



SHIRE OF WYALKATCHEM



OCTOBER 2020

INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Council makes a number of decisions at its monthly ordinary meeting of Council.

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995 5.41(c)* the function of the CEO is to; Cause council decisions to be implemented.

The purpose of the Shire of Wyalkatchem Council Meeting Status report is to provide Council's with a progress status and actions performed to date, as well as anticipated completion dates. The presentation of the status report is effective from the August 2018 Ordinary Council Meeting. Actions and status updates since the last status report are indicated in bold. Items that have been reported as completed will be removed in future reports.

SHIRE OF WYALKATCHEM COUNCIL MEETING STATUS REPORT AS AT 9 October 2020

MINUTE REFERENCE	DETAIL	REPOSIBLE OFFICER	STATUS / COMMENTS	ANTICIPATED COMPLETION DATE
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<p>OMC – 21/11/2019 15.2.1</p>	<p>Locked Standpipes Ms Dayman to explore the configurations of the locked Standpipes further in order to find a way to resolve the issue. Discussions highlighted a need to assess the out of town standpipe locks and solutions to access.</p>	<p>MOW</p>	<p>2. Noted. Solution being discussed with MOW. Standpipes locks have been unlocked during the fire risk season. Unannounced inspection resulted in a warning for Stand Pipes to be locked. The issue of access still remains. Discussed further at LEMC Meeting 7 October 2020. Agreed to check the location of standpipes and tanks and adaptation fitting sizes.</p>	<p>In Progress</p>
<p>OMC – 19/12/2019 175/2019</p>	<p>7. The Chief Executive Officer to provide a report to Council on the effectiveness of the 12 month meeting structure trial at the December 2020 meeting.</p>	<p>7. CEO</p>	<p>7. Noted.</p>	<p>Pending</p>
<p>OMC – 21/05/2020 77/2020</p>	<p>That Council: 3. Gives delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a lease agreement with Mr Bruce Eckersly, as per confidential attachment 14.1.2, for a portion of Shire of Wyalkatchem owned land being Lot 500 on deposited plan 68673. hangar one. and facilitate all</p>	<p>5. CEO</p>	<p>Noted. To be completed on completion of advertising period and on assessment of any submissions</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p>

	<p>That Council;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Confirm the 'in principle' commitment of the Shire of Wyalkatchem to the North Eastern Wheatbelt Health Scheme 2. Direct the Chief Executive Officer to liaise with the member Chief Executive Officers to prepare a revised North Eastern Wheatbelt Health Scheme Memorandum of Understanding <p>That the revised Memorandum of Understanding and North Eastern Wheatbelt Health Scheme service provision cost be presented to Council for adoption prior <i>to finalising the documents</i></p>	<p>1. CEO</p> <p>2. CEO</p> <p>3. CEO</p>		<p>Not commenced</p> <p>Not commenced</p> <p>Not commenced</p>
	<p>Elected Member Training LG E learning Subscription for Elected members was paid for 19/05/2020. Councillors to agree on moving this forwards- group session dates. All training is now required to be posted on the Shire website on a monthly basis.</p>	<p>3. GEO</p>	<p>Training 8 October</p>	<p>Council Training conducted 8 Oct 2020. Cr's Nightingale, Garner and Holdsworth to complete independently</p>
<p>OMC – 16/07/2020 15.2.1</p>	<p>REED CHILDCARE REED childcare advised of some work required at the tennis club prior to being acceptable for use. These works need to be identified and followed up.</p>	<p>CEO</p>	<p>Works identified. Awaiting sign-off from Govt's LRCI Program.</p>	<p>PENDING</p>

<p>OMC – 16/07/2020 15.2.2</p>	<p>DOCTORS RESIDENCE The kitchen needs a makeover- dishwasher is unsuitable, a breather valve needs to be relocated and new cabinetry installed. We are currently sourcing the 3 quotes as per policy</p>	<p>GEO</p>	<p>A third party has been engaged for a third quote, an email has been sent for the second party to carry out the quote asap. Complete</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p>
<p>OMC – 27/08/2020 10.2.3</p>	<p>PROPOSED LEASE OF COUNCIL PROPERTY – HANGER 1 WYALKATCHEM AERODROME (REPRESENTED) That Council: Authorises the Shire President and CEO to execute the proposed lease agreement as detailed in Attachment No. 10.2.3.1 by affixing the Common Seal of the Shire of Wyalkatchem, subject to no public submissions having been received at the close of the public notice period in accordance with s.3.58(3) of the Local Government Act 1995.</p>	<p>CEO</p>	<p>No public submissions received. Awaiting B.E. signature before execution.</p>	<p>IN PROGRESS</p>

