

SHIRE OF JERRAMUNGUP



MINUTES

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

12 June 2023

A MEETING OF THE LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD IN THE JERRAMUNGUP CRC ON MONDAY 12 JUNE 2023 COMMENCING AT 12.10PM.

MINUTES

1. OPEN AND WELCOME

Martin Cuthbert declared the meeting open at 12.10pm.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Martin Cuthbert	CEO, Shire of Jerramungup (SoJ)
Charmaine Solomon	DCEO, SoJ
Russell Palmer	Community Emergency Services Officer, SoJ
Michelle Duxbury	Department of Communities
Wes Bailye	Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Mark Cruickshank	Ranger, SoJ
Matt Prophet	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
Glenda Gray	Executive Assistant (Minute Taker), SOJ

3. APOLOGIES

Stephen Petersen	DFES
Malcom Grant	Bushfire Risk Mitigation Coordinator, SoJ
Alex Jones	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, SoJ
Vince Hilder	DFES
Danielle Wisewould	St John Ambulance
Anthony Armstrong	Jerramungup VFES
John Collins	DPIRD
Cr Joanne Iffla	Shire President, SoJ
Sergeant Dave Atkins	OIC, Jerramungup Police
Deb Wahlston	Community Paramedic

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

That the Minutes of the meeting held 13 March 2023 be confirmed.

Moved: Michelle Duxbury **Seconded:** Wes Bailye **Carried**

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1 BEN Signs - only one install remaining, currently inaccessible.

6. MEMBERSHIP UPDATES - Any updates to contacts Appendix 3 and WhatsApp

6.1 Farewell to Adam Smith – Adam’s position is still in the recruitment process.

6.2 Welcome Matt Prophet from DBCA.

6.3 WhatsApp update is in progress.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 SEMC Annual Report Survey 2023

7.2 Circular – Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act Implementation

7.3 COVID Circular – Limiting the Spread of COVID Variants

7.4 Australian Warning System Circular

7.5 Consultation Request – Restricted Access Permits

Russell can provide further information regarding these items upon request.

8. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

8.1 LEMC Exercise

- Sergeant Atkins organising. Has been given names and contact details he required, but no further information of late.
- Proposed to be a stock truck crash, which would involve as many organisations as possible, including biosecurity, ambulance and bushfire.
- Date not scheduled.

Action: Russell to follow up with Sergeant Atkins.

9. ROUND TABLE

9.1 Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Jerramungup

- During past discussions, Department of Communities were considering an agreement between Shire of Jerramungup and City of Albany regarding using the Albany Leisure and Aquatic Centre as an evacuation centre. Michelle to follow up with Neville (Department of Communities).
- Discussion about evacuation centres continued after Round Table.

9.2 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (See Appendix 4)

9.3 Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Jerramungup

- The Shire has submitted a funding application in an attempt to reduce the Shire commitment to the Bremer Bay Airstrip cross runway, as there is a significant shortfall in external grant funding already allocated to the project.

9.4 Shire President, Shire of Jerramungup

- No report.

9.5 Community Emergency Services Officer (See Appendix 5)

- FCO training is being planned.
- Gazetting of FCOs is in progress.

9.6 Community Paramedic

- No report.

9.7 St John Ambulance (see Appendix 6)

9.8 Jerramungup Police

- No report.

9.9 Department of Communities (See Appendix 7)

9.10 Department of Health

- No report.

9.11 Bushfire Risk Mitigation Officer, SoJ

- Russell reported that Mal (BRMO) is currently on leave.
- A fortnight visit in Bremer Bay enabled the team to implement burns in Boxwood Hill townsite and three very important burns in Bremer Bay.

- The Shire-engaged contractor for the implementation of bushfire mitigation treatments is currently in the Shire of Jerramungup and should be returning in July and August.

9.12 DPIRD (See Appendix 8)

9.13 Department of Fire and Emergency Services

- The implementation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act is approaching. Unsure of its impact at this point. Training will be available.
- BBVFES is considering replacing the 'Troopy' for rescues etc, however holding off until they determine what is the most suitable replacement.
- The Bremer Bay Emergency Services precinct is progressing and looks good.
- Could consider Exercise options of tourist bus crash, or chemical truck accident.
- Jerramungup VFES will be receiving training for radios etc.
- DFES busy with floods and a search lately.
- Some Training Officers are involved in industrial action which has caused training to be delayed.

