

Goldfields Esperance DEMC meeting highlights

Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) currently due for review

A number of local governments have LEMA that are currently under review. The District Advisor will be working with these local governments to ensure consistency with statutory requirements, and facilitate the endorsement process to ensure they are tabled at the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) in a timely manner. A newly enhanced state LEMA model is available to assist local governments in the review.

The Shire of Esperance tabled their complete set of reviewed LEMA, including recovery plan, at the meeting.

Esperance and Norseman Fires summary report – discussion and action on issues as raised

The DEMC held a detailed discussion around the issues raised and a number of actions were noted for elevation to a state level. Key issues of note included:

- Difficulties of communicating with district level agencies when Esperance is serviced by agencies in both the Goldfields Esperance and Great Southern Emergency Management Districts. District agency representatives were located in Albany, Kalgoorlie, Perth and Esperance, making communications complex. Contact lists to be expanded and shared across districts.
- A recommendation was made that the state recovery coordinator and/or the District Advisor be present where possible to facilitate the handover of a major incident from HMA to local government until such time as the impact assessment document has been finalised by the recovery subcommittee and the process to utilize it fully implemented.
- A recommendation was made that the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund be reviewed and an investigation be held into further mechanisms to raise and disburse funds that might better suit individual community needs.
- The DEMC highlighted its concerns in regard to essential service providers not having timely access to the fire ground to restore services.

- The DEMC also highlighted its concerns that Dept of Agriculture and Food veterinarians were delayed access to the fire ground to assess burnt stock. The committee brought attention to the South Australian model “SAVEM”, where veterinarians are embedded in the Incident Management Team.
- Some confusion existed with communication and procedures to contact the Department of Child Protection and Family Services (CPFS) in the opening of the welfare centre in Norseman that opened to assist evacuees from the Esperance fires. It was recommended by the committee that CPFS clarify these procedures with all local governments and agencies in the Goldfields Esperance district.
- The meeting agreed that a copy of the Esperance and Norseman Fires report be provided to Euan Ferguson (Major Incident Review – Waroona Fire inquiry) for his information.

Projects and Activities

State risk project – District component

The Goldfields Esperance has begun its district risk project and to date conducted workshops for the risks of storm and earthquake. Workshops to analyse the risks of Rail Crash, Human Epidemic, Fire and Marine Transport Emergency will be conducted in 2016 as per the dates in the calendar below.

Major rail Crash plan – East of Kalgoorlie- Review

This plan was originally developed in 2009 in response to the identified risk of a major rail incident occurring between Kalgoorlie and the South Australian Border. The aim of this plan is to give guidance to agencies on the arrangements for preparation and response to a major incident on the line, given that the current Westplan Rail Crash does not cover this section of rail. The plan is currently under review, and will be given further consideration after outcomes from the rail crash risk workshop become available.

Calendar of events

Activity type	Location	Date
Risk Workshop – Marine Transport Emergency	Esperance	10 th May 2016
DEMC Meeting	Kalgoorlie	1 st June 2016
Major exercise – Anglo Ashanti	Tropicana Gold Mine	1 st June 2016
Risk Workshop – Rail Crash & Human Epidemic	Kalgoorlie	2 nd June 2016
Risk Workshop – Fire	Kalgoorlie	10 th August 2016
DEMC Meeting	Kalgoorlie	6 th September 2016
DEMC Meeting	Kalgoorlie	6 th December 2016

Darryl Gaunt (DEMC Chair)