and restrictions on burning of garden refuse throughout the prohibited burning period be increased to include prohibition. In the October Council meeting, an item was put forward regarding the burning of garden refuse during restricted and prohibited periods. It was decided that the Chief Executive Officer would be directed to prepare an appropriate policy and or procedure regarding the Committee's recommendation relating to burning of garden refuse and bring it back to the next available Council meeting. We would like to get your thoughts on this before we write a policy and or procedure. If you have any comments that may help us to write an appropriate policy and or procedure, please let us know.

A new Welbungin Bush Fire Facility was approved in the 2021/2022 Local Government Grants Scheme Capital Grants. The tender process has started for this facility, and we hope to have the works completed by the end of May 2022.

#### **4.1.2 Information for the Committee**

##### **Proposed meeting Dates:**

Proposed meeting dates for the 2021/2022 financial year are as follows:

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022

##### **Updates to LEMA**

Updates to the Local Emergency Management Plan have been made including removing the Masonic Lodge from the Evacuation Centres in Bencubbin as it is not the Shire's building, adding the Beacon Hall to the Evacuation Centres in Beacon, updating the ECC contacts for the Beacon Hall, adding the CEACA units in both towns to the Special Needs Groups, updated the contact register and updated details under the Beacon Hall in Evacuation Centres. The highlighted sections are still yet to be confirmed.

##### **Review of LEMA – Attachment 4.1.2**

Discussions:

- Burning (Garden Refuse) during prohibited period
- Permits for burning of domestic waste
- DFES thoughts (not present today to provide them)
- Issues discussed around policy, enforcement etc

**Minutes of the Mt Marshall Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting  
held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

The group supports the immediate introduction of a ban on burning of garden refuse during the prohibited burning season. A policy around permits for burning of garden refuse at other times will be worked on over the next few months.

There were no questions or issues with the LEMA update. Yvette Grigg provided information that next year will be the five (5) year major review of the LEMA

## **5.0 Other Reports**

### **5.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer**

- One fire this year already dealt with
- Issue with Fire Trucks being at the mechanic for service and the brigade not knowing raised – Action: Shire to notify the Whatsapp BFB group when a truck is being serviced
- Upcoming harvest ban communications raised given RO has left. Action: Damian Tomas will take the necessary readings (in conjunction with the BFCO's) and determine when a ban needs to be imposed. Damian will communicate this to the CEO who will be responsible for sending out the group message and the phone message.
- Concern over Bencubbin Rec Centre Fire Fighting raised and the desire that a pump be installed. Estimated cost of pump \$20,000. No Shire budget for that this year. Action: Pump to be considered in the 22/23 annual budget. In the interim some signage to be erected which directs people in the case of a fire emergency to leave via the Powell Street exit to avoid conflict with the Fire Truck

### **5.2 St John Ambulance Services**

- Given a recent situation where phone contact was lost north of Beacon the Beacon van now has a satellite phone
- New vans due for Bencubbin and Beacon in 2023 – may be slightly delayed due to availability issues
- RFDS day time flight from Beacon last week – no issues reported
- COVID awareness training to start soon. Potential for there to be a specific 'COVID only' van. Volunteers have been vaccinated as required
- March 2022 there will be a major recruitment drive for volunteers as numbers are concerningly low across all of the towns. Total of 23 volunteers to cover all of the sub-centre area now.
- Bencubbin has the corpul unit and Beacons will arrive in December. Training still to occur
- Wednesday 17/11 is the AGM

### **5.3 Department of Fire & Emergency Services**

Nil report. The Chair passed on the thanks of the Committee for the well received Beacon Shed opening and the exercises which had been run recently

### 5.3.1 Bushfires

Nil

### 5.3.2 Emergency Management

#### COVID 19 – Wheatbelt OASG

With other state and international borders now open, WACHS are concerned that an outbreak is much more likely. Current data is very clear, approximately 95% of patients in Intensive Care Units are unvaccinated. WACHS recommend all residents become vaccinated as a matter of priority.

At a recent meeting of the Wheatbelt Operational Area support Group (OASG), WACHS advised that mass vaccination clinics had started and would be run across the Wheatbelt in a number of locations including Nungarin, Tammin, Trayning, Bindoon, Lancelin, Toodyay, Koorda, Beacon, Cunderdin, and Mukinbudin. If anyone is unsure of dates please contact me.

WACHS are also undertaking planning for outbreaks, currently concentrating on areas of higher risk, mainly on major highways. COVID surge testing plans are currently being prepared in consultation with local Shires, local SES and WA Police for the following towns: Southern Cross, Merredin, Narrogin, Northam, Moora and Jurien Bay. Plans include everything that will be needed if WACHS need to quickly set up a COVID surge testing drive through clinics either off hospital sites such as in local Rec Centres, or on site in hospital car parks.

Just a reminder that should outbreaks occur, the response will need to be multi agency, WACHS will need assistance from a variety of agencies around your LEMC tables.

Meanwhile, COVID 19 testing continues to occur across the 25 Hospitals in the WACHS Wheatbelt Region.

Please continue to assist by advertising vaccination clinics and promoting factual information on the benefits of being vaccinated. Many tools and information sheets exist, please advise if you need assistance sourcing.

#### Preparing Australia Programme - \$600 million over 4 years

On 5 May 2021 the Prime Minister announced the Preparing Australia Program which will invest \$600 million toward households and communities to ensure they are better prepared for future disasters. Round one of the program is called *Preparing Australian Communities Program for projects of local significance* (PACP Local). The program will support projects that mitigate or reduce the disaster risk, impact and consequence associated with large-scale natural hazards.

