



# SHIRE OF WYALKATCHEM



**MAY 2020**

## **INFORMATION BULLETIN**

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 14 MAY 2020

MINUTE REFERNCE	DETAIL	REPONSIBLE OFFICER	STATUS / COMMENTS	ANTICIPATED COMPLETION DATE
OMC – 20/9/2018 122/2018	That Council agrees to donate the Council received Building Permit fees associated with CEACA Seniors Housing Project subject to all other CEACA Council members agree to the same undertaking.	CEO	Letter send to CEACA requesting confirmation of Council members' agreement to refund Building fees and notification to refund to CEACA building fees received. Confirmation of other LG arrangements discussed at recent CEACA meeting. LG to advise CEACA executive on position. Pending notification	In Progress
OMC – 18/10/2018 143/2018	4. That the Chief Executive Officer commence the process of re-instatement of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee.	4. CEO	4. Noted. Process to commence	4. Pending

OMC – 20/12/2018 184/2018	<p>That Council approve the placing of a relocated donga style building at lot 411 Butlin St, Wyalkatchem with the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The building be used as overnight accommodation for D&amp;D Transport employees</li> <li>b. That delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive Officer to determine the application following advertisement of the conditional approval and notify the applicant in writing of the determination of the application</li> </ol>	1. MCS  2. CEO	1. Noted  2. Noted. No submissions have been received. Advice of determination of application in progress.	1. In Progress  2. In progress
OMC – 21/2/2019 (20/2019)	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to replace the removed street verge trees with a more suitable native species of verge street tree at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer within 2018/2019 budgeted funds.</li> </ol>	CEO/ MOW	2. Noted. Species of verge street tree to be determined.	2. Pending
OMC – 23/9/2019 127/2019	<p>Permission to Collection Native Flora</p> <p>That the matter lay on the table pending further information.</p>	CEO	Correspondence sent to Mrs Taylor and Mrs Poli requesting additional information	In Progress

OMC – 23/9/2019 133/2019	That Council; 1. Accepts the Tender submitted by Contract Aquatic Services as the most advantageous Tender to form a Contract. 2. Delegates the formation of the Contract to the Chief Executive Officer, subject to any variations (of a minor nature) prior to entry to Contract. 3. Authorise the Shire President and Chief Executive Officer to execute the agreement and affix the Shire's seal.	2. CEO 3. CEO/ PRES	2. Contract currently being finalised. 3. Pending finalisation of contract.	2. In Progress 3. Pending
OMC – 21/10/2019 148/2019	That Council pursuant to Section 5.38 of the Local Government Act 1995; 4. Authorise the Shire President to commence discussions with the Chief Executive Officers in establishing and agreeing to Key Performance Indicators for the next 12 months to be endorsed by Council.	4. PRES	4. Noted, to commence after shire's priorities has been established as part of development of SCP and CBP. Meeting with CEO and Shire President to be held in the next coming weeks.	4. Pending
OMC – 21/11/2019 15.2.1	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.	CEO	Noted. Solution being discussed with MOW. Standpipes locks have been unlocked during the fire risk season.	In Progress

OMC – 19/12/2019 175/2019	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.	7. CEO	7. Noted.	7. Pending (December 2020)
OMC – 19/12/2019 176/2019	That Council; 2. Include an allocation of \$20,000 for the 2020/2021 CEACA membership subscription in the 2020/2021 annual budget considerations.	2. CEO	2. Noted, to be included in 2020/2021 draft budget	2. Pending
OMC – 20/02/2020 04/2020	That Council; 3. Holds a General Meeting of Electors on the 19 March 2020 commencing at 6pm at the Shire of Wyalkatchem Council Chambers.	3. CEO	3. Noted. Notice of meeting has been completed agenda prepared, circulated to Clr and published on the website. <b>General Meeting of Electors held.</b>	<b>3. Completed</b>

OMC – 20/02/2020 17/2020	<p>That Council;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Directs the NEWROC voting delegate to vote in favour of the requirement that the Shire of Dowerin membership decision is made by ABSOLUTE MAJORITY.</li> <li>2. Direct the NEWROC voting delegate to vote in favour of a recommendation that extends North Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils membership to the Shire of Dowerin.</li> <li>3. That the NEWROC delegated be authorised to use their discretion on voting on Shire of Dowerin Membership conditions.</li> </ol>	<p>1. CEO/PRES</p> <p>2. CEO/PRES</p> <p>3. CEO/PRES</p>	<p>1. Noted. <b>Meeting held on 12 March 2020 and 12 May 2020. Delegated voted accordingly</b></p> <p>2. Noted. <b>Meeting held on 12 March 2020 and 12 May 2020. Delegated voted accordingly</b></p> <p>3. Noted. <b>Meeting held on 12 March 2020 and 12 May 2020. Delegated voted accordingly</b></p>	<p>1. Completed</p> <p>2. Completed</p> <p>3. Completed</p>
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<p><b>OMC – 20/02/2020 17/2020 CONT</b></p>	<p>a. Annual Membership Fee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Option 2 – Participation in NEWROC meetings until 30 June 2020, No fee and no voting rights.</li> <li>ii. Option 1 - Annual Membership fee paid in one amount.</li> </ul> <p>b. Contribution to NEWROC Investment Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Option 3 – ‘Indicative’ amount \$35K to \$40k</li> <li>ii. Option 3 – Paid over three years.</li> </ul> <p>c. Project specific contributions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Option 1 - Identification of existing projects that the Shire of Dowerin can and cannot participate in e.g. Telco project without a contribution to the data centre</li> </ul> <p>d. Possible Amendments to the NEWROC MoU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Minimum term of commitment five years</li> <li>ii. Stipulated exit fees</li> </ul> <p>4. That the NEWROC delegated be authorised to use their discretion on voting on Shire of Dowerin Membership conditions.</p>	<p>4. CEO</p>	<p>4. Noted. <b>Meeting held on 12 March 2020 and 12 May 2020. Delegated voted accordingly</b></p>	<p><b>4. Complete</b></p>
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OMC – 20/02/2020 18/2020	That Council continues its Pioneers Pathway Membership and approves the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding 2020-2023, as presented in attachment 10.2.5.	CEO	Correspondence sent to Pioneers Pathways advice Council's commitment and signing of MOU. MOU to be signed.	In Progress
OMC – 19/03/2020 33/2020	<b>That Council, in accordance with Regulation 33A of the Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996, adopt the reviewed of 2019/2020 budget, as per attachment 10.1.4.</b>	CEO	<b>Noted. Budget Review submitted to the DLGSC.</b>	Completed
OMC – 19/03/2020 34/2020	<b>That Council advise the Local Government House Trust Board of Management that the Shire of Wyalkatchem as holder of three (3) Local Government House Trust Units consents to the Deed of Variation as provided in attachments 10.1.5.1 – Deed of Variation, and 10.1.5.2 – Clause 12 of Trust deed 1994.</b>	CEO	<b>Noted. Advise of consent sent to WALGA</b>	Completed
OMC – 19/03/2020 37/2020	<b>That Council approves a grant of \$2,000 to the Wyalkatchem Men's Shed Inc. for the Wheelchair Accessible Toilet Project.</b>	CEO	<b>Noted. Advice of grant sent to Wyalkatchem Men's Shed Inc. Signed agreement returned.</b>	Completed
OMC – 19/03/2020 38/2020	<b>That Council endorses the Shire of Wyalkatchem Draft Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2020 – 2025 (attachment 10.2.4) for community consultation.</b>	CEO	<b>Noted. Plan has been advertised for public comment. No Submissions received, final Plan to be endorsed at May OMC</b>	Complete
OMC – 19/03/2020 40/2020	<b>That Council</b> <b>1. Advertise the development approval application to operate a Container Deposit Scheme Refund Point from Lot 57, 36 Flint Street, Wyalkatchem in accordance with the Scheme.</b>	CEO	<b>Proposed Development has been advertised, Neighbouring properties have been written to directly. No submission received, approval notice to be issued.</b>	In Progress

OMC – 19/03/2020 40/2020 CONT.	<p>2. Following the advertising period, give delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer to determine the development approval application for the Wyalkatchem Men's Shed to operate a Container Deposit Scheme Refund Point from Lot 57, 36 Flint Street, Wyalkatchem providing;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <i>No objections are received.</i></li> <li>b) <i>No significant negative feedback or comments are received.</i></li> <li>c) <i>That a determination may include the following conditions</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Hours of operation for the Deposit Scheme Refund point shall be limited to:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monday to Saturday 7.30am to 5.30pm</li> <li>• Sunday 9am to 5pm</li> <li>• Public holidays 9am to 5pm.</li> </ul> </li> <li>ii. Appropriate measures are in place to prevent noise, odour and vermin infestation to the satisfaction of the Council.</li> <li>iii. Traffic management plans are in place to the satisfaction of the Council.</li> <li>iv. Approval is for a period of 12 months expiring 02 June 2021.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	CEO		
OMC – 19/03/2020 41/2020 CONT.	<p>That the Council approves the DA application subject to the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The proposed house remains the only house on the Lot.</li> <li>(ii) The house is to comply with the BAL 19 construction standards.</li> </ul>	CEO	Noted. Development Approval issued	Complete

SMC – 01/05/2020 45/2020	<p><b><i>That Council:</i></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Accepts no tender for the design and construction of multipurpose sport courts and lighting.</li> <li>2. Request the Chief Executive Officer seek clarification and provide additional requested information in regards to the tender specification and report back to Council.</li> </ol>	1. CEO  2. CEO	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Noted. Tenders to be advised.</li> <li>2. Noted. Additional information and clarification requested, responses received. To be presented to Council for consideration.</li> </ol>	1. In Progress  2. In Progress
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FYI  
RL → Kath



**The Hon. David Littleproud MP**  
**Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management**  
**Deputy Leader of the Nationals**  
**Federal Member for Maranoa**

Ref No: MC20-001029

The Hon Mia Davies MLA  
Member for Central Wheatbelt  
PO Box 92  
NORTHAM WA 6401

23-APR-2020

RECEIVED  
30 APR 2020

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Ms Davies

Thank you for your email of 17 February 2020 concerning eligibility for the Drought Communities Programme (DCP) Extension.