9.14 Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

- Upgrading of fire line which runs east to west on the northern side of the Park is in progress.
- Containment lines on the northern end of the Park are pretty good now.
- Will put similar effort into the Stirlings next year.
- Small fuel reduction burn was carried out around the Gairdner Ranger Station a few weeks ago.
- Hope to open Hamersly Drive soon.

Evacuation Centres – General Discussion

- Main evacuation centres at Jerramungup and Bremer Bay have limited egress.
- Any longer-term evacuation centre would need to be in Albany.
- Every incident very different.
- Department of Communities is establishing places where equipment can be left, and there is a mobile trailer option.
- Can write options into Welfare Plan with flexibility.
- Evacuation centres have a maximum of ten days, alternative accommodation would be provided after that time.

10. **NEXT MEETING**

The next LEMC meeting is to be held on Monday, 11 September 2023, at the Jerramungup CRC.

11. **CLOSURE**

The meeting was declared closed at 12.40pm.

Appendix 1



JERRAMUNGUP LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE **2023/24 MEETING & EXERCISE DATES**

Period	Date	Location	Exercise
1 st Quarter	Monday 11 September 2023	Jerramungup CRC	
2 nd Quarter	Monday 11 December 2023	Bremer Bay VFES	Exercise TBA
3 rd Quarter	Monday 11 March 2024	Jerramungup CRC	
4 th Quarter	Monday 10 June 2024	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 June 2023)

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.iffa@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 Coord- ination 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 Planning 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: 0499 351 141	ranger2@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

(vacant)	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
Eddy Duffy 11413	Senior Constable	Jerramungup Police Station 6 Vasey Street, Jerramungup WA 6337	Ph: 0436 861 826	eddy.duffy@police.wa.gov.au
Scott Smith 13872	Senior Constable	Jerramungup Police Station 6 Vasey Street, Jerramungup WA 6337	Ph: 0436 860 440	scott.smith@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 impfesa@westnet.com.au
Trisha Power	MPS Operations Manager	WA Country Health Service Great Southern	M: 0429 103 370	trisha.power@health.wa.gov.au
Matt Prophet	DBCA - Senior Operations Officer Fitzgerald NP		M: 0455 465 317	Matt.prophet@dbca.wa.gov.au

REGIONAL DUTY COORDINATORS / AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY CONTACT

**Contact numbers are for LEMC/Emergency only - not to be distributed*

<p>DBCA - South Coast Region 08 9842 4500</p>	<p>DFES - Great Southern Region 1800 314 644</p>	<p>Main Roads WA 13 81 38</p>	<p>WA Police - Great Southern 08 9892 9318 13 14 44</p>	<p>Western Power Emergency 13 13 51</p>
<p>Dept. of Communities 1800 199 008</p>	<p>DBCA - Wheatbelt Region 08 9881 9200</p>	<p>Water Corp 13 13 75</p>	<p>WA Country Health Service 0437 986 621</p>	<p>Telstra (Emergency Services Liaison) 08 6224 5469</p>
<p>DPIRD Incident & Emergency Management 08 9368 3132 (2nd Nov – 28th March)</p>				

Appendix 4

CBFCO report for LEMC 12th June 2023

Please accept my apologies for not attending today.

At the recent BFAC AGM I, along with both deputies, were nominated to continue in our positions for another 12 months.

Since March there has been only one event to report. After a very quiet bushfire season, one landowner failed to monitor a stubble burn and the following day 2 fires burnt across the neighbouring farm, crossed Devils Creek Road into a second farm where it was stopped. The soil in that area is light and burning causes soil erosion which has a very negative impact. Most of our shire trucks attended with about 60 volunteers and shire staff. Some Gairdner ladies made 120 wraps for lunch and then 60 dinners. I mention this because it was done without asking and without fuss and not a shop in sight. This made me very proud to live in the small community of Gairdner.

This avoidable fire resulting from carelessness will mean more restrictions and more volunteer hours spent monitoring the weather which is very disappointing.

Warm Regards

Alex Jones CBFCO Shire of Jerramungup.

Appendix 5

CESM Report LEMC 12 June 2023

Following on from last LEMC report:

Both water tanks are now installed and completed. Not locked yet but have the capability to be locked if unauthorised water removal is considered an issue.

The draft of the 23/24 Firebreak Notice has been sent approved and is ready to be sent to the printers.