<p>OMC – 27/08/2020 14.1</p>	<p>Option 1 That Council conduct the recruitment of a CEO in-house and approve the following process for the selection and appointment of a CEO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shire President and Acting CEO to review the CEO position description and selection criteria and amend where appropriate. • Shire President and Acting CEO to develop an Information Package • Shire President and Acting CEO to develop a job advertisement for placement in the West Australian newspaper as required by legislation • Shire President and Acting CEO to place vacancy details on relevant on-line platforms (Seek, Local Government Jobs WA) • Applications to be received in confidence by the Shire President. Applications received that do not meet the basic criteria are to be declined • All other applications are to be shared with all Councillors after the closing date. • Full Council to assess all applications and determine a short list of candidates for interview • Interview questions to be prepared by Shire President and Acting CEO • Interviews arranged by Shire President with the assistance of the Acting CEO • Preferred candidate to be selected by full Council • Shire President to undertake reference checks • Employment contract to be negotiated 			<p>COMPLETE</p> <p>COMPLETE</p> <p>COMPLETE</p> <p>COMPLETE</p> <p>COMPLETE</p> <p>COMPLETE</p> <p>COMPLETE</p> <p>PENDING</p> <p>COMPLETE</p> <p>PENDING</p> <p>PENDING</p> <p>PENDING</p>
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<p>OMC – 17/09/2020 10.2.3</p>	<p>That Council 1. adopt the proposed Memorandum of Understanding; 2. enter into an agreement with other member local governments for the North Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils for a term ending on 30th June 2023; and 3. authorise the President and Chief Executive Officer to sign and affix the Common Seal of the Shire of Wyalkatchem to the agreement.</p>	<p>CEO</p>		<p>IN PROGRESS</p>
<p>OMC – 17/09/2020 10.2.4</p>	<p>REBRANDING- That Council revisit this item at the next ordinary Meeting of Council, 15 October 2020.</p>	<p>C</p>		<p>PENDING</p>
<p>OMC – 17/09/2020 10.3.2</p>	<p>ASK REPORT That Council express its strong support for Option 4 (weekly collection) requiring additional modelling, analysis, assessment and discussion before any decision is made on potential implementation.</p>			<p>COMPLETE</p>
<p>OMC – 17/09/2020 10.3.3</p>	<p>That Council make a submission to Main Roads setting out its support of the work progressing, and the proposed course of action by Main Roads to pay compensation to DWER for displaced flora and fauna.</p>			<p>COMPLETE</p>
<p>OMC – 17/09/2020 10.4.1</p>	<p>That the Council: 1. supports the strata subdivision application 1117-20 – lot no 298 Flint Street, Wyalkatchem, as outlined in the application to the Western Australian Planning Commission, as provided in 10.4.1, and 2. advises the Western Australian Planning Commission that it has no objections to the proposed strata subdivision and has no conditions to impose on the proposal.</p>			<p>COMPLETE</p> <p>COMPLETE</p>

Information bulletin August 2020

15.2.2 Review of meeting dates

Review meeting dates in Dec as planned – Workshop to be arranged for recruitment selection and meeting dates review.

15.2.3 Elected Member training

E learning session to be arranged. **COMPLETE**

15.2.4 NEWROC Waste management proposal

Councillors to read the report. **COMPLETE**

15.2.5 Drag Racing

Council agreed that more information is required. ANDRA needs to sanction prior any further discussion. Mr Tindale to approach the police for any prior feedback. Standing starts- need options. To be discussed further with the other Shires mentioned in the email. **Further information received- to be discussed.**

15.2.6 Proposed Fly in

Council is in agreement. Mr Tindale to communicate with David Holdsworth. **PENDING**

Information bulletin September 2020

15.2.1. Status Report

Cropping Lease

Now re-signed, to be re visited.

15.2.2. Korrelocking Reserve

Tables and shade are needed. Ms Elvidge confirmed that DBCA were providing 3 x picnic tables and that these were due to be installed on 21st September. **COMPLETE**

DBCA have agreed that the Shire can erect shelter. This needs to be discussed further. **PENDING**

15.2.3. White Dam lease and Bowling Club Lease

The Bowling Club is considering the concept and are investigating outright purchase. Currently the Bowling Club lease matter is on hold.

Mr Tindale to follow up on the White Dam lease.



**MINISTER FOR TOURISM; RACING AND GAMING; SMALL BUSINESS;
DEFENCE ISSUES; CITIZENSHIP AND MULTICULTURAL INTERESTS**

Our Ref: 70-22156

Mr Stephen Tindale
Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Wyalkatchem

ceo@wyalkatchem.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr Tindale

Last year I wrote to the Shire about the Wildflower Friendliness Rating Scheme, the aim of which is to reward Local Governments for protecting and conserving wildflowers, particularly along roadside verges and in local reserves.

Local Governments were encouraged to submit self-assessment scoresheets and six did, with the Shire of Merredin scoring the required number of points to receive promotional support of its wildflower friendliness by Tourism Western Australia in the following ways:

- Exposure on the consumer website, westernaustralia.com, with a dedicated mention on the main wildflower page;
- Inclusion in industry EDMs – ‘Talking Tourism’ and ‘This is WA’;
- Exposure in the new edition of the annual Wildflower Guide;
- Inclusion in the Wildflower Tracker map – <https://www.wavisitorcentre.com.au/wildflowers>; and
- Exposure on Tourism Western Australia’s social channels.

My office has worked with the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) and the Wildflower Society of Western Australia (WSWA) on amendments to the scheme to better reflect the environment in which Local Governments operate, while not diminishing the scheme’s original intent.

In addition to the program’s name being changed to the Wildflower Friendliness Award Scheme, the scoresheet criteria and corresponding points on offer have been updated. An additional change is the formation of an Assessment Panel consisting of representatives from WALGA, the WSWA and my office which will check and verify all scoresheets and supporting information that are submitted.

When border restrictions are lifted, Tourism Western Australia will promote wildflowers across the State to potential interstate and international holidaymakers through a variety of consumer-direct and other marketing activities. The opportunity that the Wildflower Friendliness Award Scheme offers is for Local Governments that achieve a 4-star rating (60-81 points) or above to receive additional exposure, as the Shire of Merredin is receiving this year.

I encourage you to participate in the new Wildflower Friendliness Award Scheme. A copy of the new self-assessment scoresheet is enclosed and I invite you to complete and submit it by 6 November 2020.