The Australian Government takes the challenges faced by farmers, regional businesses and communities experiencing drought seriously and is acutely aware that drought places economic, emotional and social stress on farming families and the broader community. I understand that some members of the Central Wheatbelt region are struggling with the impacts of the drought and may be frustrated that they are not eligible for some drought assistance programs.

Ernst & Young Australia (EY) recently completed an independent review of the methodology, delivery and objectives of the DCP Extension. EY also developed an interim methodology to inform the allocation of funding. Both the review and interim methodology documents are available on [www.regional.gov.au/regional/programs/drought-communities.aspx](http://www.regional.gov.au/regional/programs/drought-communities.aspx).

The simplified model outlined in the interim methodology report takes a range of factors into account, including stricter 24 month consecutive rainfall deficiency data (sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology), and economic exposure to drought in both agriculture (excluding forestry and fisheries) and related downstream manufacturing employment (using 2016 Census data).

A threshold of 12 percent combined agricultural and downstream manufacturing employment was used to help determine eligible Local Government Areas (LGAs). Councils within five percentage points were also considered (that is, down to seven percent) to ensure councils didn't just miss out, but acknowledging that a line needs to be drawn somewhere. More than 50 percent of an LGA also needed to experience rainfall in the lowest 5<sup>th</sup> percentile over a consecutive 24 month period. Further information about the simplified model is enclosed.

Unfortunately, the Kondinin and Merredin LGAs do not meet the interim methodology criteria at this time. The relevant data for the two LGAs is:

**Kondinin**

- Percentage of LGA that is Rainfall Deficient (5th percentile): 48.76%
- Combined Agriculture Employment: 52.58%

**Merredin**

- Percentage of LGA that is Rainfall Deficient (5th percentile): 34.40%
- Combined Agriculture Employment: 17.35%

There is a range of other drought assistance available for households, farmers and communities. More information is available at [www.farmhub.org.au](http://www.farmhub.org.au).

Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention and I trust this is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "DAVID LITTLEPROUD".

**DAVID LITTLEPROUD MP**

Enc: Interim Methodology Report - Simplified Model

## **Enclosure 1: Interim Methodology Report - Simplified Model**

In November 2019, the Australian Government engaged EY to conduct an independent review into the methodology, delivery and objectives of the Drought Communities Programme (DCP) Extension. EY also developed an interim methodology to inform the allocation of funding from the DCP Fund, as announced on 28 January 2020.

The simplified model outlined in the interim methodology report takes into account a range of factors, including stricter 24 month consecutive rainfall deficiency data (sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology), and economic exposure to drought in both agriculture (excluding forestry and fisheries) and related downstream manufacturing employment (using the 2016 Census data).

The model better captures productivity by calculating employment by the percentage of Full Time Equivalent positions in agriculture and downstream manufacturing by place of residence, instead of just the percentage of people (head count) working in agriculture. A threshold of 12 percent combined agricultural and downstream manufacturing employment was used to help determine eligible LGAs. Councils within five percentage points were also looked at (that is, down to seven percent) to ensure councils didn't just miss out, and acknowledging that a line needs to be drawn somewhere.

Rainfall deficiency is identified when Bureau of Meteorology rainfall observations during a given period at a given location are significantly lower than the average over the last 100 years for that location. The 5th percentile marks the lowest 5 percent of rainfall observations in the last 100 years for a particular location (e.g. an LGA) over a particular time period (e.g. 24 months). The last consecutive 24 months of rainfall data is an indicator of how dry (lack of rainfall) it is for a location. To identify 24 consecutive months of rainfall deficiencies, rainfall data is compared to like for like 24 month periods over the weather record (circa 1900), to ensure consistent consideration of seasonal impacts. The drier it has been in a location over the previous 24 months means a location will more likely fall in the lowest 5 per cent of rainfall observations (the 5th percentile). The simplified model indicates that a threshold of 50 percent or more of the LGA should be in the 5th percentile to be eligible for DCP Extension. Rainfall data for the 24 months up to 30 November 2019 was used for the most recent announcement.

## Covid-19 Organisational Flowchart

## *Pathway*

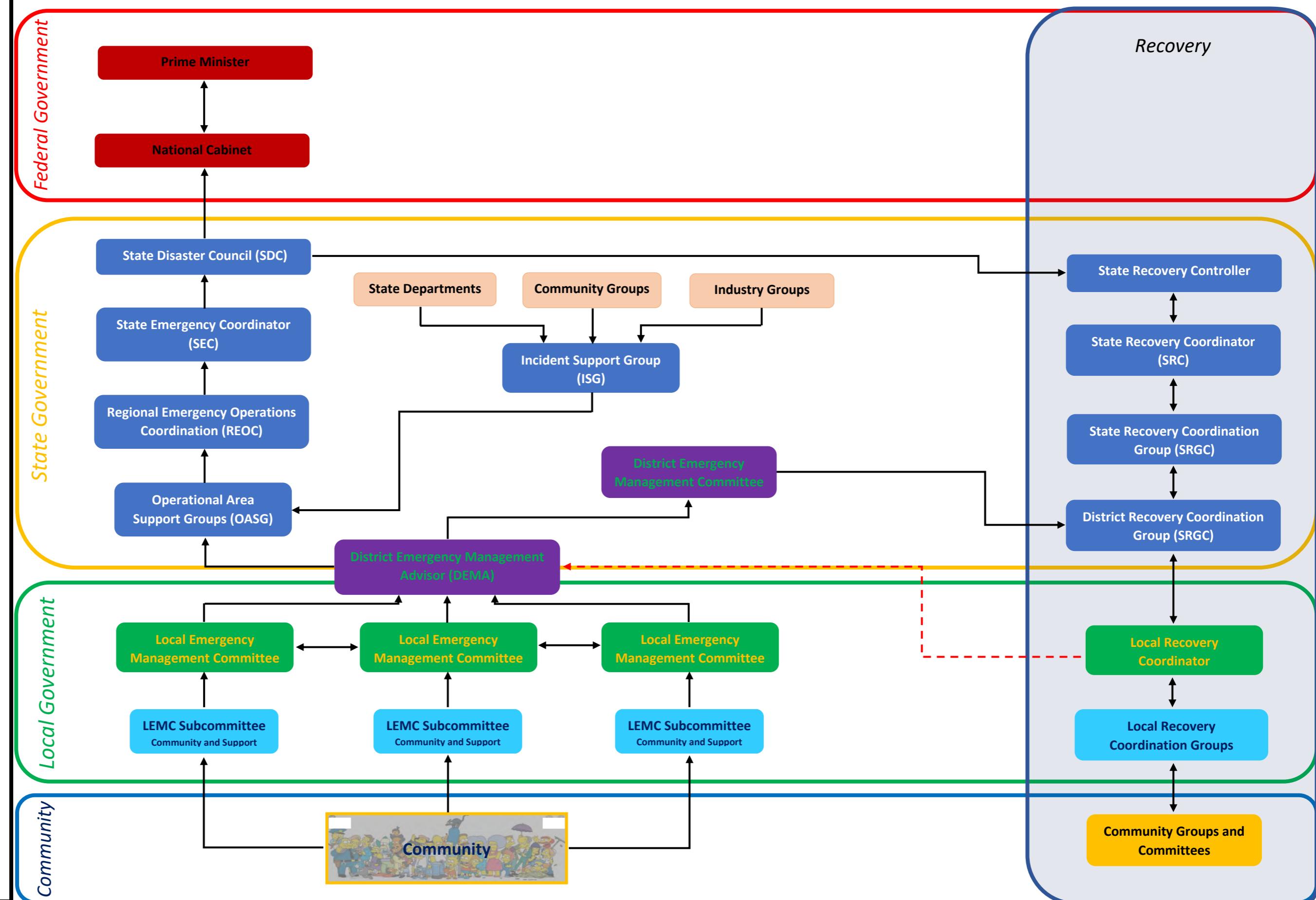
*Manages  
Commonwealth.  
Assistance to States as  
required*

*OASG chaired by District Emergency Coordinator. Analyses information received from the ISG and LEMC and reports to REOC.*

*REOC (Incident Control) managed by Department of Health manages the incident with assistance as required.*

*REOC reports to SEC  
SEC reports to SDC  
and State Parliament.*

*The LEMC discusses and distils the community issues. Any local level issues that can't be resolved through normal channels are directed to the DEMA who will raise at the OASG also with the DEC for action.*





#### #4 Briefing Note for LEMCs re

Wheatbelt Operational Area Support Group Meeting held on Tuesday 28th April  
2020

Attendance:

Regional representatives from;

WA Country Health Service  
Department of Communities  
WA Police (Wheatbelt)  
WA Police (Great Southern)  
DFES (Goldfields Midlands)  
DFES (Upper Great Southern)  
Local Government Avon Country Zone  
Local Government Great Eastern Country Zone  
WA Primary Health Networks  
Water Corporation  
Department of Education  
DPIRD

#### Key issues and Actions

- This is not the time for complacency. All agencies to assist by enforcing safety messages ( hygiene, social distancing, isolation as required) to the community.
- 10 Wheatbelt cases so far with 9 cleared and 1 active. Another 1 waiting on second test.
- Priority vaccination programme commencing, starting with the more vulnerable.

