

SHIRE OF JERRAMUNGUP



MINUTES

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

13 March 2023

A MEETING OF THE LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD IN THE JERRAMUNGUP CRC ON MONDAY 13 MARCH 2023 COMMENCING AT 12.05PM.

MINUTES

1. OPEN AND WELCOME

Sergeant Dave Atkins declared the meeting open at 12.05pm.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Mr Martin Cuthbert	CEO, Shire of Jerramungup (SoJ)
Sgt Dave Atkins	OIC, Jerramungup Police
Mr Russell Palmer	Community Emergency Services Manager, SoJ
Mr Mal Grant	Bushfire Risk Mitigation Coordinator, SoJ
Ms Michelle Duxbury	Department of Communities (via TEAMS)
Mr Alex Jones	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, SoJ
Mr Anthony Armstrong	Jerramungup VFES
Ms Deb Wahlston	Community Paramedic
Mr John Collins	DPIRD (via TEAMS)
Mr Wes Bailye	Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Ms Glenda Gray	Executive Assistant, SoJ, Minute Taker

3. APOLOGIES

Cr Joanne Iffla	President, Shire of Jerramungup (SoJ)
Charmaine Solomon	Deputy CEO, SoJ
Danielle Wisewould	St John Ambulance
Adam Smith	DFES DEMA Great Southern
Darren Prior	DFES BRMO
Guest Jodie Pollard	NEMA
Michael Batchelor	Bremer Bay VFES
Vince Hilder	DBCA

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

That the Minutes of the meeting held 12 December 2023 be confirmed.

Moved: Martin Cuthbert

Seconded: Dave Atkins

Carried

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Nil.

6. MEMBERSHIP UPDATES - Any updates to contacts Appendix 3

Nil.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- 7.1 Email from Michelle Duxbury – Local Government feedback request
- 7.2 Email Adam Smith – Great Southern DEMC

These emails were circulated to members by Russell.

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

8.1. LEMC Exercise

- Trying to schedule a date suitable for everyone.
- Looking at approximately three hours on a Saturday.
- Intend to incorporate LandSAR into Exercise.
- Risk assessment side needs a bit of notice.

8.2 NEMA, Jodie Pollard (Recovery Support Officer)

- No discussion due to Jodie being a late apology.

8.3 BEN Signs

- Making progress, the Ranger has replaced some lost signs and a few more have been ordered.
- Hoping this will be complete by next meeting.

9. ROUND TABLE

9.1 Community Emergency Services Manager (See Appendix 4)

- Lack of food was a bigger problem than accommodation, as there was barely enough for Ravensthorpe and Hopetoun, for example you couldn't buy bread.
- Road freight routes were cut off initially as roads were closed.
- For future incidents retailers should be given a heads up and different ways of accessing food should be explored.
- Apologies for calling out and standing down SoJ volunteers.

9.2 Community Paramedic (see Appendix 5)

- Written report attached.

9.3 Shire of Jerramungup

- Successful with both State and Federal funding for the cross runway at the Bremer Bay airstrip, so it will go ahead.
- Mark Cruickshank has been appointed Shire Ranger permanently.
- Tenders for the MAF work have been received.

9.4 CBFCO

- Very quiet fire season to date, with biggest response to Green Range in the City of Albany, and Shire of Ravensthorpe incidents.
- Local fires include two fires started by a chainsaw and a grader, a header fire in a shed, a suspicious fire on the side of South Coast Highway, a number of pole top fires, and a greenwaste fire at the Jerramungup tip.
- Two Vehicle Movement bans were imposed in the Shire.
- Currently in Restricted Burning period, permits are required and burning canola rows is permitted.

9.5 Department of Communities (see Appendix 6)

- Written report attached.
- Noted that State Support Plan is under review and local government feedback has been requested.

9.6 DPIRD (see Appendix 7)

- Written report attached.