If you have any questions about the scheme, please contact my Principal Policy Adviser, Ian Johnson, by email to ian.johnson@dpc.wa.gov.au or telephone 6552 5600.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Papalia', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**HON PAUL PAPALIA CSC MLA
MINISTER FOR TOURISM**

29 SEP 2020

Enclosed

Welcome to *Wheatbelt Way!*

Thank you for visiting us along the *Wheatbelt Way*. We hope you have enjoyed your stay.
We'd love for you stay a day or two longer!

With this in mind, we seek to improve our local amenities.

As such, we would be very grateful if you could complete this short survey.



Based on your experiences so far, please rate the following accommodation, facilities and attractions:

I'm am in: Beacon Bencubbin Dowerin Koorda Mukinbudin Nungarin
 Trayning Westonia Wyalkatchem

AT MY ACCOMMODATION (Please Tick Appropriate Boxes)

I'm staying at: Caravan Park Free Campsite Hotel/Motel Other Railway Barracks

	1 Very Bad	2 Bad	3 OK	4 Good	5 Very Good	N/A
General Amenities					✓	
Gardens & Surrounds					✓	
Information/Pamphlets/Guidebooks/Maps						

IN AND AROUND TOWN (Please Tick Appropriate Boxes)

	1 Very Bad	2 Bad	3 OK	4 Good	5 Very Good	N/A
Gardens				✓	✓	
Pamphlets/Guidebooks/Maps				✓		
Road Signs				?		
Information Boards						
Internet						
Rest Areas				✓		
Picnic Areas				?		
Walk Trails				?		
Cycle Paths				?		
Off-Road Tracks				?		
Play Areas						
Cafes					✓	
Restaurants					✓	
Shops					✓	
Fuel					✓	
Power						

Please provide here any feedback, comments and/or suggestions to help explain your scores above and how we can improve your stay with us:

Our 2nd visit to Wylie over a month
Our friend, with us, grew up in Wylie (she was a shirefall), so she has enjoyed meeting past community mbs & family friends.
We are extremely impressed by the R-way Barracks and its abusers they are loved by the locals.
Everything one could need was provided, & very clean rest.
Thank you very much to all who care for the Barracks
PS Idea suggestion: Would you think of having a visitors book for travellers to share their thoughts

ABOUT YOU (Please Tick/Complete all Relevant Boxes)

Gender: Male Female Other (Please State) _____

Age Group: 18-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60-69 70+

Heritage: Australian Born Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Born Overseas

If born overseas, please state which country England (live in Aust)

Work: Full Time Part Time Casual FIFO Unemployed Student Retired

Other (Please State) _____

If Employed – Please state your occupation: _____

Usual Place of Residence: If in Australia: State, Suburb and/or Post Code Bronxwap, n the of Albany

If Overseas: Country and Town _____

Reason for Visiting: Holiday/Leisure Business Other (Please state) _____

Proposed Length of Stay this Visit: One Night Two Nights Three Nights More (Please State) _____

Travelling Groups: Individual Couple More Than Two (Please State How Many) 3

Travelling with Children (Please State How Many) No



FOR A SAFER STATE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COVID-19 RECOVERY IMPACT SUMMARY REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2020

Local Government COVID-19 Recovery Impact Report September 2020

Background

The State Recovery Controller tasked the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) State Recovery, with collecting and collating local government recovery impacts as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

To date, DFES State Recovery has invited local governments to complete two surveys. The initial survey in June 2020 was developed to collect impacts, initiatives, risks, opportunities and emerging issues as they relate to recovery from a local government and a community perspective.

Information received from 102 local governments was provided to the State Recovery Controller and the State Recovery Steering Committee to inform the development of the Impact Statement and the WA Recovery Plan.

Local governments were invited to complete a second survey by the 14 September 2020. This survey asked local governments to report against emerging impacts, successes, gaps in service delivery and preseason preparedness as it relates to local government operations.

The report is a summary of the feedback received from local governments regarding their perception of emerging impacts, gaps and preseason preparedness and not necessarily evidence based.

Of the 139 local governments in Western Australia (WA), 73 responded to the survey. A breakdown of responses by Emergency Management District can be found below in Figure 1.