- Inter-regional travel restrictions remain in place and WA Police continue to man VCPS and mobile patrols.
- A “Human and Social Services Subcommittee” has been formed. The intent of the subcommittee will be to ensure continuity of services during the crisis using a collaborative approach to undertake such tasks as identifying potential issues, create flexible strategies and appropriate solutions. The membership of the existing human services group will form the basis of the committee with additional services /agencies as required. Yvette Harrison, Dept of Education will be the chair of the group and act as the conduit to the OASG.
- WAPHA (All Primary Health Networks) have been requested by the Dept. of Health Commonwealth to assist Private Residential Aged Care Facilities with Staff and Immunisations. Working closely with Wheatbelt Mental Health Manager’s group, aged care and those with chronic conditions, identifying issues and sharing ideas and concerns. Key issues and areas of concern
  - access to technology for telehealth and students, given no library access and limited CREC access
  - Local Government trying to deal with those that are sleeping rough. New subcommittee will hopefully be able to assist in this space.
- Primary Health Care organisations – business as usual although the platform is mostly telephone/video consults. Majority of Primary Health Care providers have the same complement of staff.
- An additional \$6 million will be provided to support drug and alcohol services.
- Public schools will be open again for pupils on 29 April 2020. Focus is on face to face delivery. Expect 70 – 80% of students to return. Extra cleaners engaged and additional contingencies in place. Boarding colleges are not open at this time.
- Local Government’s looking at budgeting re community economic assistance. Economic Incentives beginning to be released.
- Food security Working Group are working with Metcash specifically to address critical supply issues. They have contacted 55 stores on critical issues list and hotspots were identified in the Wheatbelt, Great Southern and Goldfields Esperance regions.
- G2G pass is live and available on apple/google play stores.  
<https://www.g2gpass.com.au/>

- Recovery: On a webinar held Friday 24th April – Sharyn O'Neill, State Recovery Controller advised the following:
  - Currently examining the state's recovery legislation/Policies and arrangements. While they look robust some changes may need to be made to ensure suitability for Pandemic.
  - The National Principles for recovery are strong and work will align with these
  - National cabinet is working together to establish a cohesive response and recovery framework. Taking some time as we ensure work across the nation is consistent
  - While still very early days some aspects of this recovery are becoming clear.
  - Response and recovery will happen concurrently, it will not be as linear as in some other events.
  - There will be 2 clear phases of recovery
    - Releasing of measures and measuring the impacts of this
    - Managing the broader issues across the social and economic areas, breaking down into the regional impacts, industry impacts, health impacts as well as mental health and including issues such as domestic violence.
- The COVIDSAFE app is now available, everyone is encouraged to download and start using the app.



The next meeting of the Wheatbelt OASG will be held on Tuesday 5 May 2020.



## #5 Briefing Note for LEMCs re

### Wheatbelt Operational Area Support Group Meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020

#### Attendance:

Regional representatives from;

WA Country Health Service  
Department of Communities  
WA Police (Wheatbelt)  
WA Police (Great Southern)  
DFES (Goldfields Midlands)  
DFES (Upper Great Southern)  
Local Government Avon Country Zone  
Local Government Great Eastern Country Zone  
Shire of Northam  
WA Primary Health Networks  
Water Corporation  
Department of Education  
DPIRD

#### Key issues and Actions

- As measures are starting to be relaxed, vital we maintain hygiene and social distancing.
- Dept of Health has a new look website with additional information – best accessed through Chrome. [Daily snapshot](#)
- Wheatbelt has had no new cases since 27<sup>th</sup> March.
- Dept of Health is working to embed COVID 19 management into current standard business practices, so it will become part of the usual business of delivery of health services across the region.

- The newly formed “Human and Social Services Subcommittee” will formally meet for the first time on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2020. It will report directly to the OASG group.
- The collaboration of agencies across the region as well as the pro-active stance taken by Local Governments was noted as being exceptional. One of the positives to come out of this unprecedented event.
- Video Conferencing platforms that have been developed in key areas such as health, are likely to continue to be utilised after the event.
- The return to face to face schools has been progressing well with over 70% of students attending in the second week of term. New measures have been well received by parents and the new arrangements in terms of school drop offs etc are working well. Year 11 and 12 students are slowly returning to boarding schools however restrictions still remain in place.
- While there has been a drop in emergency call outs, emergency service agencies are slowly returning to normal with offices open and training being undertaken within social distancing guidelines.
- Food security Working Group are continuing work to ensure adequate supply of food and cleaning materials to remote and regional supermarkets in anticipation of loosening of regional travel restrictions.
- Grains industry specific information in managing COVID 19 is now available on the DPIRD website including [Practices and principles to reduce the risk of impacts of COVID-19 on a grain business workplace.](#)
- The COVIDSAFE app is now available, everyone is encouraged to download and start using the app.



Meetings of the Wheatbelt OASG will now be held fortnightly.

**The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 26 May 2020.**

## Australian Red Cross Emergency Services Special LEMC Update - COVID-19

Last updated 25 March 2020

### 1. AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS ACTIVITIES

The focus of Australian Red Cross during the COVID-19 response is on helping people to maintain vital social connections through periods of self-isolation and social distancing;

- In some states we are making daily check-in calls to people who are in mandatory self-isolation, with a focus on those who might be especially vulnerable. This service has been in operation in Queensland since early February 2020 where Australian Red Cross phone outreach callers have supported the psychosocial wellbeing of more than 5,000 people in self-isolation through 10,884 phone calls on behalf of the Queensland Department of Health. Volunteers are making almost 800 calls per day, providing people with psychosocial support, access to factual information, and referral to other support services. A similar service delivered by Australian Red Cross on-behalf of governments will be in operations in Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and Tasmania by the end of March.

In WA, Australian Red Cross is written in to support community members if activated by the Department of Communities in-line with the arrangements in the Human Biosecurity Plan (COVID-19).

- We are sharing [health and safety messages](#) to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Follow our Emergency Services (WA) Facebook Page for updated posts:  
<https://www.facebook.com/RedCrossEmergencyServicesWA/>.

Key messages and support tips are continually updated on the Australian Red Cross website:  
<https://www.redcross.org.au/> Further details below.

- We are compiling and sharing ideas from the community on how to maintain wellbeing and social connections during periods of self-isolation.
- Our aim is to 'spread kindness' – encouraging safe and practical ways for people to look after each other and support those who may be more vulnerable at this time.

### 2. INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

- The international response to the COVID-19 Pandemic is being coordinated through the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). The IFRC has launched an International Appeal, currently requesting CHF 32 million (approx. AUD 55 million).
- The global nature of the COVID-19 Pandemic, and the subsequent need to coordinate the global management of resources, has led to development of Emergency Plans of Action (EPOA) across a number of regions (Global, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Africa, MENA, and the Americas), plus China. All international support is being channelled through this Appeal so as to efficiently distribute resources and financial assistance to countries as required. Reliable, up-to-date information can be found directly on the [IFRC's GO Platform](#).
- Australian Red Cross is coordinating directly with IFRC (including through its regional and sub-

For further information, please contact:

Erin Fuery

State Manager, Emergency Services

Tel +61 8 9225 8865 | Mobile +61 (0)448 991 399 | Fax +61 8 9325 9040 | Email [efuery@redcross.org.au](mailto:efuery@redcross.org.au)

regional offices) to support the wider Movement response to COVID-19.

- Multiple Pacific National Societies have stepped up their coordination as auxiliaries to government; conducting risk communication campaigns, psychological first aid, COVID-19-related epidemic control trainings for staff, and staff and volunteer management.
- Australian Red Cross is supporting COVID-19 preparedness and containment activities across multiple Pacific Nations (including Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Tonga, Palau, Tuvalu, Marshall Islands).

### 3. KEY MESSAGES

- A key purpose of our humanitarian response is to help enable people to cope with the psychosocial impacts of COVID-19. We are playing a lead role in helping people feel safe, calm, connected to others and able to access the services and support they need. Public information is a key intervention.
- Social distancing does not mean social disconnection. If you need to physically isolate yourself, it's more important than ever to maintain connections with your loved ones, friends and community.
- It is important to normalise reactions to crisis events such as the COVID-19 pandemic. It's entirely normal to feel stressed, afraid and anxious (see *attached Guidance note: Psychosocial Support in Pandemic*). Encouraging people to think about how they have managed a stressful situation in the past and how they can adapt their coping strategies can help achieve this.
- COVID-19 is not the fault of any individual or community. It is not an excuse for racism and intolerance. Sharing the facts and being respectful and supportive towards each other are the best ways to fight it.
- Sharing positive stories how the community is coping helps give people hope in a situation where there is a lot of uncertainty
- It is important to talk to children about COVID-19 to help reduce fear and anxiety.
- Providing advice on how to support others during COVID-19 helps everyone's individual wellbeing.

Links to information to address these messages that can be shared are below;

Our Facebook page has a lot of wellbeing messaging and Psychosocial Preparedness tips you can share <https://www.facebook.com/RedCrossEmergencyServicesWA/?ref=bookmarks>

If your organisation is able to share some of this material or links below on social media it would be wonderful to tag us @redcrossemergencyserviceswa

It's important to acknowledge it's okay to feel stressed and confused, even scared and angry, about the [#coronavirus](#) (COVID-19) outbreak. It's normal to have a range of feelings. But good information can help. We've put together simple steps you can take to prepare on this How to Prepare webpage <https://www.redcross.org.au/coronavirus>

It is really important to have good stress management and wellbeing strategies right now.

