

The Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC) met on the 6 April 2017 at the Department of Agriculture and Food WA in Albany and Narrogin (via video conference).

February 2017 Flood Event



Culham Inlet - Before



Culham Inlet - During



Culham Inlet - After

The impact of the flood event triggered a WANDRRA declaration. For the most up to date information on the event visit the [Office of Emergency Management website](#) or their [Facebook page](#)



The DEMC conducted a debrief of the Operational Area Support Group (OASG) established to coordinate agency response to the flooding across the region. A key lesson learnt was that while impacted agencies were in attendance at the OASG, additional agencies would have benefited by attending to increase their situational awareness.

The DEMC considered an Incident Support Group (ISG) debrief submitted by the Katanning LEMC with the following key issues discussed;

- **Road Closure Information:** The ISG debrief suggested connecting road closure information provided by Main Roads and local government. Main Roads are now looking to provide a link to the local government's website on their road closure information page.
- **Traffic on Closed Roads:** emergency responders noted several people driving around road closed sign and questioned if this was an offence. WA Police advised this is an offence subject to evidentiary rules.
- **Insurance of Closed Roads:** The ISG debrief questioned the insurance status of people driving on closed roads. Main Roads advised as far as they are concerned once a road has been closed and the public advised normal insurance would be void. There are circumstances where an exception or permit can be issued.

New Community Engagement Working Group Established

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services discussed the relationship between DEMC agencies and their respective community engagement programs highlighting a number of commonalities. The DFES suggested a new approach to increasing community resilience by increasing their understanding of risk through a community engagement saturation strategy. That is coordinating agencies community engagement programs to focus on specific communities over a twelve month period.

To achieve the strategy the DFES recommended establishing a Community Engagement Working Group and tabled a set of Terms of Reference. The DEMC endorsed the creation of the working group and the draft terms of reference. The new working group will be chaired by the DEMC Deputy Chair and is scheduled to report its progress to the next DEMC meeting.

Emergency Management Matters

At each meeting the DEMC considers a number of standing items relating to local and district emergency management. Some areas which drew particular discussion included;

Local Emergency Management Arrangements

The committee noted the continual good work being done by Local Emergency Management Committees to increase their community's levels of resilience. This includes the work done by a number of local governments to update their local emergency management arrangements and commence their local risk assessment process.

Local Emergency Management Committee Exercises

At each meeting the DEMC reviews post exercise report from LEMC exercises, it was disappointing to note that although many LEMCs are conducting exercises the post exercise reports are not being tabled at the DEMC. Template post exercise reports are available from the DEMC Executive Officer.

District Emergency Management Committee Exercises

The DEMC considered the findings and opportunities from Exercise R.E.D – the combined exercise with eh Goldfields-Esperance DEMC. The DEMC determined the next exercise would be held in conjunction with the DFES State exercise later this year.

District Risk Workshops

The DEMC will be hosting a Plant and Animal Biosecurity Treatment Options discussion workshop in May. The purpose of the workshop will be to consider a number of treatment options relating to the risk statements affected by the hazard.

Executive Officer Report

The Executive Officer advised of his report and provided a presentation on a range of recent matters including;

- The Community Alert Sirens Discussion Paper
- Emergency Services Levy Review
- Exercise R.E.D

In General

- The Department of Child Protection and Family Support (CPFS) tabled the de-brief from the Marbellup Fire. The CPFS set up a welfare center at the Albany Leisure and Aquatic Centre to cater for potential evacuees. Key points related to after hour access, centre lay out and after-hours access to accommodation providers.
- The Department of Agriculture and Food WA provided an overview of the response to the Tomato Potato Psyllid. [Checkout DAFWAs website](#) for the latest information