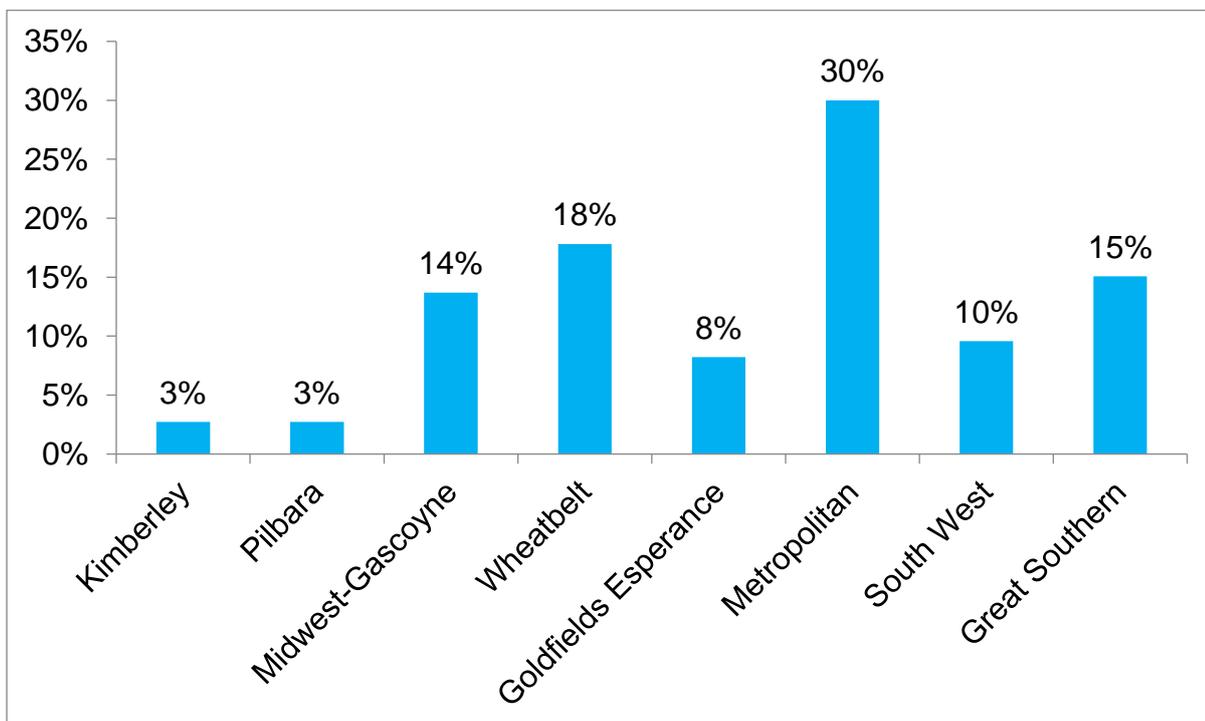


Figure 1: Percentage of Responses by Emergency Management District

Impacts by theme

Impacts experienced by local governments and their communities varied across each district depending on the size, community structure, demographics and predominant industries. However, there were some common themes that emerged as follows:

1. Emerging issues / unintended negative consequences

Workforce shortages and housing demands

Local governments across various regions raised concerns in relation to workforce shortages. This included seasonal workers across the agricultural industries as well as those required for infrastructure projects including qualified trades people. A reluctance of people returning to work due to receiving JobSeeker/Keeper payments was also reported.

Local governments also identified the lack of skilled workers to fill positions in local businesses. With the increased number of Western Australians holidaying in regional areas, increased service demands have been impacted by staff shortages which has been exacerbated by shortages in rental accommodation in regional WA.

Mental Health

Anxiety caused through lockdown has continued with some elderly residents finding it difficult to re-engage. Reduction in community and sporting events have limited opportunities for communities to connect. Mental health concerns of the mobile workforces such as fly in/fly out and merchant sailors were also noted by the Town of Port Hedland. Many responses included concerns regarding the impact on the community once JobSeeker/Keeper payments finish, such as homelessness, poverty and poorer mental health.

Capacity of Local Government

Local government has endeavoured to stretch to meet the needs of the community, local business and external agencies. Many responses highlighted the fact that due to restrictions and venues closing, staff hours were reduced, in some cases by 20%.

This reduction in staffing coincided with an increase in calls, emails and requests from government agencies to provide information and the announcement of stimulus packages which increased approvals required within tight timeframes. The City of Bayswater reported a 70% increase in development approvals on the same time last year.

Many local governments have reported the loss of revenue generated from facilities and rates has significantly impacted their ability to deliver programs. Regional local governments have also expressed concern over the increased cost of maintaining unsealed roads with the increase in traffic and the potential impacts on road safety.

Community Events

Community events, sporting activities and community groups have been highlighted as essential for community connectiveness, fund raising and supporting local businesses. The impact of not delivering these activities is that many are now facing financial uncertainty. Responses also highlighted a lack of public confidence in returning to attend events due to ongoing risks associated with COVID-19. Several local governments are seeking clearer guidelines for events, caravan parks and camping grounds.

Crime/Safety

Some local governments have reported an increase in crime including home burglary, shoplifting, domestic violence and vehicle thefts. The City of Bayswater reported an increase in vacant building's resulting in vandalism, squatters, trespassers and beggars. Some local governments have reported an increase in drug and alcohol use, suggesting it may be from an increase in disposable income from receiving JobSeeker/Keeper payments. Local governments within the Kimberley raised concerns that extremely at-risk and disengaged youth are engaging in high-risk activities and not attending school.

Engaging the most vulnerable

Local governments found it difficult to reach everyone, regardless of the strategies they employed. The Shire of Halls Creek for example highlighted that most residents would 'go bush' if COVID-19 cases occurred which would make engagement very difficult.

Technology played a valuable role in connecting people, but it also highlighted a 'digital divide' between agencies and across the community. The limited ability for some local governments to connect with community members during the crisis was a major concern, especially vulnerable cohorts such as people with a disability or people who are culturally and linguistically diverse.

2. Successes/Unintended Positive Consequences

Local governments reported measures of success for activities undertaken or positive outcomes because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Community spirit has been a key theme across responses with new and strengthened relationships being formed between government/community organisations, volunteers and residents.

Community spirit and collaboration

One key strategy adopted by many regional local governments was to establish a volunteer/vulnerable person register that coordinates the regular 'checking in' on people and providing support. This provides volunteers with a sense of purpose while providing people in need with the care and reassurance they require.

Many local governments reported the 'Buy Local' campaign as a successful initiative in supporting local business to stay open and provide produce and services to the community. Neighbourhood led initiatives were another popular way of keeping people connected and reducing isolation. Several local governments highlighted their scores from the MARKYT Community Resilience Scorecard¹ commissioned by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries.