For further information, please contact:

Erin Fuery

State Manager, Emergency Services

Tel +61 8 9225 8865 | Mobile +61 (0)448 991 399 | Fax +61 8 9325 9040 | Email [efuery@redcross.org.au](mailto:efuery@redcross.org.au)

Mental health and wellbeing for COVID-19 <https://www.redcross.org.au/news-and-media/news/covid-19-and-your-mental-wellbeing>

Self-isolating tips for families <https://www.redcross.org.au/news-and-media/news/coronavirus-tips-for-self-isolating>

Advice on how to talk to children about COVID-19 <https://www.redcross.org.au/news-and-media/news/talking-to-kids-about-covid-19>

Get Prepared App <https://www.redcross.org.au/get-help/emergencies/preparing-for-emergencies/get-prepared-app>

Positive stories <https://www.redcross.org.au/news-and-media/news/silver-linings-during-covid-19>

Red Cross is adding more content all the time so stay in touch via this link  
<https://www.redcross.org.au/stories/covid-19>

*For further information, please contact:*

Erin Fuery

State Manager, Emergency Services

**Tel** +61 8 9225 8865 | **Mobile** +61 (0)448 991 399 | **Fax** +61 8 9325 9040 | **Email** [efuery@redcross.org.au](mailto:efuery@redcross.org.au)

## Public health terminology for LEMC's and staff global

### Q. How are cases and contacts managed?

A **case** is a person who has tested positive for COVID-19.

**Contact tracing** is completed to identify all potential contacts of confirmed COVID-19 cases. Locally the Wheatbelt Public Health Unit calls the person who has a confirmed case of COVID-19 to enquire and assess:

- When their symptoms started
- What they have done / where they have been since
- Who they have had close contact with

In relation to COVID-19, confirmed cases are asked to provide a list of people they have been in contact with 24 hours before onset of their symptoms.

All close contacts are called by the Wheatbelt Public Health Unit to:

- Provide an assessment,
- Provide information on the virus and how it is spread, and
- Provide clear advice on what actions they need to take

Contact tracing is a communicable disease surveillance requirement under the *WA Public Health Act 2016* and the *Public Health Regulations 2017*.

### Daily monitoring process:

Locally the Wheatbelt Public Health Unit provides daily monitoring to:

- People who have been tested for COVID-19 and are either awaiting results, or test positive to COVID-19, and to
- People who don't qualify for testing but are classified as suspect cases

This assessment is provided daily via:

- Daily text message enquiring about symptoms
- Phone calls as required

This daily monitoring continues for 14 days (the maximum incubation period) after the potential exposure or until the person tests negative for COVID-19.

### Q. What is the difference between home quarantine and home isolation?

**Home quarantine** is for patients who may have been exposed to COVID-19 but are asymptomatic.

This means you must stay in your home, hotel room, or other accommodation unless you need to seek medical attention. If you are at home, only people who usually live in your household should be with you. You should stay in an area of the home away from others (preferably with your own bathroom, living and sleeping area) to protect other household members. During this time, you should not allow visitors into your home, hotel room or accommodation. If you live in a private house or apartment you can go into your own garden or onto your own balcony. More information on self-quarantine is in the information sheet 'Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) Isolation

guidance' which is available on the website <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-resources>.

**Home isolation** is for patients who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or confirmed COVID-19. This mean you must stay at your home or accommodation unless you need to seek medical attention. You cannot attend public places such as work, school or shopping centres, or go on a holiday. Other people who live in your home can go about their usual activities.

**Prepared by:**

Sarah Dixon / Chantelle Jeffery in consultation with Merridy Hoffman & Jill Robinson (CNS Public Health).

26/3/2020

# Hon Mia Davies MLA

Member for Central Wheatbelt

## NATIONALS CALL FOR FUNDS ROLL-OVER ON FUEL CARD

# MEDIA RELEASE

30 April 2020

The Nationals WA have called on the State Government to roll over any unspent funds on the Country Age Pension Fuel Card (CAPFC) at the end of this financial year.

Member for Central Wheatbelt Mia Davies MLA said The Nationals WA had written to the State Government requesting cardholders with unspent value at the end of the financial year to have the amount automatically added to their 2020-21 cards.

“Due to social distancing requirements and travel restrictions, many regional CAPFC holders will be unable to expend the full value of their fuel cards this financial year,” Ms Davies said.

“Many of these card holders will be playing their part in the fight against COVID-19 by staying at home and adhering to health advice on socialising and travel, which we encourage and applaud.

“However, this means many cardholders will not expend their \$575 values and lose any unspent credit at the end of the financial year.”

Ms Davies said rolling over unspent fuel card values would also assist pensioners struggling with inappropriately high fuel prices in the regions.

“While the State Government has distanced itself from addressing the unfair petrol price situation, most regional residents are still paying at least 30c per litre more than metropolitan residents,” she said.

“Regional pensioners have already been hit hard this year with inflated prices on groceries due to COVID-19, and any assistance the State Government can provide to counteract unreasonable petrol pricing should be considered.”

Leader Mia Davies said the Country Age Pension Fuel Card was developed and implemented by The Nationals WA in Government and funded through Royalties for Regions.

“This program provides eligible pensioners with \$575 each year towards the cost of fuel and taxi transport, in recognition of the fact that pensioners in the metro area have access to free public transport which is simply not available in our regions,” Ms Davies said.

Member for the Agricultural Region Martin Aldridge MLC said “The CAPFC helps to keep people connected and active in their communities, allowing them to attend medical appointments, go grocery shopping or visit family members.”

Mr Aldridge said in previous years the CAPFC underspend was around 8 per cent, but it was likely to be much higher this year due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.

“By rolling over the unspent value of the CAPFC some cardholders might just have a little bit more money in their pockets to support local businesses and stimulate local economies.”

**For media enquiries please contact Mia Davies on 9041 1702 (Merredin office),  
9622 2871 (Northam office) or email [mia.davies@mp.wa.gov.au](mailto:mia.davies@mp.wa.gov.au).**

**[mia.davies@mp.wa.gov.au](mailto:mia.davies@mp.wa.gov.au)**

[www.miadavies.com.au](http://www.miadavies.com.au)

Leader; Spokesperson for Regional Development, State Development, Public Sector Management, Jobs and Trade, Federal-State Relations



## **SRCU COVID-19 Update 1**

Date: 7 April 2020



### **Current Situation**

The COVID-19 pandemic will have significant and far reaching recovery impacts across both economic and social environments. While the focus of recovery activity will not be evident until the impacts of the pandemic are better understood, it is clear that that long-term recovery for Western Australian communities will be complex and protracted.



### **State Level Activities**

- A Governance structure has been established to deal with the enormity of the event, with high level coordination across multiple agencies.
- The State Emergency Coordination Directorate (SECD) situated at the State Pandemic Coordination Centre (SPCC) are coordinating the operational response to the pandemic and report directly to the State Emergency Coordinator (SEC).
- A Pandemic Policy Unit (PPU) has been established within the Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC). The PPU are currently identifying and developing policy gaps and opportunities by which social impacts and community recovery will be managed.
- The Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (JTSI) are Western Australia's lead agency for economic development, international trade and investment and are currently identifying economic impacts and recovery strategies.
- The State Health Incident Control Centre (SHICC) are overseeing the strategic management and coordination of the COVID-19 public health response.
- The State Recovery Coordination Unit (SRCU) are working to ensure that the Local Governments and regions are considered in this coordinated structure and that local needs are not overlooked as they emerge. SRCU have deployed a dedicated Recovery Liaison Officer into the SPCC to facilitate the sharing of information.
- The COVID-19 Pandemic's impact on Western Australia (WA) is unprecedented, with widespread and likely enduring economic and social impacts, therefore a recommendation has been forwarded to the Premier to consider the appointment of a State Recovery Controller.



### **State Government Priorities**

- Finalise and confirm the overall emergency management structure for the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure effective coordination and reduce duplication of response and recovery operations.



## COVID-19 – Government Support

Date: 14 April 2020

### Support for individuals

#### Mental Health

Get help to cope with life's changes.

Visit [headtohealth.gov.au/](http://headtohealth.gov.au/) for links to online counselling or call:

- Lifeline 13 11 14 (24 hours)
- Kids helpline 1800 55 1800

Visit [thinkmentalhealthwa.com.au](http://thinkmentalhealthwa.com.au)

#### Superannuation

Individuals can access up to \$10,000 of their super in 2019-20 and a further \$10,000 in 2020-21.

Apply to the ATO through MyGov ([www.my.gov.au](http://www.my.gov.au)) from mid-April

Find out more at [Treasury.gov.au/coronavirus](http://Treasury.gov.au/coronavirus)

#### Retirees

Temporary reduction to minimum drawdown requirements for account-based pension.

Find out more at [Treasury.gov.au/coronavirus](http://Treasury.gov.au/coronavirus)

#### Financial Support

Expanded eligibility for some payments and moves to make them easier to claim.

Claim online at [servicesaustralia.gov.au](http://servicesaustralia.gov.au)

Or over the phone on 132 850

#### Economic Support Payment

\$750 payments for people on certain government payments.

Will be paid automatically to people who are eligible.