Operational Grant applications were submitted 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?**
Volunteer training needs to be maintained in order for us to safely respond to incidents. Plans are being developed to try to fill training short falls before next fire season but this will need the cooperation of brigades. The Shire is reviewing the relevant Local Laws. Shire employees will undergo training early July.

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)** (similar to previous meeting) 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 the importance of maintaining official training and adherence to SOPs and protocols such as supply and wearing of PPE/PPC but all of these are currently being addressed at a Shire and BGU level. See point 1. Above re the implications for our volunteers and the Shire staff. Bushfire risk and heatwave risk have both been flagged as concerns for the southern part of the state.

While not a threat as such, outcomes of the new Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act coming in to force on 1st July may have implications for mitigation and response activities.

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?** 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** 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. I am working with the CRC to prepare a session for farm families and how to respond in case of emergencies, especially fires. A date is yet to be confirmed but will probably be held on a Tuesday morning in the next month or so.

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.
-

Appendix 6

St John Ambulance Report

Good Afternoon Everyone,

Apologies I couldn't make it today and I hope the following covers everything..

So currently St John Jerramungup is super busy trying to get two major projects off the ground, the first one is our new build in Bremer Bay, this has been an ongoing project that is finally starting to move in the right direction, we have secured land next to the VES shed in Bremer Bay, making progress for the Emergency services hub in that vicinity, our plans for the building are pretty much finalised with the engineers having done what they need to do, and we will be sending our plans out shortly to get some quotes from builders. Once this project is finished it is going to be a major asset for Bremer Bay and should generate a lot of voluntourism helping to take pressure off the Bremer crews.

Our second project is the revamp of the Jerramungup Sub centre, this project is in full swing with the builder already having final drafts being done and getting ready to make a start.

This project will enable the sub centre to be open to the public so they are able to go in and pay for membership renewal and buy first aid kits etc..

It will also be highly beneficial for our crew who will be able to shower after calls and will create a better working environment for all involved.

On other notes things are running much the same, our volunteers numbers could be better but we have been lucky enough to obtain a few one ones and some we already have that have upskilled taking the pressure off the few EMT's we have.

Other than that business as usual.

Danielle Wisewould

**LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
REPORTING**

Agency:

**Department of Communities
(Communities)**

Date: From – April 2023 to June 2023 inclusive**INCIDENTS:**

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

EXERCISES AND TRAINING:

Please see notes below.

Date:	Title	Objectives	Comments/Outcomes
24 MAY	Evacuation Centre Training		Mt Barker Primary Evacuation Centre
11 JULY	Evacuation Centre Training		Dumbleyung Town Hall

Additional Comments/Suggestions:

- **TC Ilsa**

On 12 April 2023, Communities was activated as the support organisation providing emergency relief and support for Severe Tropical Cyclone Ilsa.

- Severe Tropical Cyclone Ilsa crossed the coast as a Category 5 system, around midnight on Thursday 13 April 2023, with an estimated intensity of 213 kmph.
- On Thursday 13 April, Communities opened four evacuation centres, which were closed on the 14 April 2023.
- In total, Communities accommodated 68 people in evacuation centres, and
- Supported 10 people to return to country.
- Communities will continue to respond to requests for assistance as required. This will be managed through Communities staff on the ground and the Disaster Response Hotline.

- **Kimberley Floods**

The Department of Communities (Communities) is providing emergency welfare services to residents impacted by the Kimberley Floods from January 2023.

As of 26 April 2023:

- As of 26 April 2023:
 - 17 people are in Communities' supported commercial accommodation in Broome and Derby.
 - 88 people are in Phase 1 Temporary Accommodation utilising Humanihuts in Fitzroy Crossing and Bungardi community, and in the Derby Hostel.
 - Since the Disaster Response Hotline (DRH) opened on the 11 January 2023 until COB 24 April 2023, Communities has responded to a total of 1,792 calls.
 - Communities has assisted 171 residents to apply for the Premier's Grant via the DRH and hubs in Broome, Derby and Fitzroy Crossing.
- Review of the State Support Plan – Consultation feedback for the State Support Plan – Emergency Welfare has closed. Communities is currently reviewing feedback.
- Capability Audit – Communities has procured Nous Group to conduct an audit of Western Australia's emergency relief and support capability.

- 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.