All Councillors were allocated 10 identified "Likely to be at Risk" persons to make contact with them to ascertain how they were fairing during the Pandemic and offered support if required
(Shire of Quairading)

¹ MARKYT Community Resilience Scorecard

www.lgprofessionalswa.org.au/Lgmawa/News/MARKYT_Community_Resilience_Scorecard_Results.aspx

Innovation

Finding new ways of engaging and supporting the community has created some innovative initiatives. For example, a Free Food Market coordinated weekly by a local community group and supported by the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale. This included other wrap around services attending to provide support such as the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the Red Cross. Library services changed to meet community need including delivering books and services going online with interactive community webinars and workshops.

Meals on wheels (MOW) program has saved lives through the partnerships established between the Shire and service providers. The program acts as a visual wellness check which has, in one case, saved a senior's life through a series of actions following the delivery of a meal.

(Shire of Coolgardie)

Initiatives to support culture and the arts had prominence across local governments during the COVID-19 recovery, some resulting in employment opportunities.

Artists of Armadale: This showcased local artists across a range of mediums through regular livestreaming sessions resulting in the employment of 45 artists with a collective 35,061 views and 81,586 people reached across the 18 livestreams. This has led to new audiences for artists into the recovery phase.

(City of Armadale)

Local Governments/Local Business

Local governments endeavoured to be the central point of contact and provide facility guidelines, report their cleaning regimes and reinforce messaging from the State and Federal government. This provided the community with reassurance and support.

Local businesses relied heavily on the support from local governments throughout the lockdown period and now during recovery. The impact to staff, owners and the community during this time has been significant, but some local governments have acted quickly and implemented strategies that have seen great success.

Emergency Management Framework

The Emergency Management Framework provides a structure with processes that local government know very well. This structure has enabled local governments to mobilise key stakeholders into groups such as Incident Support Groups or utilise existing structures such as District or Local Emergency Management Committees.

All local governments have Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) that outline the course of action a local government will take in the event of an emergency. Although COVID-19 recovery is coordinated by the State, many local governments still utilised this structure. Recovery Plans or similar documents have enabled a quick, well considered response in many areas.

The City continues to effectively utilise local recovery coordination fundamentals using the Local Emergency Management Arrangements formal committee structure. A Rockingham Recovery webpage has been established as a 'one stop shop' for community members to access information and resources about the WA Recovery Plan and Local Recovery Coordination Group activities.
(City of Rockingham)

3. Service delivery gaps of local government which may impact COVID-19 recovery

Human Resources

Challenges related to human resources has been a theme throughout the survey data with several local governments needing to redeploy staff and close facilities due to COVID-19 restrictions. Some local governments reported reducing staff hours which proved challenging with an increase in requests for approvals or the coordination of bringing capital works projects forward. A shortage of skilled workers for industries such as construction, building, aged care and child care were also mentioned.

Psychosocial services – LG is not funded to deliver these, no funding to engage services who specialise in this like Red Cross.
(Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale)

Capacity Building

Several local governments highlighted the need for staff to fill specific roles such as working with youth, the Aboriginal community, the multicultural community and the arts industry. In addition, a resource to identify external grants that local government and community organisations could access was also a gap.

Reduced capacity to deliver social programs due to loss in revenue e.g. reduction in hours at youth centre, library and community centres. Reduced capacity to deliver community connecting events programs.
(Town of Kwinana)

Digital Connectivity

Both regional and metropolitan local governments identified gaps in people's skills and access to digital connectivity during lockdown. Libraries became an essential service during this time with many people relying on the equipment and services they provide.

The digital divide in the community was evident and the role of libraries to maintain access to online resources became even more critical both in the initial response and at present, this is due to services moving to digital service delivery during COVID-19 and maintaining these services online.
(City of Swan)

4. COVID-19 Local Recovery Plans and their alignment to the WA Recovery Plan

Local governments were asked if they have a COVID-19 Local Recovery Plan. Of the 73 responses, 52% responded yes.

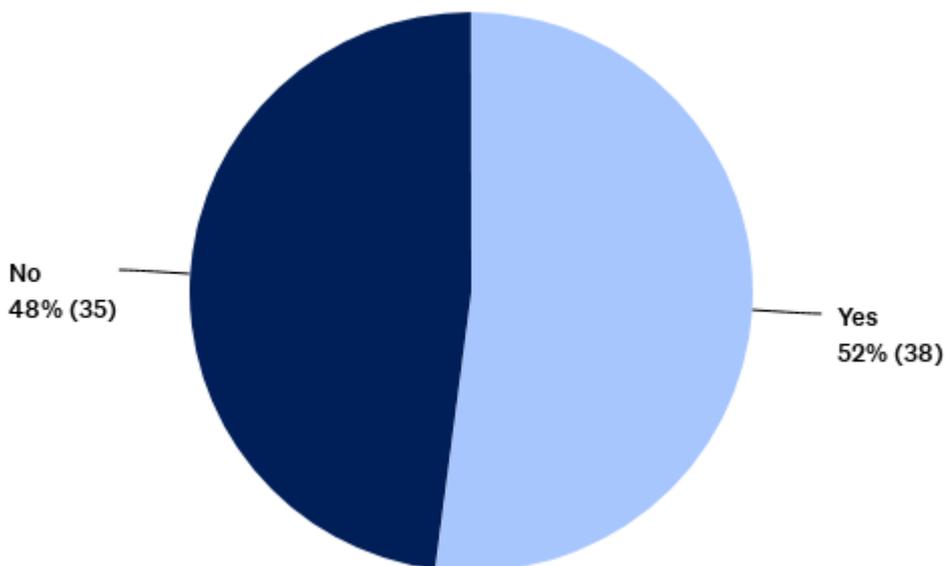


Figure 2: Local Governments with COVID-19 Local Recovery Plans

Of the local governments that responded yes (38) to having a COVID-19 Local Recovery Plan, 92% (35) aligned them to the WA Recovery Plan.