Find out more at [Treasury.gov.au/coronavirus](http://Treasury.gov.au/coronavirus)

#### Job Keeper

A subsidy of \$1,500/fortnight per employee for up to six months. Available to businesses, not-for-profits and sole traders. Support payments exempt from paying payroll tax.

Your employer will notify you if they intend to claim the payment on your behalf.

Find out more at [Treasury.gov.au/coronavirus](http://Treasury.gov.au/coronavirus)

#### Relief Services

Expanding access to the No Interest Loans Scheme.

Find out more on at [moneysmart.gov.au](http://moneysmart.gov.au) (search 'No Interest Loans Scheme')

#### Early Childhood Education and Care Relief

Fee relief while supporting child care services to keep their doors open and employees in their job.

For more information visit [australia.gov.au](http://australia.gov.au) and scroll down to 'Education & child care information'

#### Renting

Evictions will be put on hold over the next six months, for those in financial distress.

New arrangements announced 30 March. Further details to come. Visit [business.gov.au](http://business.gov.au) (click on for 'COVID-19 information')



## **Support for individuals - continued**

### **WA government support - Household fees & charges**

A freeze will be placed on household fees and charges, including electricity, water, motor vehicle charges, the emergency services levy and public transport fares.

No disconnection for power and water.

Visit [www.wa.gov.au](http://www.wa.gov.au) (search 'COVID-19 Western Australian Government Response')

### **WA government support - Energy Assistance Package**

Payment will increase from \$300 to \$600 for eligible concession card-holders

Visit [www.wa.gov.au](http://www.wa.gov.au) (search 'COVID-19 Western Australian Government Response')

### **WA Shopping hours**

Coles and Woolworths to be granted temporary extended trading hours.

Visit [www.wa.gov.au](http://www.wa.gov.au) (search 'COVID-19 Western Australian Government Response')

Special arrangements for pensioners, the elderly and people with disabilities to shop from 7am to 8am

Monday to Saturday and between 10am to 11am on Sunday



## Support for small business and not-for-profits

### Job Keeper

A subsidy of \$1,500/fortnight per employee for up to six months. Available to businesses, not-for-profits and sole traders.

Your employer will notify you if they intend to claim the payment on your behalf.

Find out more at [Treasury.gov.au/coronavirus](https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus)

### Boosting cash flow for employers

Up to \$100,000 to eligible small and medium-sized businesses and not for-profits that employ people, with a minimum payment of \$20,000.

Automatically applied to the accounts of eligible businesses when they lodge their activity statement for the relevant periods.

Find out more at [Treasury.gov.au/coronavirus](https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus)

### Supporting apprentices and trainees

Wage subsidy of up to \$21,000 per apprentice or trainee.

Talk to the Australian Apprenticeship Support Network (AASN) in your area. Search for your local AASN at [australianapprenticeships.gov.au](https://australianapprenticeships.gov.au)

Find out more at [Treasury.gov.au/coronavirus](https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus)

### Loan Support

Government will provide lenders with a guarantee for loans, to increase their willingness and ability to provide credit. Loans of up to \$250,000 up to three years, with an initial six-month repayment holiday.

For more information visit: [Business.gov.au](https://business.gov.au) (select 'coronavirus information')

Find out more at [Treasury.gov.au/coronavirus](https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus)

### Renting

Evictions will be on hold for six months by the states and territories, for those in financial distress.

See mandatory code of conduct for commercial tenancies

For more information visit [business.gov.au](https://business.gov.au) (select 'coronavirus information')

The WA Government will waive rental payments for small businesses and not-for-profit groups in Government-owned buildings for six months

You don't need to apply. These relief measures will be in place for six months.

### Temporary relief for financial distress

For more information visit: [Business.gov.au](https://business.gov.au) (select 'Coronavirus information')

Increase to threshold at which creditors can issue statutory demand, extra time to respond.

Find out more at [Treasury.gov.au/coronavirus](https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus)

Relief from personal liability for trading while insolvent.

Temporary flexibility in Corporations Act 2001.

### Backing businesses to invest

Instant asset write-off threshold has been increased to \$150,000. Now includes larger businesses.

Check your eligibility for the instant asset write-off with the [Australian Taxation Office](https://australiantaxationoffice.gov.au)

A time limited 15-month investment incentive to support business investment and economic growth over the short-term, by accelerating depreciation deduction

For information visit: [Business.gov.au](https://business.gov.au) (select 'Coronavirus information')

Find out more at [Treasury.gov.au/coronavirus](https://treasury.gov.au/coronavirus)



## **Support for small business and not-for-profits - continued**

### **WA Government support for businesses**

Payroll tax paying businesses with a payroll between \$1 million and \$4 million will receive a one-off grant of \$17,500.

\$1 million payroll tax threshold brought forward by six months to July 1, 2020.

Businesses can now apply to defer payment of their 2019-20 payroll tax until July 21, 2020.

Visit [wa.gov.au](http://wa.gov.au) (Search Payroll Tax Employer Guide)

### **Small business support services**

The Small Business Development Corporation has created a COVID-19 assistance center to provide dedicated guidance on available support options.

To access the service, contact 133 140 or email [info@smallbusiness.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@smallbusiness.wa.gov.au)

Find out more at [smallbusiness.wa.gov.au/coronavirus](http://smallbusiness.wa.gov.au/coronavirus)

### **COVID-19 relief fund**

Grants are available for eligible not for-profit and community organisations that are experiencing financial hardship related directly to COVID-19.

Apply for grant support by visiting [lotterywest.wa.gov.au](http://lotterywest.wa.gov.au) or by calling 131 777.



Our Ref: 20/074088  
Enquiries: SEMC Business Unit  
Telephone: (08) 9395 9771  
Email: [info@semc.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@semc.wa.gov.au)

Dear Chairs, Executive Officers and Members,

As you are no doubt aware, the impacts of COVID-19 have been wide-ranging and have resulted in a number of delays and interruptions to SEMC Committees, projects, and activities.

The WA Department of Health and many other public and private sector authorities have been occupied in their response to this outbreak and are working closely with the Commonwealth and other State and Territory governments to respond and contain the outbreak.

The Coronavirus outbreak is impacting all sectors of the community and the WA Government is diligently working to keep WA's response proactive and minimise its impact on the community and economy of WA.

Western Australian Government agencies have established teams to respond to COVID-19 at the State, organisational, district and local levels. There are significant human resources being used to coordinate and deliver this response with most of these resources coming from within the Emergency Management Sector; who are normally engaged in SEMC Committees, projects and activities. In acknowledgement of the current pressure on the sector, the SEMC have approved the following measures:

### **Grants**

The SEMC has resolved that:

- No status reporting on Grants will be required for the period ending 30 March 2020.
- No variances are required for requests that seek to extend project timeframes. Revised timeframes should be communicated via progress reports in July 2020 and will be formalised when the environment is more certain.
- Variances to budget, KPI's and outcomes will be assessed on a case by case basis in accordance with the Governance Register.

### **Subcommittee and Reference Group Meetings**

- *State EM Preparedness Procedure 20 requires Subcommittee and Reference Groups to hold three regular meetings per year.*

SEMC has approved Subcommittee and Reference Groups not complying with the above Procedure with postponement of meetings until further notice. Noting that most members will be involved in response and/or recovery committees at the various levels.

## **District Emergency Management Committee and Local Emergency Management Committee Meetings**

- *State EM Preparedness Procedure 6 requires DEMCs to meet at least twice yearly.*
- *State EM Preparedness Procedure 7 requires LEMCs to meet quarterly.*

SEMC has approved District Emergency Management Committees and Local Emergency Management Committees not complying with the above Procedures until further notice. Noting that most members will be involved in response and/or recovery committees at the various levels. SEMC recognise these committees provide a critical forum for cross sector and whole of community discussions, particularly at the local level. Committees may meet if there is a need or desire.

### **Emergency Preparedness Report**

The SEMC has resolved to delay the emergency preparedness survey for HMA, local governments and other emergency management agencies (subject to a suitable survey release date). The situation will continue to be revised by SEMC and adequate notice given to all participants when the survey is released. Considerations to release the survey will balance availability of the sector, other reporting and legislative milestones and quality of data. A shortened version of the Emergency Preparedness Report will be provided to the Minister, taking into account emergency management sector pressures. Depending on the timing of the survey, the Preparedness Report may/or may not include survey data results.

### **State Risk Project**

The SEMC approved phase 5 of the project but noted that as Phase 5 supports works across all agencies and all hazards (including pandemic) it may be prudent to modify the tempo and order of the work program to provide best support to COVID19 activities.

### **Annual Reports**

The SEMC resolved that:

- There will be no consequences for LEMCs that don't submit an annual report.
- No annual reports are required from DEMC's, Subcommittees or Reference Groups. The Chairs and Executive Officers, will however, be required to approve relevant draft content for inclusion in the SEMC annual report.
- The SEMC will submit an annual report, albeit in a reduced format.

### **State Exercise Transition project**

The SEMC resolved that:

- Planning for the State Exercise, currently scheduled for 2022 is put on hold.
- Roll out of transition materials to the EM sector is by way of a soft launch only, with materials to be uploaded to the SEMC website but no further delivery.

## **Policy**

The SEMC has resolved that:

- Scheduled stakeholder consultation on draft amendments to the State EM Framework is to be delayed with only matter of fact changes to be made to Policy over this period as the sector cannot be fully consulted at this time.
- The 2020 revision dates for the following State Hazard Plans have been deferred:
  - Maritime Environmental Emergencies
  - Tsunami, and
  - Animal and Plant Biosecurity
- The amalgamation and development of the remaining Westplans into State Hazard Plans is put on hold.
- The development of the new State Hazard Plan – Hostile Act is to be delayed.
- The review and development of suspended State Hazard Plans will be reviewed at future SEMC meetings, as further extensions may be required.
- Any urgent State EM Framework (policy, plan, procedures) amendments, endorsements, approvals, will be facilitated via out of session meetings with the relevant Subcommittee or Reference Group.