Agency Name:	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development		Date: May 2023
Report prepared by:	Helen Kent	Position:	Emergency Preparedness Coordinator – Incident & Emergency Management Branch
LEMC and DEMC report – May 2023			
<p>1. Declared incidents – DPIRD is managing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eight (8) declared level 1 and 2 incidents in relation to plant pests/diseases and aquatic pests/diseases • Nil animal pest/disease incidents <p>Queensland fruit fly</p> <p>The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) is working to stem the spread of the significant invasive pest, Queensland fruit fly (Qfly), after a recent confirmed detection in Bayswater.</p> <p>A level 2 incident was called on 1 March 2023 after several male Qfly were detected in a residential part of Bayswater, Perth. No Qfly have been detected in commercial areas or outside of the Perth metropolitan area at this time.</p> <p>Quarantine Area</p> <p>The Quarantine Area (QA) covers a 15 km radius from the Qfly detection points and includes Perth, Belmont, Gosnells, Kalamunda, Vincent, Joondalup, Swan, Wanneroo, Melville, Canning, Bayswater, South Perth, Subiaco, Stirling, Nedlands, Bassendean, Belmont, Claremont, Victoria Park, Cambridge and Mundaring. Please find the full Quarantine Area Notice this webpage https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/plant-biosecurity/biosecurity-alerts-queensland-fruit-fly-updates.</p> <p>The QA is divided into two main zones: the Corrective Action Zone and the Export Assurance Zone.</p>			

Corrective Action Zone

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

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

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

Export Assurance Zone

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

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

Qfly is one of the most serious pests of fruit and vegetables in Australia, attacking over 300 species of fruit and vegetables and impacting a range of horticulture industries and access to valuable markets. While Qfly has been found in other areas of the country, Western Australia has remained free of the pest.

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

Carpet sea squirt (*Didemnum vexillum*)

Carpet sea squirt (CSS) is a highly invasive marine invertebrate animal that can overgrow and smother native species. It can overgrow rocks, shellfish, sea sponges and man-made structures such as wharves, jetty pylons, pontoons, buoys and vessels.

A level 2 incident was declared on 25 January 2023 in response to the detection of CSS in WA.

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

The aim of the QAN is to:

- Manage the movement of vessels into the QA to minimise the spread of the pest.

- Strengthen the requirements for biofouling inspections and treatments for vessels that regularly operate in the Quarantine Area or have been in the Quarantine Area for a period of six days or more.

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

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

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

Polyphagous shot-hole borer

Polyphagous shot-hole borer (PSHB) *Euwallacea fornicatus* is a beetle native to Southeast Asia. The beetle attacks a wide range of plants by tunnelling into trunks, stems and branches.

DPIRD has been responding to the confirmed detections of an exotic beetle Polyphagous Shot-Hole Borer in the Perth metropolitan area.

Response activities include:

- Conducting surveillance to determine the distribution of PSHB
- Containing the pest to prevent further spread to non-infested regions within Western Australia
- Providing advice and information to residents, industry and other stakeholders
- Ensuring that all response activities are conducted safely, consistently and efficiently

To stop the spread, a Quarantine Area Notice (QAN) is in place to support the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's ongoing surveillance program to determine the spread of the pest.

The Quarantine Area covers 25 local government areas. The new areas added to the expanded QAN on 21 March 2023 are:

- Beckenham, Canning Vale, Huntingdale, Kenwick, Langford, Maddington and Thornlie in the City of Gosnells
- Duncraig, Greenwood, Marmion, Sorrento and Warwick in the City of Joondalup
- Alexander Heights, Girrawheen, Koondoola and Marangaroo in the City of Wanneroo
- Ballajura, Beechboro, Bennett Springs, Dayton, Hazelmere, Kiara, Lockridge, Malaga, Middle Swan, Midland, Viveash, West Swan and Woodbridge in the City of Swan

- Forrestfield, High Wycombe, Perth Airport and Wattle Grove in the City of Kalamunda

Link to information about [Polyphagous shot-hole borer | Agriculture and Food](#)

2. State alerts and investigations

DPIRD is investigating four (4) pests or diseases.

3. National alerts & investigations

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

- **African Swine Fever** – countries in the Asia Pacific which have reported African Swine Flu since August 2018: China, Mongolia, Viet Nam, 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 and Singapore

Link to information about African Swine Fever – situation update in Asia and Pacific: <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 \(www.wa.gov.au\)](http://www.wa.gov.au)

Information is also available on the DPIRD website:

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

Important to note that there are, currently, no known incidences of these diseases in Australia.