9.7 Department of Fire and Emergency Services

- Supporting flooding in Kimberley region and in the eastern states.
- Eight more Bushfire Brigade members trained in Bremer Bay over the weekend.
- Adam Smith is enjoying his secondment to the Department of Education, and his DFES position will be filled next month.
- Bremer Bay has a new light unit and Jerramungup will receive a new light unit in the next year or so. These units have more protection for burn-over situations.
- During incidents it was apparent that there are issues with availability of accommodation travelling east. Temporary accommodation options (tents/marquees) were not deployed.
- Further basic bushfire training will be offered to firefighting volunteers in the area.
- A Bush Fire Ready Group has formed in the Point Henry Area.

9.8 Bushfire Risk Mitigation Coordinator

- The SoJ has received a MAF grant of \$330,000.
- Tenders to carry out the mitigation works are currently being assessed and will be awarded at the April Ordinary Council Meeting.
- Mitigation works in this round are in Bremer Bay, and Boxwood Hill and Gairdner townsites. Jerramungup will be addressed in the next round.
- Prescribed burning in various locations is planned, and a new burn prescription is to be completed for due west of the abalone farm.

9.9 Jerramungup VFES

- Feedback regarding Hopetoun fires – volunteers were called out too late in the afternoon to be able to work a night shift on the fire ground.

9.10 Jerramungup Police

- Volunteers do a fantastic job.
- Recently spoke with driver of road train (Water Corporation contractor) about not driving through middle of town.
- Police will be stationed in Bremer Bay for six or seven days over Easter.
- Jerramungup will soon have three Police officers, with the third position to be filled in the near future.
- The second position is to be filled by Ed who is arriving towards the end of March from Brookton.
- A Police Post will be established in Bremer Bay.
- During the fires in the Shire of Ravensthorpe there were a number of road blocks attended by Police from all over the Great Southern. There has previously been a discussion about eflares which enable blue and red lights which can be attached to signs or witches hats.

Action: Russell to purchase eflares for Brigades – check with Charmaine whether any have been ordered.

- Drivers were using google to find ways around road closures and this meant they were ending up in the fire ground – all side roads had to be closed to resolve this issue, firefighters were put at risk.

Action: Russell to raise at BFACs.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next LEMC meeting is to be held Monday, 12 June 2023, at the Jerramungup CRC.

11. CLOSURE

The meeting was declared closed at 12.45pm.

Appendix 1



JERRAMUNGUP LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

2022/23 MEETING & EXERCISE DATES

Period	Date	Location	Exercise
1 st Quarter	Monday 12 September 2022	Jerramungup CRC	
2 nd Quarter	Monday 12 December 2022	Bremer Bay VFES	Exercise TBA
3 rd Quarter	Monday 13 March 2023	Jerramungup CRC	
4 th Quarter	Monday 12 June 2023	Jerramungup CRC	

NOTE:

- Meeting start time is 1200hrs, unless otherwise advised.
- Agenda Items to be received 2 weeks prior to the meeting date. (8 dot points as per appendix 2).

Appendix 2

Local Emergency Management Committee Member Report Talking Points

1. What is your current capability for managing incidents/responses? (do you have enough trained and/or experienced people, resources)
2. What is your capacity (such as volunteer numbers) and resources looking like for the future? Do you have a volunteer recruitment strategy?
3. Are there any new or emerging risks which might impact on your organisation (changes to legislation, seasonal outlooks, new industrial developments)
4. Do you have any exercises planned? Can other agencies attend to participate or observe?
5. If you have had any incidents or exercises what were the lessons identified – are any these common to other organisations?
6. Thinking about your community/ies, how well prepared are they to respond to your hazard/emergency
7. What community engagement activities have you carried out / have planned
8. How resilient do you think your community is for your hazards and what could be done to improve community resilience?