An array of additional projects and other activities are likely to be impacted. Any further impacts will be relayed to SEMC at its next meeting.

Please contact the SEMC Business Unit (08 9395 9771 or [info@semc.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@semc.wa.gov.au)) if you have any questions in relation to the changes that the SEMC has agreed to implement to ease the burden on the EM Sector during this COVID-19 emergency.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Ron F Edwards  
**CHAIR**  
**STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

01 May 2020



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**Hon David Templeman MLA**  
**Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Culture & the Arts**

Our Ref: 66-12319

**TO ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

**CIRCULAR N° 03-2020**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (COVID-19 RESPONSE) ORDER 2020**

As you would be aware, the *Local Government Amendment (COVID-19 Response) Act 2020* was passed by Parliament on 16 April 2020 and came into effect on 21 April 2020.

This Act provided a power to enable the Minister to modify or suspend provisions of the Local Government Act 1995 and Regulations while a State of Emergency declaration is in force and where the Minister considers that such an order is necessary to deal with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I have made the first Order under this legislation to deal with issues relating to requirements to hold public meetings, for access to information when council offices are closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and budgetary matters. This will be published on 8 May 2020, coming into effect on that day.

Some of these measures will assist ratepayers who have been adversely impacted by this COVID-19 pandemic. As you are displaying through your actions in freezing rates, fees and charges during these extraordinary times, it is vital to maximise assistance to get our economy back on track.

The Order recognises that the local government is in the best position to assess whether a person in their district is in hardship but does provide that those residential and small business ratepayers that are suffering financial hardship because of the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic will not be charged interest in the 2020/21 financial year. Local governments will be able to assess whether any other ratepayers are in hardship and should be provided with assistance.

Local governments are encouraged to adopt a financial hardship policy. This will address the manner in which the local government will deal with financial hardship that may be suffered by ratepayers and other persons who are required to make payments to the local government. Local governments with such a policy in place will be able to charge a maximum of 5.5% for instalment interest as they are formally

recognising and providing for other groups that are in hardship. This recognises that the 5.5% will apply to those who wish to pay by instalments but are not in hardship.

If a local government does not have in place a financial hardship policy, the interest rate that can be charged for payment by instalments will be capped at 3%.

Interest rates that can be charged for late payments are being capped at 8%, which aligns with the interest rate charged by the Australian Taxation Office.

Other measures will directly assist local governments through removing red tape and compliance requirements which are not considered to be necessary while local governments and the community deal with the pandemic. This includes a number of measures that are designed to assist local governments that resolve to not increase the rate in the dollar from those applied last year.

The attachment details the modifications made to the operation of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and the Western Australian Electoral Commission will continue to monitor council vacancies to determine if further orders are necessary to deal with electoral matters on a case by case basis.

If you have any questions regarding these provisions, please contact the department at [lgresponse@dlgsc.wa.gov.au](mailto:lgresponse@dlgsc.wa.gov.au)



HON DAVID TEMPLEMAN MLA  
MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT;  
HERITAGE; CULTURE AND THE ARTS

08 MAY 2020

## ***Local Government (COVID-19 Response) Order 2020***

The order deals with issues relating to requirements to hold public meetings, access to information when council offices are closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and budgetary matters, including financial hardship of ratepayers.

Specifically, the order provides for:

### **Clause 2: Commencement**

The order comes into effect on the day it is published in the *Gazette*.

### **Clause 3: Terms Used**

Key terms relate to the definition of an excluded person. This is a residential or small business ratepayer who is considered by the local government to be suffering financial hardship as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

A small business has the same meaning as under the *Small Business Development Corporation Act 1983*:

a business undertaking which is wholly owned and operated by an individual person or by individual persons in partnership or by a proprietary company within the meaning of the *Corporations Act 2001* of the Commonwealth and which —

- (i) has a relatively small share of the market in which it competes; and
- (ii) is managed personally by the owner or owners or directors, as the case requires; and
- (iii) is not a subsidiary of, or does not form part of, a larger business or enterprise.

### **Clause 4: Section 5.27 – Electors' general meetings**

Section 5.27 of the Local Government Act requires a general meeting of electors to be held once every financial year and within 56 days after the local government accepts the annual report for the previous financial year. Holding such a meeting would breach the prohibition on gatherings direction and could result in health risks to attendees.

The requirement for the holding of a general meeting of electors under section 5.27(2) has been modified so that any meeting for 2019/20 that has not yet been held is to be held within 56 days of the date on which the state of emergency declaration ceases to have effect, but not while a declaration is in effect.

Clause 5: Section 5.28 modified – Electors' special meetings

Section 5.28 requires a local government to hold an electors' special meeting within 35 days of receiving a request from 5% (or 100 if less) of the electors of that district. At least 14 days' notice must be given of the meeting. As above this presents health risks and is contrary to the prohibition on public gatherings.

The requirement for holding an electors' special meeting under section 5.28(4) has been modified so that any meeting is to be held within 35 days after the end of the state of emergency declaration but not while a declaration is in effect.

Clause 6: Section 5.94 modified – Public can inspect certain local government information

Section 5.94 provides a list of information that must be available for inspection free of charge to a person who attends the local government office during office hours. The effect of the pandemic has been to close local government offices, removing the ability for members of the community to access information thereby reducing transparency and accountability. Access to information is likely to become even more important to the community as the length of the state of emergency extends and the economic impacts on local governments and the community become more pressing.

Section 5.94 is modified so that during the closure of a local government office due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the local government is to provide access to the information listed in 5.94 either by having it available on their website or by providing a free copy to the person by mail or email. This does not override the current provisions in section 5.95 which limits access to certain information, including confidential information.

Clause 7: Section 6.2 modified – Local government to prepare annual budget

Section 6.2(2) provides that in preparing the annual budget, the local government is to have regard to the contents of the plan for the future. The aspirations of the community as reflected in the plan for the future are not at the current time the best basis for the 2020/21 budget, but rather the more pressing and unforeseen consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Section 6.2(1) has been modified such that in preparing the budget for 2020/21 a local government is to have regard to the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic (rather than the plan for the future, although this can also be considered by the local government).

Clause 8: Section 6.13 modified – Interest on money owing to local governments

Section 6.13 allows local governments to charge interest on overdue amounts, with the rate set by the local government in its budget. The rate is capped in the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* at 11%.

Recognising the substantial hardship likely to be caused because of consequences of the pandemic, local governments will be unable to charge interest on money owing by any person they consider to be in financial hardship in these circumstances for the 2020/21 financial year.

Local governments will need to resolve (when setting their interest rate on overdue amounts) that this will not apply to a person who is considered by the local government to be suffering hardship as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The interest that can be charged on amounts owing by others will be capped at 8% – the interest rate used by the Australian Taxation Office on overdue amounts.

Clause 9: Section 6.33 modified – Differential general rates

Where a local government is imposing differential rates and the rate to be imposed on one category is more than twice the lowest differential rate to be imposed in another category, Ministerial approval must be obtained under section 6.33(3).

Local governments that resolve to freeze their rates in the dollar at or below those imposed in 2019/20 recognising the economic impacts of the pandemic, are being released from the requirement to obtain Ministerial approval if they obtained Ministerial approval under this section in that year. This reduces the regulatory burden on those local governments that are assisting ratepayers by not increasing the rate in the dollar.

Clause 10: Section 6.34 modified – Limit on revenue or income from general rates

Section 6.34 provides that local governments must set their rates at a level to cover between 90 and 110% of the estimated budget deficiency, unless the Minister otherwise approves. As local governments have been requested to freeze their rate in the dollar, it is likely that, due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, revenue from rates will be less than 90% of the estimated deficiency.

Recognising that local governments are likely to be receiving less income, section 6.34(b) is modified so that the yield from the general rate for the 2020/21 financial year is not to be less than 80% of the amount of the budget deficiency (rather than 90%). Approval for less than 80% (or more than 110%) can still be sought from the Minister for Local Government.

Clause 11: Section 6.35 modified – Minimum payment

Section 6.35 allows a local government to set a minimum payment for rates on any land. Certain conditions apply, including that more than half of the properties in a category cannot be paying the minimum. An exception to this is if there is a differential rating category for vacant land for which a minimum is applied, and if the Minister approves more than half the properties being subject to the minimum.

The effect of this variation is to remove the requirement for Ministerial approval for those local governments that are not increasing their differential rates or minimum payments from 2019/20 and that obtained Ministerial approval for those minimum payments last year. This reduces the regulatory burden on those local governments that are assisting ratepayers by not increasing the rate in the dollar or the minimum payment.

Clause 12: Section 6.36 modified – Local government to give notice of certain rates

Section 6.36 sets out the process that a local government must go through to advertise and set their rates. This requires local governments that are seeking to impose differential general rates or minimum payments to give local public notice and seek submissions for a minimum of 21 days and then consider these submissions before imposing the rates. A document describing the objects of, and reasons for, each proposed rate must be prepared and published on the local government's website.

To address the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is understood that many local governments are in the process of agreeing to freeze their rates in the dollar at the levels imposed in 2019/20. For those local governments, the process set out in 6.36 is unnecessary, meaningless and costly in a time when budgets are being negatively impacted.

