

The Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee (DEMC) met on the 14th December 2016. The DEMC was provided with a number of presentations and considered a number of items; this is a summary of key issues from the meeting.

Presentations

Department of Agriculture and Food WA, “Animal and Plant Biosecurity Response”

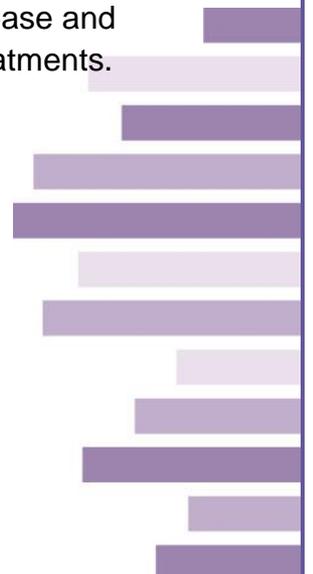
- The Department of Agriculture and Food provided a presentation on DAFWA's role in biosecurity response covering the following subjects;
 - The importance of agriculture to WA
 - Why is plant and animal biosecurity important
 - Foot and Mouth Disease as an example
 - How DAFWA will manage an outbreak
 - What they need from other agencies

Department of Planning, “Strategic Growth Patterns in the Great Southern”

Department of Planning provided a presentation on the State Planning Strategy and how it relates to growth and development in the Great Southern. Of particular interest to the DEMC is the potential future growth (numbers and locations), an increase in tourism, an aging population and an increase in primary production and downstream processing.

Department of Fire and Emergency Services, “Bushfire Risk Management Planning Project”

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services gave an overview of the Bushfire Risk Management Planning Project which highlighted the tenure blind asset based assessment approach. The area of their project is the Shire of Jerramungup and Shire of Ravensthorpe, although there are a total of 16 local governments in the project. The project involved conducting a bushfire risk assessment of assets, entering them into a data base and prioritizing treatment options. Some work is also being done on applying treatments.



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 that all but three local governments have up-to-date endorsed LEMA. As the three non-compliant local governments have been outstanding for some time the committee determined to initiate the compliance process endorsed by SEMC.

The committee noted three new sets of LEMA from the:

- Shire of West Arthur
- Shire of Cranbrook
- Shire of Plantagenet

Local Emergency Management Committee Exercises

At each meeting the DEMC reviews post exercise reports 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.

Local Risk Workshops

The Executive Officer provided feedback to the DEMC on the roll out of the State Risk Project – Local. To date one local government training session has been held with five local governments and a further training day is planned for later in December with six local governments invited to attend.

The purpose of the workshops is to provide local governments with the skills and tools to conduct the emergency risk assessment process within their local government area. Further workshops are planned for the northern part of the EM District in early 2017.

District Risk Workshops

The DEMC noted they have completed the risk assessment stage for 6 hazards and have commenced the process of identifying risk treatment options. One workshop has been held to consider treatments for risks causing injury or death and further assessment activities are planned for the first half of 2017.

Executive Officer Report

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

- The creation of the Office of Emergency Management
- Comprehensive Impact Assessment
- Recovery Aide Memoire
- Traffic Management – Adie Memoire
- DEMC Guidelines
- NDRP Funding
- DEMC Exercise – Exercise RED
- Emergency Preparedness Report
- Great Southern Capability Survey and LEMC Annual Report Results

Department of Child Protection & Family Support: Local Welfare Exercise

The Department of Child Protection and Family Support provided feedback on their recent local welfare center exercise conducted at Boxwood Hills Sport Pavilion.

Exercise “Quaalup Fire” was a welfare evacuation centre exercise to provide a learning opportunity for all participants in a simulated operational environment. It was a collaborative exercise requiring Department for Child Protection and Family Support staff and other agency staff and volunteers to perform particular functions associated with the activation of a Department for Child Protection and Family Support’s Local Welfare Plan.

The scenario was relevant to the local community and required the centre to be open notionally for an 18 hour period, offering a range of welfare supports and services. Participants were asked to operate within the bounds of local and state emergency management arrangements.