Appendix 3

JERRAMUNGUP LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2022/23 CONTACT LIST (Updated September 2022)

Name	Position	Organisation	Contact No#	Email
Cr Joanne Iffla <i>Chairperson</i>	Shire President	Shire of Jerramungup 8 Vasey Street Jerramungup WA 6337	Ph: 9835 1022 M: 0429 374 298	joanne.iffila@jerramungup.wa.gov.au
Dave Atkins <i>Local Emergency Coordinator – Jerramungup Police District</i>	Officer in Charge	Jerramungup Police Station 6 Vasey Street, Jerramungup WA 6337	Ph: 9835 0222 M: 0436 849 508	dave.atkins@police.wa.gov.au jerramungup.police.station@police.wa.gov.au
Martin Cuthbert <i>Local Recovery Coordinator</i>	Chief Executive Officer	Shire of Jerramungup 8 Vasey Street Jerramungup WA 6337	Ph: 9835 1022 M: 0499 351 033	ceo@jerramungup.wa.gov.au
Charmaine Solomon <i>Local Welfare Liaison Officer</i>	Deputy Chief Executive Officer	Shire of Jerramungup 8 Vasey Street Jerramungup WA 6337	Ph: 9835 1022 M: 0429 351 025	dceo@jerramungup.wa.gov.au
Russell Palmer <i>Executive Officer</i>	Community Emergency Services Officer	Shire of Jerramungup 8 Vasey Street Jerramungup WA 6337	Ph: 9835 1022 M: 0438 498 221	ceso@jerramungup.wa.gov.au
Anthony Armstrong	Lieutenant	Jerramungup Volunteer Fire & Emergency Services Cnr Kokoda & Memorial Road Jerramungup WA 6337	M: 0427 651 561	michellearmstrong1@bigpomd.com impfesa@westnet.com.au
Mick Batchelor	Captain	Bremer Bay Volunteer Fire & Emergency Services John St Bremer Bay WA 6338	M: 0427 284 024	batchym@gmail.com bbfesa@westnet.com.au

Michele Duxbury	District Emergency Services Officer - State Welfare Incident Coordination Centre	Dept of Communities Peel Place Albany WA 6330	M: 0467 963 661	Michele.Duxbury@communities.wa.gov.au
Jonathan Boswell	District Officer – Natural Hazards	Dept of Fire & Emergency Services 5 Hercules Crescent Albany WA 6330	Ph: 9845 5000 M: 0427 005 114	jonathan.boswell@dfes.wa.gov.au
Deb Wahlstrom	Community Paramedic	St John Ambulance	M: 0498 844 017	deb.wahlstrom@stjohnwa.com.au
John Collins	Research Officer	Dept of Primary Industries & Regional Development 10 Dore Street Katanning WA 6337	Ph: 9821 3249 M: 0427 170 035	john.collins@dpird.wa.gov.au
Peter Gray	Operations Manager	Water Corporation – Great Southern 215 Lower Stirling Tce Albany WA 6330	Ph: 9842 4301 M: 0438 998 601	peter.gray@watercorporation.com.au
Mal Grant	Bushfire Risk Mitigation Coordinator	Shire of Jerramungup 8 Vasey Street Jerramungup WA 6337	Ph: 9835 1424 M: 0499 351 155	brpc@jerramungup.wa.gov.au
Vince Hilder	District Fire Coordinator	DBCA - Parks & Wildlife Services 120 Albany Hwy Albany WA 6330	Ph: 9842 4500 M: 0429 200 858	vince.hilder@dbca.wa.gov.au
Alex Jones	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	Shire of Jerramungup 8 Vasey Street Jerramungup WA 6337	Ph: 9836 1034 M: 0429 361 034	akmjones@gmail.com cbfco@jerramungup.wa.gov.au