Local governments that resolve to set differential general rates and minimum payments at a level no higher than that imposed in 2019/20 will not have to comply with the provisions of section 6.36.

Local governments will be required to publish the differential general rates and minimum payments on their website within ten days of the resolution or of this notice coming into effect whichever is later.

Clause 13: Section 6.45 modified – Options for payment of rates or service charges

Section 6.45(3) allows a local government to charge an additional amount if a payment of rates or service charge is made in instalments. This is capped at 5.5% in the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996*.

Recognising the substantial hardship likely to be caused to many ratepayers because of consequences of the pandemic, local governments will be unable to charge excluded persons interest for payment by instalments for the 2020/21 financial year.

If a local government does not have in place a financial hardship policy, the interest rate that they can charge other ratepayers for payment by instalments will be capped at 3%.

Local governments that have a policy in place that addresses the manner in which the local government will deal with financial hardship that may be suffered by ratepayers and other persons who are required to make payments to the local government will be able to charge a maximum of 5.5%. This recognises that the local government will be able to distinguish those that are in hardship and make appropriate provisions regarding their payments.

Clause 14: Section 6.51 modified – Accrual of interest on overdue rates or service charges

Section 6.51 allows local governments to charge interest on overdue amounts of rates and service charges. The rate is set by the local government by resolution when it imposes the rate or service charge. The rate is capped in the *Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 1996* at 11%.

Recognising the substantial hardship likely to be caused to many ratepayers because of consequences of the pandemic, local governments will be unable to charge excluded persons interest on overdue rates or service charges for the 2020/21 financial year. This will be reflected in a resolution of council when they set the interest rate.

This provides relief for those residential and small business ratepayers who are experiencing financial hardship because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Local governments will determine the applications for hardship.

The interest that can be charged on amounts owing by others will be capped at 8% – the interest rate used by the Australian Taxation Office on overdue amounts.

Clause 13: Section 9.51 modified – Giving documents to local governments

Section 9.51 deals with the giving of documents and states that a document is given to a local government if given personally to an employee of the local government at its office or sent by post to the local government's postal address. A consequence of the pandemic is that any hand delivery is no longer possible.

Section 9.51 has been modified so that a document may be given to a local government electronically.



## Premier of Western Australia

Our Reference: 59-200822

Cr Quentin Davies  
President  
Ms Taryn Dayman  
Chief Executive Officer  
Shire of Wyalkatchem

*By email:* [ceo@wyalkatchem.wa.gov.au](mailto:ceo@wyalkatchem.wa.gov.au)

Dear Cr Davies and Ms Dayman

### TRANSITION TO A COVIDSAFE AUSTRALIA

Can I thank everyone for their concerted effort so far in battling the Covid 19 pandemic.

On Friday, the National Cabinet agreed a three-step roadmap for easing social restrictions and creating a COVIDSafe Australia, with each State or Territory to apply the restrictions based on local conditions.

Yesterday, I announced the first stage of relaxed measures for Western Australia to commence from Monday, 18 May 2020 including reopening cafés and restaurants to cater for 20 seated patrons.

This additional patron count excludes staff, but must be accommodated with the required social distancing measures in effect.

We want to encourage Western Australians to get back to work and support café and restaurant owners to restart business. We know however in some instances there will be insufficient room to accommodate 20 seated patrons while abiding by the four square metre requirements.

I understand many Councils have already started working with cafes and restaurants to facilitate an expanded footprint of their businesses, and I urge you all to do so.

Wherever practical, we are seeking your support to relax alfresco trading boundaries, associated local laws and any leasing conditions during this time to provide flexibility to support these businesses.

This may include supporting adjacent businesses to work collaboratively in shared spaces.

2.

We expect these to be temporary arrangements as we work towards supporting businesses to go back to normal in a considered and careful manner.

These past eight weeks have been some of the most challenging times for our community. While we have seen significant impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, we have also seen great innovations and extraordinary community support for small businesses and those people experiencing hardship.

Thank you for all of the work undertaken by your Council in recent months to support your community during the COVID-19 pandemic. I wish and your Council every success as your own operations commence transition back to full service.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark McGowan".

Mark McGowan MLA  
**PREMIER**

11 MAY 2020



# PHEOC BULLETIN

**Tuesday 12 May 2020 09:00 Hours**

This bulletin has been authorised by the PHEOC Coordinator, Dr Revle Bangor-Jones

## COVID-19 Case numbers

- As of **12 May 2020**, there have been **553** confirmed cases of COVID-19 notified in Western Australia (WA). **537** people have recovered.
- To date **56,226\*** COVID-19 tests have been conducted in WA.
- **WA:** [Daily snapshot](#)
- **National:** [Current National Status](#)
- **Worldwide:** [WHO Situation Reports](#)

## Living with COVID

COVID-19 is changing the way we live, work and communicate. Even though the government is relaxing restrictions we should all remain vigilant during this period of transition to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in WA.

### Addressing social stigma and COVID-19

Stigmatising people can be harmful and can result in people not accessing health care or mental health support that they need. We need to support each other through this difficult period. Stigma and discrimination hurt everyone. Further information is available on the [WA Health website](#).

### COVIDSafe App



The Australian Government's voluntary COVIDSafe app is an important public health initiative. It speeds up contacting people exposed to coronavirus (COVID-19). For further information and to get the app see [COVIDSafe app](#).

## Latest Updates

### COVID-19 WA Roadmap

On 10 May 2020, the WA Government released a four-phase roadmap to ease COVID-19 restrictions. Phase 2 of the road map will take effect from Monday, 18 May 2020. This phase will encourage Western Australians to return to work and builds on non-work gatherings of up to 20. Cafés and restaurants can reopen for meal service, and indoor and outdoor fitness classes can resume with 20 participants with conditions. Regional travel restrictions have been relaxed.

Phase 3 will transition to COVID safe ways of living and working and will focus on continuing to build stronger links within the community and include further resumption of commercial and recreational activities. Phase 3 is expected to be implemented about 4 weeks from the start of Phase 2.

Phase 4 will be determined in due course. Western Australia's interstate border closure will remain in place. It is expected to be the final restriction lifted.

For more information, see [WA's Roadmap and FAQs](#).

## COVID-19 Research

The WA government has partnered with HBF and the resources sector for COVID-19 research. The plan is to dedicate up to \$6 million from the Future Health Research and Innovation Fund to COVID-19 research, including the expansion of the DETECT program, designed to determine the presence of any undetected COVID-19 in key sentinel groups or settings.

## COVID-19 Dashboard

Local COVID-19 information is now at the fingertips of all Western Australians after the launch of a new COVID-19 dashboard. The dashboard enables members of the public to track the State's current COVID-19 curve and stay up-to-date with other local COVID-19 information through a combination of maps, graphs and tables.

It has been developed by the Department of Health and can be accessed from its [website](#).

## COVID Safety Plans key to reopening WA businesses

Guidelines are being developed in consultation with key stakeholders. Food businesses, including cafés and restaurants; community and cultural venues; and sport and recreation facilities must prepare a COVID Safety Plan to re-open.

More information will be available online at [wa.gov.au](http://wa.gov.au) later this week.

## Directions Updates

### Isolation (Diagnosed) Directions

Effective 9 May 2020, people who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 must isolate until they have recovered and been informed that they are no longer required to isolate.

### Quarantine and isolation (Undiagnosed) Directions

Effective 9 May 2020, people who have been informed they are a close contact of someone who has COVID-19, people who have been tested for COVID-19 and are waiting for their results, and people who develop COVID-19 symptoms while in quarantine, must all isolate.

COVID-19 [State of Emergency Declarations](#) and [Community Advice](#) summarises the latest COVID-19 Directions that are in place in WA.

Further information can be found on [WA Government website](#).

## Primary Care

### Flu vaccination

For best protection against influenza, people are strongly advised to get the influenza vaccine every year. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic it is advised to get the influenza vaccine as soon as it is available.

Further information can be found at [Healthy WA](#).

## Testing

### General population

Any person may be tested if they have any one of the following clinical criteria: fever  $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$  OR history of fever (e.g. sweats, chills) OR an acute respiratory infection (e.g. shortness of breath,

cough, sore throat). This is especially important for people who live or work in a high-risk setting, are a contact of a confirmed case, are a returned traveller, are currently in hospital or who live in or have visited an area with an increased risk of community transmission. Testing is not indicated where another clinical focus of infection or alternate explanation of the patient's illness is evident.

## Testing locations

Testing can be performed at COVID clinics, hospitals, Commonwealth-endorsed GP respiratory clinics, private pathology COVID collection centres approved by the Chief Health Officer, as listed on [Healthy WA](#). Tests can also be performed by domiciliary specimen collectors and GPs in residential care facilities. Regional testing can also occur in health centres and remote health clinics operated by WACHS, Silver Chain, Aboriginal Medical Services or the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS).

## Reporting

Notify suspected COVID-19 cases by completing the notification form either [ONLINE](#) or by printing out the notification form. Notifying by phone is not necessary. All laboratories report both positive and negative results to the WA Department of Health, as per the [COVID Testing Reporting Directions](#).

## Point of Care (POC) serology testing

[COVID-19 Point of Care \(POC\) serology testing](#) (including as assay or device) as an acute illness diagnostic tool for COVID-19, is [prohibited under the WA Public Health Act 2016 \(external site\)](#).