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

DPIRD is providing support to affected communities, in relation to its areas of responsibility, in the recovery from the January flooding in the west Kimberley.

- The State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies was formally activated on 9 January 2023 and remained activated until 3 May 2023 to provide support to the local government in relation to the coordination of animal welfare.

Recovery:

- Wheatbelt Development Commission CEO, Rob Cossart, has been appointed as the State Recovery Coordinator for the Kimberley floods.
- The State recovery structure, across the four recovery environments of Social, Economic, Built and Natural environment, has been formalised with appropriate State Government agencies leading the domains:
 - Social: Department of Communities
 - Economic: DPIRD
 - Built: Department of Treasury and Main Roads WA
 - Natural environment: DWER
- The Shire of Derby West Kimberley has established its local recovery group and relevant subcommittees which are:
 - Media
 - Getting Home
 - Cadjebut Airport
 - Pastoral
 - Social/Wellbeing
- DPIRD has provided a departmental representative on the Shire of Derby West Kimberley's local recovery group and relevant subcommittees.
- Dedicated DPIRD web page for affected primary producers outlining available assistance: [Kimberley flood recovery | Agriculture and Food](#)

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements WA (DRFAWA):

Support measures are designed to assist in meeting the needs of primary producers whose assets or primary production business has/have been affected by a disaster for which DRFAWA has been invoked.

Category B - Assistance measures for primary producers may include grants for:

- Professional advice
 - Reimbursement of fees (maximum \$1,500) to obtain professional advice directly related to addressing issues arising from the declared natural disaster event
- Freight subsidy (reimbursement)
Primary producers can claim a maximum of 50% of the costs to the producer of transporting any of the following items as a direct result of a natural disaster:

- Livestock;
 - Fodder or water for livestock; or
 - Building or fencing equipment or machinery.
- Fencing (for livestock producers only)
Primary producers can claim 100% of the costs associated with any of the following:
 - restoration/replacement of fencing (to pre-disaster standard) where the fencing has been deliberately dismantled or damaged due to counter disaster operations activities undertaken in order to combat the eligible natural disaster event; and/or
 - reimbursement of the costs of materials only (to pre-disaster standard) to repair/replace boundary fencing damaged/lost as a direct result of the eligible natural disaster event. The measure is only available where the fencing adjoins a major road/rail transport corridor and where the roaming of livestock may present a danger to the travelling public (i.e., the aim being to preserve public safety).

The applicant must demonstrate to DPIRD's satisfaction that at the time of the natural disaster event the property was being used to hold or agist livestock.

- Expression of interest for interest subsidy on a new loan to recover
An interest rate subsidy may be available to primary producers for new loans:
 - to repair/replace assets lost or damaged / repair damage caused by the natural disaster event
 - for carry on purposes to implement the next season's production program
 - or to replace livestock lost in the disaster for which the assistance measures under the DRFAWA have been activated

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

Category D – Exceptional circumstances:

Freight Assistance Program

- Purposes: The Commonwealth and WA State Government jointly funded Freight Subsidy Program is to assist with the ongoing exceptional freight requirements for businesses impacted by ex Tropical Cyclone Ellie (DRFA AGRN1044).
- Eligible applicants: Businesses located in, or delivering to, the four (4) DRFAWA activated local government districts which are the Shire of Broome, Shire of Derby West Kimberley, Shire of Halls Creek and the Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley
- Funding duration: All claims must be submitted no later than two (2) months after a suitable road connection is re-established. Claims may be backdated for all freight movement that occurred on, or after, 1 January 2023

- DPIRD is the designated delivery agency for this funding

FAQs including details of eligibility: [Publications \(dfes.wa.gov.au\)](https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au)

DRFAWA Cat B and D assistance, the Department has approved as at 27 April 2023:

DRFA Measures	Under assessment	Approved	Approved \$
Category B	2	1	\$37,830.00
Category D	35	33	\$35,296.26

5. Severe Tropical Cyclone Seroja (Recovery funding)

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

DRFAWA Cat B and C assistance the Department has approved as at 27 April 2023:

DRFA Measures	Under assessment	Approved	Approved \$
Category B	14	29	\$ 465,513.95
Category C	23	111	\$2,254,594.10

6. Staff emergency management training:

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

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

Animal Health Australia and Plant Health Australia online training:

DPIRD staff are encouraged to undertake suitable online training which is available on the Animal Health Australia (AHA) and Plant Health Australia (PHA) websites.