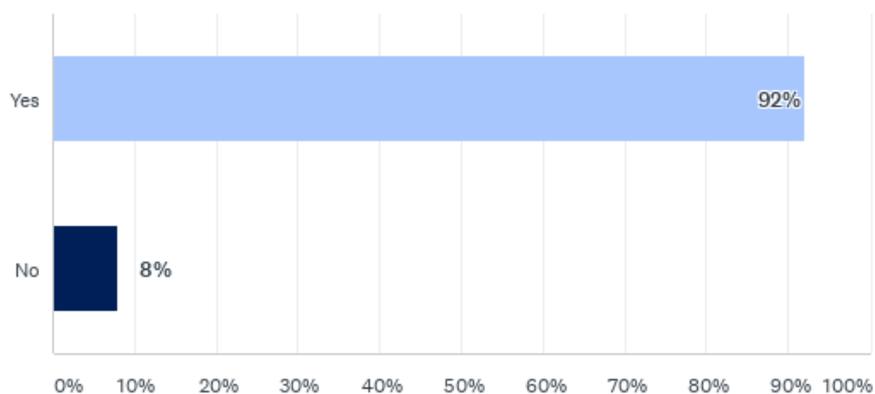


Figure 3: Percentage of local governments that have aligned their COVID-19 Local Recovery Plan with the WA Recovery Plan.

5. Preparedness for the high threat period

DFES State Recovery asked local governments three questions related to the 2020/21 high threat period. These questions will help DFES State Recovery understand local governments preseason preparedness and if COVID-19 has impacted their ability to prepare.

The survey asked local governments, “How would you rate your level of preseason preparedness?” Responses ranged from 27 (unprepared) to 100 (well prepared) with a mean score of 73. The next question asked “Has COVID-19 impacted your ability to undertake preseason preparedness for the 2020/21 high threat period?”

The figure below demonstrates that 76% of respondents either strongly disagreed, disagreed or were neutral to COVID-19 impacting their ability to prepare for the high threat period with 25% of responses agreeing or strongly agreeing.

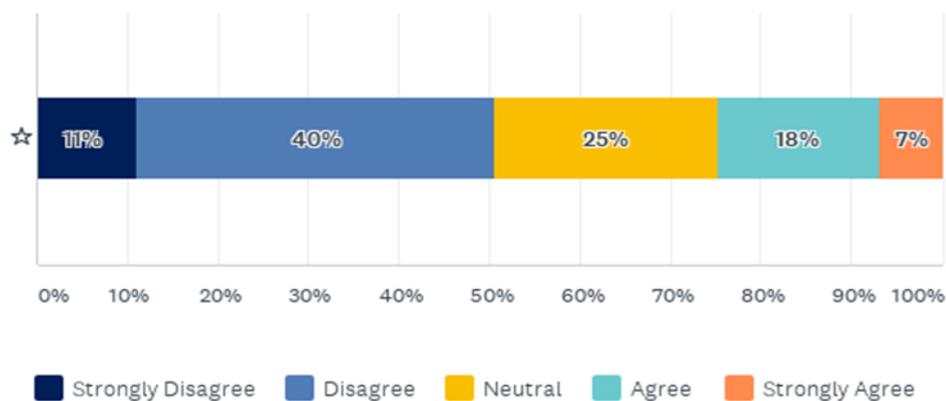


Figure 4: Impact of COVID-19 on Local Government Preparedness

Some regional and outer metropolitan local governments also noted concerns related to not being able to conduct controlled burns for fuel management due to COVID-19 restrictions. Availability of volunteers to assist fuel management strategies was also mentioned.

Conclusion

In conclusion, local governments have worked to meet requests, support government initiatives and be responsive to their local community. This has resulted in new and strengthened relationships between state/local government, community organisations and residents.

Challenges remain for some local governments regarding employment of skilled and available workers, concerns about managing emergency evacuation centres during another wave and the impact on their communities when JobSeeker/Keeper payments finish.

Leading into the high threat period, many local governments have reported being prepared utilising existing structures within their LEMA to meet these needs.



BUSHFIRE VOLUNTEERS

Issue: Report for DOAC/ROAC/BFAC meetings

Date: 7 September 2020

Sensitivity: Public

Notable issues since last meeting

Government and other stakeholders

Federal Government: Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements

- The association was involved in discussions both at a State and Federal level about the Terms of Reference for a Commonwealth Royal Commission into bushfire.
- The Bushfire Volunteers formal submission covered the following key topics:
 - partisan politicisation of emergency services,
 - representation of and respect for ES Volunteers,
 - understanding the volunteer effort,
 - ensuring a sustainable workforce,
 - local resilience,
 - the United Firefighters Union,
 - AFAC,
 - the cost of bureaucracy,
 - the role of the Commonwealth in responding to emergencies,
 - conflicts of interest and other challenges in current incident review procedures, and
 - national training standards
- Our full submission is here: <https://www.bushfire.org.au/bushfire-volunteers-written-submission-to-the-2020-national-royal-commission/>
- The association was summonsed to appear as a witness on 3 July.

Federal and State Governments: Volunteer payment program

- The State Committee approved a policy last year to explain that the association does not support payments to Emergency Service Volunteers, but insists on compensation for any loss.
- The association met with the Premier and representatives of the Prime Minister to advocate for a policy of not making direct payments to volunteers, but to ensure neither volunteers or their employers (including farmers and self-employed volunteers) are not out of pocket for ordinary wages paid while the volunteer is responding to an emergency.

