



Minutes for LEMC Meeting 26 May 2026

Shire of Northampton Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting

Location: Shire of Northampton, Northampton Shire Chambers

Time: 1:01pm

Emergency Management Act 2005 (Section 39) - Functions of local emergency management committees:

- (a) to advise and assist the local government in ensuring that local emergency management arrangements are established for its district.**
- (b) to liaise with public authorities and persons in the development, review and testing of local emergency management arrangements; and**
- (c) to carry out other emergency management activities as directed by the SEMC or prescribed by the regulations.**

1. Opening and Welcome

Acknowledgement of Country

We would like to respectfully acknowledge the Yamatji People who are the Traditional Owners and First People of the land on which we meet. We would like to pay our respects to the Elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of the Yamatji People.

2. Attendance and Apologies

Liz Sudlow- Shire of Northampton (Acting Chairperson)
Brian Robinson- Shire of Northampton EMCDR
Tatiana Vafiades- Northampton Shire CESM/ CBFCO
Hayley Baikie- Northampton Health Services
Dianna Geiger- WACHS Kalbarri
MJ Morrel- WACHS Northampton
Jules Leighton- WA Police Northampton
Tariq Jaffer- WA Police Northampton
AJ Geary- ERS Department of Communities
Graham Page- GMA Mining
Carlos Gil de Matos- Australian Garnet Mine
John Drummond- Department Of transport Midwest
Tim Dalwood- Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Shaun Burton- Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Jo Bettersworth- Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Mark Teale- Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Apologies:

Simon Miller- Department of Fire and Emergency Services Marine Rescue
Steve Clarke- WA Police Kalbarri
Steve Cable- Kalbarri SES
Matt Johnson- DCBFCO
Chad Smith- Shire of Northampton
Nic Chadbourne- St John Ambulance

3. Terms of Reference.

The Acting Chair lead discussions around the need to appoint a new chairperson following the resignation of the previous chair (Tim Hay) as Councillor.

Moved: Jules Leighton

Seconded: Mark Teale

That the Terms of Reference be modified to reflect Cr Chad Smith as Chair, Cr Liz Sudlow as proxy, Mr Brian Robinson to Deputy Chair and Tatiana Vafiades be appointed as Executive Officer.

Motion Passed Unanimously

4. Disclosure of interests:

Nil.

5. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

With minutes from the previous meeting not being available, no confirmation of minutes occurred.

6. Key Discussion Points from Previous Minutes

Nil.

7. Agency Updates Including Issues, Post Incident or Exercise Reports

Please find attached their reports:

7.1 Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Mark Teale: AO Midlands Fire

Attached.

7.2 Department of Communities - AJ Geary.

Attached.

7.3 WACHS Kalbarri - Diana Geiger

Spoke to an incident that occurred where an RFDS flight could not be dispatched because it could not land at the Kalbarri airport. This was due to not having an ARO in the Kalbarri townsite. AROs are needed to clear the runway from any animals and allow the flight to land safely. Discussed further in General Business.

7.4 Department of Transport - John Drummond

The Department of Transport does not have contingencies or cyclone procedures but have serve weather system protocols and procedures which they follow and that have been made easier with the updates to the Australian Warning system.

The fuel (diesel) at Kalbarri boat harbour is via a provider for DTMI customer who use the harbour facility or in transit and have the correct card to purchase.

The fuel farm as they are called can hold 110,000 litres at any one time, but with a reduction of vessel due to fishing ban the capacity is reduced but still substantial.

If you could advise if this is a resource that you are interested in during emergencies, I will start the process with the providers how this can occur.

7.5 Northampton WAPOL - Jules Leighton

Northampton is now fully staffed with 4 officers. Kalbarri has one permanent officer with their new Sergeant starting later this month so will have 2 full time and then 2 vacant positions with personnel from Geraldton relieving.

7.6 Australian Garnet Mine - Carlos Gil de Matos

New to the role and working along side local government and DFES to establish and MOU. They have just established their capabilities and protocols to support there mine site and potentially help DFES in response capabilities. Is also liaising with GMA Garnet to establish a joint protocol.

7.7 GMA Garnet - Graham Page-:

Going to be working with Australian garnet to increase their own capabilities and trainings whilst establishing new protocols.

7.8 Department of fire and emergency Services- SES/ DO Natural Hazards Jo Bettsworth

Kalbarri SES has been successful in obtaining 2 new ATUs, this will help with the capability of there fleet. They have also a new general rescue vehicle which has been swapped with the troop carrier. They have recently run a team leader course which was extremely successful and have more training coming in the news few months. The SES would like to advise the great working relationship the community of Kalbarri have with some more serious LANDSAR rescues as of late and the encouraging relationships all agencies have including SES, ST Johns, WAPOL, DBCA and how the joint agencies have been working together. Steve cable has been working with the other agencies with trainings to bring all into line with the way they use their radios and communication systems. There will be a training package coming out soon regarding the ATUs and training the other Stakeholders to be able to use them going forward.