Links to AHA and PHA:

[Home - Animal Health Australia](#)

[Plant Health Australia](#)

7. Animal welfare in emergencies grants program 2023

Grants are available for local government officers to attend the Animal Welfare in Emergencies training at the Muresk Institute. This training is administered by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and aims to enhance local government officers' skills and knowledge in safely dealing with animals during an emergency. The training focuses on livestock health, fauna handling, containment and transport, and includes a workshop about how to develop local animal welfare in emergencies plans.

Link to Animal Welfare in Emergencies training brochure: [FINAL 2023 incident response flyer-\(1\).pdf \(walga.asn.au\)](#)

Training dates:

June 7 - 9

June 14 -1 6

August 9 - 11

August 16 - 18

Applications open Thursday, 27 April 2023 and **close 4pm, Friday 19 May 2023.**

Link to application form: [Emergency Management | WALGA | WALGA](#)

8. DPIRD participation in fire and natural hazards during the natural hazard high season 2022 - 2023

Southern bushfire season – October to April

North West tropical cyclone season – November to April

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development has provided support to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services as the hazard management agency for bushfire, tropical cyclone, flood and storm which are the predominant natural hazards of the southern and northern natural hazards high season.

From 1 November to 31 March, annually, DPIRD appoints an On Call Coordinator.

On Call Coordinator hours of operation:
Monday to Sunday: 0700 – 2000

On Call Coordinator number: 9368 3132

In addition to the On Call Coordinator role, DPIRD appoints regionally-based on call officers for the DPIRD Christmas and New Year ‘close down’ period and up to the Monday of the third week of January.

Incidents and emergencies response and recovery which DPIRD was involved in during the 2022-2023 natural hazards high season

Namban Bushfire – 23 November 2022:

Local government: Shire of Moora

State Incident Level: 1

DPIRD field staff provided advice regarding the assessment of injured stock

Donnybrook-Balingup Complex Fire (Sandhill and Noggerup fires) – 10 January 2023:

Local government area: Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup

DPIRD activities:

- Supported the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup in the coordination of animal welfare including the assessment of injured stock
- Assistance to the Controlling Agency in relation to essential fruit pickers being able to access orchards to undertake picking on behalf of orchardists
- Contributed to the Controlling Agency’s Impact Statement
- DPIRD officer appointed to assist with recovery activities for which DPIRD has responsibility and expertise

Ex Tropical Cyclone Ellie (Kimberley floods) – 6 January 2023:

Local government area: Shire of Derby West Kimberley (Shires of Broome, Halls Creek and Wyndham East Kimberley in relation to freight in and out of the region)

State Incident Level: 3

State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies formally activated

DPIRD activities:

- Representation on the DFES All Hazards Liaison Group and the State Emergency Coordination Group
- Representation on the Incident Support Group and the Kimberley Operational Area Support Group
- Animal welfare needs assessment and advice and support in relation to mitigation activities
- Contributed to the Controlling Agency's Impact Statement
- Representation on the Shire of Derby West Kimberley Local Recovery Group and relevant subcommittees
- DPIRD is the lead agency for the State Economic Domain and appointed liaison officers to sit on the State Social, Infrastructure and Natural Environment domains

Ravensthorpe Complex Fires – 23 February 2023:

Local government area: Shire of Ravensthorpe, Shire of Coolgardie, Shire of Esperance

State Incident Level 2

DPIRD activities:

- Representation on the operational area support group
- Provision of advice to the Controlling Agency regarding agricultural properties
- Contributed to the Controlling Agency's Impact Statement

Tropical Cyclone Ilsa – 9 April 2023:

Local government areas: Shire of Broome, Shire of East Pilbara and Town of Port Hedland

State Incident Level: 2

DPIRD activities:

- Representation on the DFES All Hazards Liaison Group and the State Emergency Coordination Group
- Representation on the Kimberley Operational Area Support Group
- Contributed to the Controlling Agency's Impact Statement in relation to agricultural impacts
- Representation on the Shire of East Pilbara Local Recovery Coordination Group

DPIRD's role in emergency management

DPIRD plays an important role in emergency management in Western Australia.

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

Animal Welfare in Emergencies

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

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