DFES: Fit-for-purpose vehicles

- The association is proud that after years of persistent lobbying, progress has been made toward building Fit-for-purpose vehicles for our service.
- We thank Commissioner Darren Klemm and Brad Delavale for their willingness to listen to the advice we have given for many years and work toward changing the status quo.

DFES: ESL Working Group

- The association has long advocated the need for the way ESL is spent to be completely transparent and more accessible to Bush Fire Brigades.



BUSHFIRE VOLUNTEERS

- One very big issue we had hoped to have resolved by now was to remove the “eligible items list” in the Local Government Grants manual because it creates the perception that only items on that list are available. Sadly, the LGGs Manual has not yet incorporated this change.
- We currently have 17 motions pending that will improve the situation for Bush Fire Brigades and Local Governments if supported.

DFES: ESL-funded Defibrillators on Bush Fire Appliances – Successful advocacy for common sense

- The association proposed more than a year ago that bushfire brigades should be able to access funding for AED’s from the ESL – just as Brigades from other services could.
- As a direct result, we achieved the very positive outcome of making AED’s for Bush Fire Brigades ESL funded.
- We thank Brad Delavale for listening to our advocacy and helping us correct this anomaly.

DFES: WAFES Conference 2020 – postponed until 2021, then reinstated with DFES only input

- DFES cancelled the WAFES Conference because of COVID-19 restrictions but recently reinstated it in a revised format.
- DFES has decided it will determine the program and deal directly with volunteers rather than through the various volunteer associations this year.

WALGA: Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

- We had a second meeting with WALGA last night where we progressed discussions to formalise a long-term engagement and consultation agreement between WALGA, Bushfire Volunteers and the SES Volunteers association.

Association news and updates

ConEx – the Bushfire Volunteers Convention and Exhibition: Trying to collaborate with DFES

- As part of our huge effort to radically increase the number and depth of direct services for our members and stakeholders, we have planned our first ever Convention/Exhibition specifically for Bush Fire Volunteers and the Local Government officers who support them in Collie in October.
- We have asked DFES to support the event by allowing Local Governments to claim ESL for volunteer costs (registration, travel, accommodation etc) just as DFES does for its volunteer conference.
- Details and the form to express your interest are available at: www.conex.org.au – please register and show your support for this very exciting event!

ES Volunteers Smartphone App – supporting our members and promoting volunteers

- A huge development since we last met is the launch of our smartphone app – ES Volunteers.
- The app is free to our members and their Local Governments and delivers three important things:
 - A effortless way for volunteers to record the time, type and location of volunteering. This provides valuable stats for Brigades and Local Governments that will help attract funding but also will give volunteers actual evidence if they ever need to make a health-related or workers compensation claim.
 - A virtual ID card that allows Brigade Captains to remotely disable the ID card of any volunteer that is no longer qualified to use it.



BUSHFIRE VOLUNTEERS

- A fantastic recognition feature that allows supportive businesses to offer special deals and discounts to essential service volunteers of their choice.
- Given that we have been constantly told to develop independent sources of income, we have built the app to be free for our members and deliver a steady income stream from other services.
- We asked DFES to collaborate to make it available for all their volunteers to no avail.
- Visit www.ESVolunteers.org.au for more info and sign up

Co-ordination of Coles gift cards – we are building opportunities for better community support

- We worked with Coles Group for a month or so late last year to distribute \$500 gift cards to all Bush Fire Brigades in WA.
- Importantly, we urged Coles to make their generous gift available to all emergency services.
- A number of WA Bush Fire Brigades still have not registered for their Gift Card – go to <https://www.bushfire.org.au/coles> now to claim it.

Volunteer Bushfire Games

- Bushfire Games were held in conjunction with the Mining Emergency Response Competition (MERC) on Langley Park in the Perth CBD for the first time in November last year.
- It was a very successful partnership and hence, was planned to take place again this year.
- COVID-19 restrictions delayed planning for the 2020 event and subsequently, the MERC team have recently advised this year will be a much smaller event with Bushfire Games re-joining in 2021.

Breaking Barriers for Women in the Bushfire Service research

- The association has secured a grant for research into the barriers that women face as volunteers.
- A project officer will be announced soon and they will be reaching out to women who have been, are or could be ES volunteers, partners of volunteers and others – please keep an eye open for this.

New Mental Health service coming soon – looking for a psychologist to review before launch

- The association is developing a new members service in the area of mental health and has put out a call for a psychologist who can review and provide guidance to ensure the tools and information is effective and sound – please spread the word and let us know of anyone you think could help.

Exciting new program to encourage innovation coming soon

- The association has developed an exciting new program to encourage innovation in partnership with a global leader – watch this space.

Association building capacity – enabling us to deliver more direct member services

- The association is committed to delivering more direct members services and is on the verge of announcing some very exciting plans and initiatives. Sign up to the newsletter to stay informed.
- We have recently appointed two full-time staff to deliver better support and engagement directly to our members. Alex and Sinead have hit the ground running and despite the challenges of COVID-19 restrictions, have created some awesome plans that will soon come to fruition for all.
- We are working hard to develop long-term income to enable the “back-end” work to be done – please be in touch if you know of a potential sponsor or partner.



Caroline Robinson <caroline@solum.net.au>

RE: [EXTERNAL] NEWROC - Western Power meeting

Ben Stanton <Ben.Stanton@westernpower.com.au>

9 September 2020 at 16:13

To: Cameron Edwards <cameron@infranomics.com.au>, Michael Chung <Michael.Chung@westernpower.com.au>

Cc: John Nuttall <ceo@mtmarshall.wa.gov.au>, Caroline Robinson <caroline@solum.net.au>, Masoud Abshar <mabshar@magellanpower.com.au>, Tyrone Fernando <tyrone.fernando@uwa.edu.au>

Cameron,

Thanks for the email.