Stephen Petersen	District Officer Esperance - DFES Esperance	Dept of Fire & Emergency Services Esperance Business Centre 75 Dempster Street 6450	Ph: 9071 3393 M: 0427 002 718	doesperanceurban@dfes.wa.gov.au Stephen.petersen@dfes.wa.gov.au
Wes Bailye	Area Officer – Stirlings (Fire)	Dept of Fire & Emergency Services 5 Hercules Crescent Albany WA 6330	Ph: 9845 5005 M: 0427 002 714	wes.bailye@dfes.wa.gov.au
Darlene Forbes Anne Gerick (Rotational)	Administration Remote Area Nurse	Bremer Bay Health Centre John Street Bremer Bay WA 6338	Ph: 9837 4026	darlene.forbes@health.wa.gov.au anne.gerick@health.wa.gov.au
Linda Brogan	Remote Area Nurse	Jerramungup Health Centre Kokoda Road Jerramungup WA 6337	Ph: 08 9835 1004 M: 0429 351 007	linda.brogan@health.wa.gov.au
Debra Eggleston	Director of Nursing	Ravensthorpe Hospital Queen St Ravensthorpe WA 6346	Ph: 08 9838 2211 M: 0428 937 895	debra.eggleston@health.wa.gov.au
Mark Cruickshank	Ranger	Shire of Jerramungup 8 Vasey Street Jerramungup WA 633	Ph: 08 9835 1022 M: 0429 351 022	council@jerramungup.wa.gov.au
Danielle Wisewould	Chairperson	St John Ambulance - Jerramungup 9 Kokoda Rd, Jerramungup, WA 6337	M: 0429 830 612	jerramungup.chair@stjohnwa.com.au
Danial Pell	District Officer – Marine Rescue	Dept of Fire & Emergency Services 5 Hercules Crescent Albany WA 6330	Ph: 08 9845 5000 M: 0437 634 472	danial.Pell@dfes.wa.gov.au

Darren Prior	Bushfire Risk Management Officer	Dept of Fire & Emergency Services 5 Hercules Crescent Albany WA 6330	Ph: 08 9845 5000 M: 0447 545 510	darren.prior@dfes.wa.gov.au
Adam Smith	District Emergency Management Advisor	Dept of Fire & Emergency Services 5 Hercules Crescent Albany WA 6330	Ph: 08 9845 5000 M: 0429 104 007	adam.smith@dfes.wa.gov.au
Rebecka Phipps	Constable	Jerramungup Police Station 6 Vasey Street, Jerramungup WA 6337	Ph: 98351022	Rebecka.Phipps@police.wa.gov.au
Jason Willcocks	Commander	Bremer Bay Marine Rescue John Street Bremer Bay WA 6338	M: 0429 651 785	jpwpjw@outlook.com bremerbayvmr@gmail.com
Jeremy Wisewould	Captain	Jerramungup Volunteer Fire & Emergency Services Cnr Kokoda & Memorial Road Jerramungup WA 6337	M: 0428 351 171	jmpelectrical@bigpond.com jmpfesa@westnet.com.au
Trisha Power	MPS Operations Manager	WA Country Health Service Great Southern	0429 103 370	trisha.power@health.wa.gov.au

REGIONAL DUTY COORDINATORS / AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY CONTACT <i>*Contact numbers are for LEMC/Emergency only - not to be distributed</i>				
DBCA - South Coast Region 08 9842 4500	DFES – Great Southern Region 1800 314 644	Main Roads WA 13 81 38	WA Police – Great Southern 08 9892 9318 13 14 44	Western Power Emergency 13 13 51
Dept. of Communities 1800 199 008	DBCA – Wheatbelt Region 08 9881 9200	Water Corp 13 13 75	WA Country Health Service 0437 986 621	Telstra (Emergency Services Liaison) 08 6224 5469
DPIRD Incident & Emergency Management 08 9368 3132 (2 nd Nov – 28 th March)				

Appendix 4

CESM – Shires of Jerramungup and Ravensthorpe

CESM Report LEMC 13 March 2023

The start of summer, Christmas and new year were relatively quiet with regards to fire activity however February was a different story for neighbouring Shires. Major fires in the Fitzgerald National Park and Ravensthorpe tested their volunteers and resources. Jerramungup volunteers responded to fires in neighbouring shires and also initially to assist Ravensthorpe. A break down in communication meant the responding volunteers were never efficiently deployed. An unfortunate but understandable result of this situation could mean volunteers are less likely to respond next time their assistance is requested.

I will be commencing planning of the 2023/2024 Fire Control Notice in the next few weeks, ready for the BFAC AGM in April.