- PACP local (this round of the programme) is for \$150 million available from 2021 -22 to 2024 -25.
- It will support locally identified and locally led projects that will improve the resilience of communities against three hazards - bushfires, flood and tropical cyclones.
- WA have 24 LGs listed by the commonwealth as priority across these three hazards, and applications from these LGs will be given priority. We only have one LG listed in the Wheatbelt, Moora for flooding.
- However, all LGs are still able to apply.
- Grants are between 20,000 (minimum) and \$10 million (maximum)
- Applications for the first round will open on **10 December** and close at 2pm WST on **6 January 2022**.



**Minutes of the Mt Marshall Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting  
held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

A meeting is being conducted this week, where I will learn a lot more of the detail, and be able to advise further, in particular whether it is worth your time applying as an LG not on the priority list.

The DFES SEMC business unit are providing a communications support role to this programme, so I am happy to act as the link if you have any specific queries.

**Australian Warnings system: Changes to Bushfire warnings.**

WA is joining with other Australian states and territories to deliver nationally consistent emergency information through the Australian Warning System. (AWS)

AWS is an easy to understand warning system to help you stay safe during an emergency, no matter where in Australia you are. The new framework is being introduced using a phased approach, starting with an update to the way bushfire warnings appear on Emergency WA.

From late 2021, the bushfire warning colours and icons will change to align with the AWS standard. Bushfire **Advice** warnings will appear **Yellow** and **Watch and Act** warnings will appear **orange**. Bushfire **emergency** warnings will remain red.



**5.4 Department of Communities – Emergency Services Unit**

**District Emergency Services Officer – Wheatbelt Update: October 2021**

**Department of Communities - Wheatbelt District - Contact arrangement for welfare support in emergencies.**

Change of afterhours contact details for activation of Department of Communities. In an emergency, if welfare support services are required after business hours, please contact the Emergency Services On Call Officer on 0418 943 835

During business hours, please contact the Department of Communities office listed in your Local Emergency Welfare Plan.

**Increased Response Capacity in the District**

There is now a response trailer positioned at Northam containing 70 sets of bedding and equipment to assist in the setup and running of an evacuation centre. Larger locations are also being set up with 20 sets of bedding.

Minutes of the Mt Marshall Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting  
held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021

### **Social Distancing (SD) in Evacuation Centres**

In the event of an evacuation centre being required we will need to address the social distancing requirements in play at that time. This may involve looking at more than one facility to avoid overcrowding or requesting people to stay with family or friends if available (that also adheres to SD rules). The estimated capacity for each centre listed in the LEWP are being revised and will be shown in two sections. Non COVID and COVID capacities. I will have discussions with the Shires around this and what other resources are available if required.

A copy of the COVID – 19 Welfare Centre Guide (V1.04 08 March 2021) has been distributed to the Local Governments in the Wheatbelt in preparation should a Welfare Centre be required.

COVID status will be confirmed with Department of Health on activation and required actions will be notified at the time.

The key points:

- Travellers, visitors and tourists to leave the evacuation area **if safe to do so**
- Shelter in Place **if safe to do so**
- Shelter with family and friends **if safe to do so**
- Utilise commercial/alternative accommodation options **if available**
- Use welfare centres as a last resort

If you would like any further information, please call my mobile 0429 102 614 or email me [joanne.spadaccini@communities.wa.gov.au](mailto:joanne.spadaccini@communities.wa.gov.au).

Kind regards

Jo Spadaccini

District Emergency Services Officer - Wheatbelt

Department of Communities - Emergency Services Unit

COVID19 Welfare Centre Guide – **Attachment 5.4a**

Local Emergency Welfare Plan Merredin District – **Attachment 5.4b**

### **5.5 Bencubbin Police**

Nil

### **5.6 Acting Operations Manager Eastern WACHS**

Nil

### **5.7 Silver Chain Nursing Association**

Both centres have passed recent tests for necessary accreditations

No backfill currently available as the nursing workforce is reducing

Silver Chain have lost some nurses who did not want to be vaccinated

Mr Matthew Grinter has commenced at Beacon as the permanent nurse

**Minutes of the Mt Marshall Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting  
held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

Over Christmas Beacon will close but Bencubbin remain open. Some relief staff in New Year will allow Sue to have some leave

### **5.8 Education Department**

Beacon:

- Stand alone Bush Fire plan completed
- Discussions regarding best evacuation centre with Meg – changes made to LEMA to reflect Beacon Town Hall
- School evacuation practice will take place next week
- Some bush clearing around school has taken place

Bencubbin:

- Bush Fire plans completed
- Issues that were raised from the recent exercise have been addressed
- Majority of staff already had COVID vaccination

### **5.9 Community Development**

Shire are working on locating and training volunteers to assist at Beacon in an emergency if there is a delay in Shire Staff being able to attend.

### **5.10 Beacon Volunteer Emergency Services Brigade**

Nil

### **6.0 New Business of an Urgent Nature Introduced by Decision of the Meeting**

Nil

### **7.0 Next Meeting – Tuesday 15 February 2022 commencing at 4.00pm in Council Chambers, 80 Monger Street, Bencubbin**

### **8.0 Closure of Meeting**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.27pm

**These Minutes were confirmed at the Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 15 February 2022.**

---

Date

---

Cr ARC Sachse

---

Chair