A few ideas spring to mind that I think are worth sharing

1. The major 'saving' to Western Power is not pulling lines down, it is not re-investing in new lines. Until the assets reach end of life this 'saving' doesn't materialise.
2. You are correct about the certainty of the reliability calculation but I wouldn't suggest stopping developing ideas based on that. Western Power is very keen to identify solutions that do provide cost effective microgrids (connected or disconnected).

Putting together the proposal re how the reliability improvement can be delivered is definitely the logical next step. Proving that we have a technical solution that meets customer expectations and is affordable would be a huge step forward.

Thanks for pulling everything together. I'm looking forward to a better solution for regional towns!

Cheers

Ben

From: Cameron Edwards <cameron@infranomics.com.au>**Sent:** Wednesday, 9 September 2020 2:36 PM**To:** Ben Stanton <Ben.Stanton@westernpower.com.au>; Michael Chung <Michael.Chung@westernpower.com.au>**Cc:** John Nuttall <ceo@mtmarshall.wa.gov.au>; Caroline Robinson <caroline@solum.net.au>; Masoud Abshar <mabshar@magellanpower.com.au>; Tyrone Fernando <tyrone.fernando@uwa.edu.au>**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NEWROC - Western Power meeting

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Hi Ben and Michael,

I tried calling to discuss. Thank you for meeting with us on Friday 4th September 2020. Below is a brief summary

of the meeting.

Apart from yourselves, present were;

John Nuttall - CEO Bencubbin

Caroline Robinson - Executive Officer - NEWROC councils

Tyrone Fernando - Professor of Electrical engineering at UWA & committee member of the Microgrid centre of excellence

Masoud Abshar - CEO Magellan Power & committee member of the Microgrid centre of excellence

Cameron Edwards - Director InfraNomics & committee member of the Microgrid centre of excellence

We discussed the reliability issues at Bencubbin, the Telstra Telecoms tower at Doig Road and Mukinbudin.

It was clarified that the Average Potential Benefit p.a. of \$94,000 in the reliability prospectus was an amount determined by the regulator and this is reviewed on a 5 year basis. Western Power cannot write a long term contract for \$94,000 pa and this is dependent on the reliability parameters. If there are outages, then the reliability factor and any payment to a solution provider will decrease.

We discussed the real benefits to both the communities and to Western Power is to remove the poles and wires to Bencubbin, the Telstra tower and Mukinbudin as this would significantly reduce costs for Western Power. It was flagged that there are regulatory constraints and that ultimately the end customers cannot be disadvantaged. The major advantage is to eliminate the need for new transmission upgrades at the end of the life of the existing infrastructure. The existing infrastructure is coming to the end of its life so this is pertinent to the current discussions.

This would mean local generation for the town, probably solar, battery with backup generation.

There is potentially the option to purchase the transmission infrastructure in Bencubbin at the written down value. Western Power can provide the cost so this can be reviewed.

John Nuttall mentioned that power generation and supply may return to community ownership as it was in the past. This is for review.

Although it was agreed to focus on Bencubbin as the initial test case, what is the Average Potential Benefit p.a. for Mukinbudin as this can be considered as well?

Next steps.

Step 1 - The reliability of power issue can be immediately resolved with a community battery sponsored by NEWROC on an appropriate site for less than \$94,000 per year. Therefore this project will commence to look at implementing a reliability solution for Bencubbin and present this solution to Western Power.

Step 2 - Send to Michael the estimated costs to deliver local generation to an islanded grid at Bencubbin. Western Power will compare this to the costs of the existing infrastructure, maintenance and future Capital expenditure

costs over 50 years.

Step 3 - Send to Michael the estimated costs to deliver local generation to the Doig Rd telecoms tower. Western Power will compare this to the costs of the existing infrastructure, maintenance costs and future Capital expenditure over 50 years.

Step 4 - Western Power to provide the estimated load for Mukinbudin (not in the Reliably Prospectus). Then we will send Michael the estimated costs to deliver local generation to Mukinbudin. Western Power will compare this to the costs of the existing infrastructure, maintenance costs and future Capital expenditure over 50 years.

Step 5 - If it is economically viable to implement local generation and island Bencubbin then there are 5 towns on the 1,300km feeder line that would also benefit in the same way. The reduction in existing infrastructure, maintenance, and future Capital expenditure costs over 50 years would flow to Western Power.

Step 6 - Western Power to provide to cost of purchasing the local grid by the community, if the town were to be islanded. It may be that the transmission, infrastructure and maintenance servicing at Bencubbin remains with Western Power. There are no commitments at this stage, only evaluating options.

Separately UWA and the Australian Microgrid centre of excellence can progress with;

- 1) A proper analysis of the performance of the microgrid.
- 2) How the microgrid interacts with the grid.
- 3) A cost benefit analysis focusing on new and potential revenue streams.
- 4) Observing the microgrid performance and how it can be standardised and scaled into other communities.
- 5) Quantify current emissions, post microgrid and the introduction of renewables.
- 6) A summary of local content and the impact on regional economic development and job creation.
- 7) Quantify the methodology and financial benefits to Western Power of islanding the microgrid and removing the distant transmission poles and wires.
- 8) Examine the feasibility and commercial options of community owned generation.
- 9) Make recommendations based on scientific evidence.

If there is anything else, please let me know.

Cheers

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