Capital and Operational Grant applications are due at the end of March.

There is little change from last report in the below responses to the Member Talking Points:

1. **What is your current capability for managing incidents/responses?** Brigades have proven themselves to be able to successfully respond to smaller incidents in and around the Shire. Fortunately, we haven't been seriously tested with a major event, unlike last year.
2. **What is your capacity (such as volunteer numbers) and resources looking like for the future? Do you have a volunteer recruitment strategy?** Most brigades are well served by volunteers and there have been several new members enrolled. My main aim to increase capability is to encourage more training and skills enhancement within the brigades and Shire employees.
3. **Are there any new or emerging risks which might impact on your organisation (changes to legislation, seasonal outlooks, new industrial developments)?** Continued increases in tourism will continue to provide risk to the area. Covid complications seem to have eased but haven't completely gone. Surges in cases are still occurring in some areas and we mustn't become complacent. The changes to the WHS laws have highlighted shortfalls in official training and some protocols with the supply and wearing of PPE/PPC but all of these are currently being addressed at a Shire and BGU level. The new laws will possibly be undergoing their first test case as a result of recent fire deaths in other Shires this summer.

Bushfire risk and heatwave risk have both been flagged as concerns for the southern part of the state

4. **Do you have any exercises planned? Can other agencies attend to participate or observe?** Exercise planned for next weekend. Jerramungup Police.

5. **If you have had any incidents or exercises what were the lessons identified – are any these common to other organisations?** Nothing specific this quarter. After Action reviews of recent large scale incidents in neighbouring shires will be studied and where relevant, be incorporated in planning for our shire.
6. **Thinking about your community/ies, how well prepared are they to respond to your hazard/emergency?** Depending on the type of emergency, there may be some limitations but known issues have been identified and are being worked through. Last summer highlighted the capabilities of the volunteers.
7. **What community engagement activities have you carried out/have planned?** A community preparedness meeting is planned for early next year in Bremer Bay. The aim is for community groups to become self-sustaining in the future.
- Point Henry residents have identified a need for their own Community preparedness group and have been, with assistance of Bremer Bay VFES, The Shire and DFES, held their first meeting last month.
8. **How resilient do you think your community is for your hazards and what could be done to improve community resilience?** The Shire of Jerramungup has proven to be a very resilient community in the past. Continued emphasis on community preparedness (point 7 above), especially in the Bremer Bay communities is required. Bremer Bay has its own unique risks, partly exacerbated by its location, its access and also the fact that there is a large number of absentee land holders and residents with limited experience of the potential of a bushfire.
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Appendix 5

St John WA – Deb Wahlstrom

I was away over the Christmas period but it was reported that there was a steady flow of jobs particularly in the Bremer area, nothing of high acuity. Bremer Bay still has high volume of tourists. Expecting this to increase again with the Easter weekend and the April school holidays. Good numbers of Volunteers in all Sub Centres (Jerramungup, Gairdner, Wellstead & Bremer Bay) but availability fluctuates. That being said we do manage to respond with a crew when called.

Volunteers from our centres were called on to assist with manning First Aid posts for the recent Fitzgerald/Ravesthorpe fires. This was organised to give the Ravesthorpe and Hopetoun crews some respite. Several of our members volunteered their time and travelled over which greatly reduced the burden on the local crews and their assistance was very much appreciated.

Annual CEP (Continuing Education Programme) for the Volunteers has commenced for the year with all Sub Centres already well into the March content.

Flu Vaccine will be compulsory again, unsure of what the Covid vaccination regulations will be if any.