7.9 DBCA - Trevor Jones

Business as Usual for DBCA, as of late DBCA has helped the SES, WAPOL and St Johns ambulance with 4 rescues out of the national park. Also made comment about the great working relationships that have been formed with the other agencies. The Kalbarri mitigation burn week was extremely successful and went to plan, was great to have so many volunteers there and other agencies, and thanked Tatiana for partaking from Local Government. It is now DBCAs off season, where they focus on training and bushfire season preparations. They are still looking at finishing several burns around the Kalbarri area if they get the correct conditions to allow them to do so. Geraldton has another capability of a heavy truck that can be dispatched to our region opening up more capabilities for DBCA to support the community. They also have 4 new recruits onboard that have commenced there training and partook in burn week. They are a little understaffed at the moment with personnel on leave and a lot of staff acting in other roles. To keep persistent and reach out to who you can until they are structured as normal.

7.10 Shire of Northampton - Brian Robinson

Welcomed Tatiana Vafiades as a the CESM for both Northampton and Chapman Valley, explained what the role was and how it fits into our community. Also explained at this time the BFAC

committee is happy for her to do the dual roles as she is the CBFCO for Northampton Aswell. Let the committee know we have more capabilities thanks to DFES rolling our hand held WAERN radios to the brigades. Informed the committee there would be changes to the Fire break notice and we will be educating the public more so coming into this next bushfire season and with the new change's blocks under 2000m2 would not be able to burn if in a townsite. Expressed that the Mush Fire Mitigation plans were under review and will be getting presented to council at the next meeting and hopefully adopted and explained this will help dramatically for mitigation fund and grant opportunities for next year.

The Kalbarri Multi-Purpose Community building was spoken about. Brian and the Chair informed committee that the plans are now with the architectures, and council will be reviewing them for consideration before sending to engineers.

7.11 Shire of Northampton CBFCO - Tatiana Vafiades

It has been an extremely busy season compared to some in the bushfire space. We have attended over 30 incidents since October last year. We have been thankful to have some ground controllers trained up which has meant we have been able to utilise the water bomber on multiple occasions which has been a great result. There have been a lot of changes within some brigades with a positive outcome. It is sad that the amount of deliberately lit fires has increased and we have had to investigate more. The leadership group we currently have and are building with trainings has been great. We have a great team and are all making the decisions together and portraying it to the community for there understanding. We will be focusing on a lot more training within the next 12 months. Still quite dry and a large fuel load around which has been some more escaped burns then we would have liked but we have great farmer response units and get on top of most fires in a short amount of time.

7.12 Department of fire and emergency Services DO Natural Hazards - Tim Dalwood

Tim Dalwood spoke directly about TC NARELLE and how it was managed from the DFS side. Explained in detail the actually incident and why decisions were made the way they were and the strategies behind it. Also went into detail about the actual cyclone itself and its span of damage and the affected areas. His report was verbal and very descriptive and informative.

8. Presentations

Find attached slides from Marrion Massam in regards to BEN signage. Unfortunately due to not having a teams link she was unable to present on the day.

9. Review of Action list and business arising

Item	Owner	Status
RFDS Kalbarri airstrip Issue	CESM/ SHIRE/ WACHS	Pending
Terms of Reference	CESM	Pending
Kalbarri Multi-Purpose Community Centre	NR Shire	Pending
LEMA / Recovery plan	CESM/ DFES	Pending
Emergency Contacts Registry/ Directory	CESM	Pending
Disaster relief Funding- Cache	Department of Communities/ CESM	Pending
Emergency Fuel Department of transport	Department of Transport/ CESM	Pending
Refuel contact- Fuel/ Generator Northampton	CESM	Pending

Starlink Community Registry	CESM	Pending
Mine Capabilities List Australian Garnet/ GMA	CESM	Pending

10. General Business

10.1 Kalbarri Airport

Di Gieger brought up an issue about an incident where RFDS were called to evacuate a patient and could not go ahead due to the RFDS not being able to dispatch and land as there was no ARO within Kalbarri townsite that could deem the runway safe for the landing of the flight.

The Shires Response:

The Shire is working towards organising a specific tailored course to train volunteers to be able to clear and deem a runway safe for RFDS and other emergency flights to land. This is an ongoing and not an easy task. We are waiting to hear back from CASA who are the regulatory body for the airspace and to see if a modified course would be acceptable and able to be performed legal. The Northampton shire is hoping to train a handful of volunteers to be able to do so rather than relying on the three AROs we have in the community based in Northampton and Horrocks. This will eliminate and save on costs for the training as well. The shire is looking at more than one option to resolve this but relying on parties' response.

10.2 Feedback on Australian Warning System - TC Narrelle

Mr Dalwood All members of the meeting had extremely positive feedback about the new system and how it came across to the community. The comments that were made that it was more simple and easier to follow. It was extremely clear and structured and told people exactly what they needed to do and when. The action statements were clear but could be made more impactful and educated more to the public outside of an incident.

11. Next Meeting(s)

11.1. LEMC calendar

Date	Activity	Venue	Comment
26/05/26	LEMC Meeting	Northampton Shire Chambers	
October- TBA	LEMC	Kalbarri Shire Chambers	

12. Meeting Closure

Meeting closed 2:44pm