Appendix 6

Department of Communities

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORTING				
Agency: Department of Communities (Communities)				
Date: From – January 2023 to March 2023 inclusive				
INCIDENTS:				
Date	Type of Incident	Location of Incident	Other Agencies Involved	Comments/Outcomes
04 NOV	COVID 19	State Wide	Health	In line with recent changes to the Health Directions and the State of Emergency ending at 12:01am this morning, the Incident Controller of the State Health Incident Coordination Centre (SHICC) has formally approved the deactivation of the State Support Plan – Emergency Welfare (Interim) and the standing down of the State Welfare Incident Coordination Centre (SWICC) as of Friday 4 November 2022.
EXERCISES AND TRAINING: Please see notes below.				
Date:	Title	Objectives	Comments/Outcomes	
Additional Comments/Suggestions:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kimberley Floods - The Department of Communities (Communities) is providing emergency welfare services to residents impacted by the Kimberley floods. As of 1 February 2023: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communities is operating three Flood Help Centres (Broome, Fitzroy Crossing and Derby). 136 people are in Communities' supported emergency accommodation in Broome and Derby. Since opening the Disaster Relief Hotline on the 11 January 2023 until COB 1 February 2023, Communities has responded to a total of 773 calls. 189 people have been repatriated. 288 people have been assisted to relocate to alternative safe locations. 750 properties spanning 17 remote communities and the Fitzroy Crossing town have had electrical safety assessments completed (or currently underway). Communities is providing rent relief to public housing tenants in Fitzroy Crossing and tenants in impacted remote Aboriginal communities following the floods. Communities is planning medium to long term accommodation options for people whose homes are uninhabitable due to the floods. Medium to Long term Accommodation – The SEMC has asked Communities to lead a cross-agency working group to prepare an issues paper about Government responsibilities for medium and long-term accommodation following an emergency. State Support Plan – Emergency Relief and Support (formerly Emergency Welfare) – Communities has reviewed the State Support Plan and the State Emergency Management Committee Policy Branch has released it for consultation: https://dfes.mysocialpinpoint.com.au/statesupportplanemergencyreliefandsupport/emergencyreliefandsupport/ Community Sector Capability – working with community support organisations to enhance the delivery and coordination of welfare services Disaster Information Support Coordination Centre (DISCC) Guidelines – being reviewed at 				

- request of WA Police
- People at Risk – developing a framework to promote a shared approach to preparedness, response and recovery for people at risk in emergencies
- Emergency Financial Assistance – review of the State Emergency Financial Assistance initiatives.
- Local Emergency Management Plans (LEMP's) are always being reviewed, if you see any information that is not current, please advise michele.duxbury@communities.wa.gov.au
- Training: Please advise if you would like training conducted for local government staff, this can be an introduction to opening an evacuation centre, to cover the first couple of hours as Communities staff are on route. Happy to work with Shires to ensure little impacts to normal operations. Please e-mail michele.duxbury@communities.wa.gov.au to request training. Happy to discuss at any time.

Appendix 7

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

Incident and Emergency Management

Agency Name:	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development		Date: 20 February 2023
Report prepared by:	Helen Kent	Position:	Emergency Preparedness Coordinator – Incident & Emergency Management Branch
LEMC and DEMC report – February 2023			
<p>1. Declared incidents – DPIRD is managing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six (6) plant pest/disease level 1 and 2 Incidents. • Nil animal pest/disease incidents <p>Polyphagous shot-hole borer</p> <p>Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB) <i>Euwallacea formicatus</i> is a beetle native to Southeast Asia. The beetle attacks a wide range of plants by tunnelling into trunks, stems and branches.</p> <p>The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development has been responding to the confirmed detections of an exotic beetle Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer in the Perth metropolitan area. Response activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting surveillance to determine the distribution of PSHB • Containing the pest to prevent further spread to non-infested regions within Western Australia • Providing advice and information to residents, industry and other stakeholders • Ensuring that all response activities are conducted safely, consistently and efficiently <p>Link to information about Polyphagous shot-hole borer Agriculture and Food</p> <p>2. State alerts and investigations</p> <p>DPIRD is investigating one (1) pest or disease.</p>			

3. National alerts & investigations

DPIRD and other state jurisdictions continue to monitor reported outbreaks of:

- **African Swine Fever** – FAO situation update in Asia and Pacific dated 2 February 2023 advised ASF reported countries since August 2018: China, Mongolia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, The Philippines, Republic of Korea, Timor-Leste, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, India, Malaysia, Bhutan, Thailand, Nepal.

Link to information about African Swine Fever: <https://www.fao.org/animal-health/situation-updates/asf-in-asia-pacific/en>

- **Lumpy Skin Disease** – Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand and Malaysia
- **Foot and Mouth Disease** – Indonesia

Information regarding Foot and Mouth Disease prevention is available on the WA government website:

[Foot-and-mouth disease advice for Western Australians \(www.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.wa.gov.au/government/department/agriculture-and-food/foot-and-mouth-disease-advice-for-western-australians)

Information is also available on the DPIRD website:

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

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

4. Ex TC Ellie (Kimberley Flood) – January 2023

DPIRD is providing support in the response to, and recovery from, the January flooding in the west Kimberley.

Response:

As at the date of this report:

- The State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies remains formally activated (link to State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies [State Support Plan Animal Welfare in Emergencies | Western Australian Government \(www.wa.gov.au\)](#))
- DPIRD has liaison officers on the Kimberley Incident Support Group (ISG) and the Operational Area Support Group (OASG)

Recovery:

- Wheatbelt Development Commission Chief Executive Officer, Rob Cossart, has been appointed as the State Recovery

- DPIRD has established an internal recovery planning group to facilitate effective across-agency participation, and to assist in capturing and resolving emerging across-pillar impacts i.e. impacts for which the various pillars within DPIRD have responsibilities such as those relating to regional development, primary industries, biosecurity, horticulture, soil and grants.
- Departmental representation on the State Recovery Coordination Group (SRCG)
- A departmental officer/s will sit on the Local Recovery Coordination Group (LRCG) and relevant subcommittees, as required.
- DPIRD will facilitate available grants to primary producers in accordance with the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements WA (DRFAWA).

DRFAWA:

Assistance measures for primary producers include reimbursement grants for Category B:

- Professional advice
- Freight subsidy
- Fencing (for livestock producers only)
- Expression of Interest for interest subsidy on a new loan to recover

Link to further information regarding available funding and relevant conditions: <https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/emergency-response/disaster-recovery-funding-arrangements>

5. Severe Tropical Cyclone Seroja (Recovery)

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

DRFAWA Category B and C assistance:

To 31 December 2022, the Department has approved:

- 25 applications for Category B assistance totalling: \$ 366,907.46
- 108 applications for Category C assistance totalling: \$2,183,306.10

6. Southwest Land Division Fires:

DPIRD District Recovery Coordinator, Rob Cossart, continues to work with the Corrigin and Narrogin local governments and communities recovering from the bushfires which occurred in early February 2022.

On 13 October 2022, DPIRD Executive Director Biosecurity, Dr Mia Carbon, presented at Recovery Meetings in Corrigin and Wickepin about the department's role in emergency management, including its role in coordinating animal welfare in emergencies under the State Support Plan.

7. Staff emergency management training:

DPIRD has a comprehensive ongoing schedule to deliver face to face emergency management training in both metropolitan and regional areas.

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

DPIRD's role in emergency management

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development plays an important role in emergency management in Western Australia.

- Hazard Management Agency (HMA) for animal and plant biosecurity with responsibilities across prevention/mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. Link to State Hazard Plan – Animal and Plant Biosecurity: [State Hazard Plan Animal and Plant Biosecurity \(www.wa.gov.au\)](http://www.wa.gov.au)
- Provision of support to other HMAs by:
 - coordinating animal welfare for other hazard emergencies including bushfires, cyclones and floods;
 - contributing to the Controlling Agency's impact statement in relation to impacts to primary industries (where an impact statement is required)
 - managing eligible assistance for primary producers under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements WA and providing advice to primary producers in relation to this funding.

Animal Welfare in Emergencies

Local governments are encouraged to develop a plan for animal welfare in emergencies (PAWE) which forms part of the local emergency management arrangements (LEMA).

For tools and resources to assist local governments to develop a local PAWE [click here](#) and for assistance in completing the PAWE template, contact your LEMC or DPMC representative.