## Resources for more information

- Series of National Guidelines, [SoNG](#) was last updated on 5 May 2020, with revised case definition – clinical criteria.
- Latest [Australian Health Protection Principal Committee \(AHPPC\) News](#)
- [WA Department of Health](#)
- [HealthyWA](#)
- [Australian Government Health Department](#)
- [Advice for the public \(WHO\)](#)

## Who to contact for more information

- COVID-19 Clinic ONLY Test Results Enquiry Line: [1800 313 223](#) (Note: **NOT** for GP referred testing or private pathology clinic tests)
- COVID-19 WA Public Information Line: [132 6843 \(13 COVID\)](#)
- COVID-19 Travel Restrictions Exemption Application: Visit the [G2G PASS](#) website or complete the [exemption application form](#)
- COVID-19 WA Police Line: [131 444](#) To report breaches of: self-isolation, business closures, border controls and other State of Emergency Directions.

*\*PathWest testing results pending*

**Next advice –** The PHEOC Bulletin will now be issued weekly. The next issue will be on **Tuesday 19 May 2020**.



**Hon David Templeman MLA**  
**Minister for Local Government; Heritage; Culture & the Arts**

Our Ref: 66-12356

To Local Government Mayors, Presidents and Commissioners

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT'S ROLE REGARDING THE EASING OF COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS**

I am writing to you to encourage all local governments to get behind the series of measures announced by the Premier on 10 May 2020 as part of Western Australia's roadmap for easing COVID-19 restrictions effective Monday 18 May 2020.

I see local government continuing to play a crucial leadership role in helping our communities get back on their feet and getting local economies to bounce back.

In particular, you all know my position on the role that libraries play in their communities. I want to ensure that when restrictions are eased that all local libraries are re-opened and operating, in accordance with new requirements.

Other local government facilities will also be affected by the new arrangements. For example, swimming pools, youth facilities, recreational centres and the like. I strongly encourage local governments to re-open these facilities where it is viable to do so.

Under the new arrangements, cafes and restaurants will be able to re-open. They will be required to apply limits to the number of patrons, social distancing and provide a COVID Safe environment. I am asking that you be as flexible as possible in enabling businesses to re-commence their operations, particularly regarding alfresco operations.

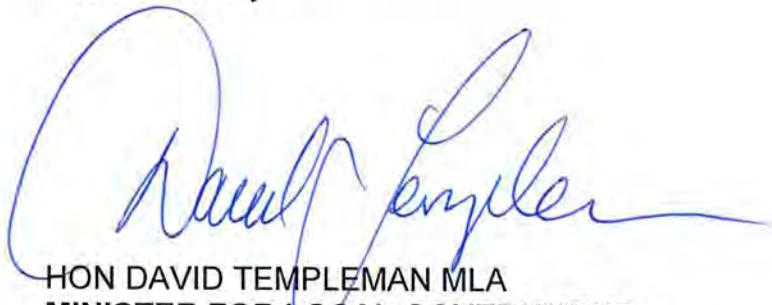
At the beginning of this crisis I made changes to regulations to enable local governments to conduct council and committee meetings electronically. With the easing of COVID-19 restrictions and encouraging people to return to the workplace, where the appropriate social distancing requirements can be made, I would request local governments to start moving back to in-person council and committee meetings, including with public attendance.

You can find out more about the Phase 2 easing of restrictions and how they can involve local government by going to [wa.gov.au](http://wa.gov.au).

I appreciate all the efforts and hard work done by local government throughout the State but remind you there is still a lot of work to be done.

These latest guidelines for our communities are aimed at getting Western Australians back at work as such as possible and moving us all towards a 'COVID safe economy'. Your continuing cooperation and leadership are essential parts of making that goal a reality for the communities we serve.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Templeman".

**HON DAVID TEMPLEMAN MLA  
MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT;  
HERITAGE; CULTURE AND THE ARTS**

12 MAY 2020



Hon. Mark McGowan MLA  
Premier



Hon. Paul Papalia CSC MLA  
Minister for Tourism

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## MEDIA STATEMENT

Wednesday, 13 May 2020

### **\$14.4 million package to support tourism industry and jobs**

- New funding package to support and boost small tourism businesses
- Follows release of the WA Roadmap to get Western Australians back to work safely
- \$10.4 million Tourism Recovery Fund will provide one-off cash grants to assist thousands of businesses to adapt to new tourism landscape
- Further \$4 million Tourism Business Survival Grants to support businesses dealing with exceptionally difficult circumstances
- Initiative will assist tourism sector to refocus on the WA market
- Tourism WA developing new marketing campaign to promote WA destinations

The McGowan Government has launched a multimillion dollar recovery package to support small tourism operators around the State to adapt and refocus their businesses in the COVID-19 landscape.

COVID-19 has had profound and unprecedented impacts on Western Australian tourism, with thousands of small businesses around the State struggling with the impacts of travel restrictions.

With some regional travel and other restrictions being cautiously eased from Monday, 18 May, as part of the WA Roadmap, the State Government's Tourism Recovery Program will enable tourism operators to prepare for a staged return to business in a new environment.

The \$14.4 million initiative includes two funding programs - with an initial \$10.4 million in one-off cash grants for up to 1,600 individual small businesses around the State.

The \$6,500 grants will provide immediate support to eligible tourism operators including micro tourism businesses, such as sole traders and businesses with four or less employees, with annual taxable wages of less than \$1 million, including accommodation, attraction, tour and transport businesses.

The second, \$4 million Tourism Business Survival Grants package will be available for tourism operators dealing with exceptionally difficult circumstances - with grants of \$25,000-\$100,000 available.

The Survival Grants will target businesses located in parts of the State with more restrictive travel bans in place, or whose circumstances otherwise mean they will face a more difficult road to recovery. Businesses which deliver iconic experiences are also eligible to apply. A probity auditor would review the robust and transparent criteria-led application and panel assessment.

As part of the application process, businesses are required to submit a recovery and marketing plan to outline how the funding will be used and indicate how their product, service or experience could be adapted.

Businesses must have a valid Australian Business Number and be an active part of the WA tourism industry through membership of one of the State's eligible tourism organisations, or tourism accreditation programs.

The funding announcement follows the establishment of Tourism WA's dedicated COVID-19 Industry Support Team last month. The team has contacted hundreds of Western Australian tourism operators to offer help and support, while gathering information to help guide recovery initiatives.

More information on the Tourism Recovery Fund and the online application form can be found on Tourism WA's corporate website at:  
[www.tourism.wa.gov.au/WATourismRecoveryProgram](http://www.tourism.wa.gov.au/WATourismRecoveryProgram)

More information on the Tourism Business Survival Grants package, including how businesses can apply, will be released shortly.

The new Tourism Recovery Fund and Business Survival Grant package is on top of the McGowan Government's \$1.8 billion stimulus and relief package invested so far in response to COVID-19.

These measures have included payroll tax waivers to eligible small-to-medium sized business, one-off electricity credit and waiver of business licenses fees.

**Comments attributed to Premier Mark McGowan:**

"COVID-19 has been devastating for WA tourism - with thousands of small businesses impacted all around the State.

"Our hearts go out to everyone that has been impacted by this pandemic.

"This new funding package will help small tourism operators adjust and adapt their businesses away from targeting the international and interstate market and towards Western Australians.

"With the easing of regional travel restrictions it is anticipated thousands of Western Australians will be looking to travel around WA this year - and we want as many local businesses as possible benefiting from these opportunities.

"I want to acknowledge every Western Australian for their patience during this COVID-19 pandemic. It's been trying and nothing like any of us have ever experienced before.

"The broadened boundaries still impact areas including the regions north of our state and the Goldfields-Esperance region along with biosecurity regions and remote communities. The restrictions are in place to protect more vulnerable communities north of our State. Where we can alter these, we will.

"While it's starting to look more encouraging we're not out of the woods yet and every move and adjustment is made based on the best of health advice."

**Comments attributed to Tourism Minister Paul Papalia:**

“In only a few short months, WA tourism has gone from enjoying record international and interstate visitor numbers to a complete industry shutdown.

“The impact on the thousands of Western Australians who make their living in the sector has been severe.

“With international and interstate border restrictions expected to remain for some time, we are now focused on helping tourism operators to adjust their businesses to appeal to the intrastate market.

“The Tourism Recovery Fund will provide cash grants direct to these small businesses to help them reorganise and refocus to the new environment.

“For those dealing with the most exceptional and difficult circumstances - including those based in the north of the State - the Survival Grants package will deliver important relief.

“This much needed relief package will help the sector get back on its feet and reorganise for the intrastate market, as the State Government and Tourism WA continue planning for the next stage of recovery.”

“

**Media contact: Ross Verne 6552 5600 or 0437 429 485**



# LG Alert

## Budget Process

The Minister for Local Government is intending to make an Order using the new COVID-19 Response powers.

This will, among other things, deal with matters relating to:

- Section 6.2: Local government to prepare annual budget
- Section 6.13: Interest on money owing to local governments
- Section 6.34: Limit on revenue or income from general rates
- Section 6.36: Local government to give notice of certain rates
- Section 6.45: Options for payment of rates or service charges
- Section 6.51: Accrual of interest on overdue rates or service charges

On this basis it is recommended that local governments do not commence advertising their rates and charges until after the Order is gazetted. This is expected to occur in the week commencing 4 May 2020.

Local governments should be aware that under section 6.36(3) notices advertising rates cannot be validly published prior to 1 May. Any notice published before this date will need to be republished for rates to be validly imposed.



Department of  
Local Government, Sport  
and Cultural Industries



# LGAlert ))

## Upcoming Regulation Amendments

To continue to support local governments during the COVID-19 outbreak, the department is urgently progressing amendments to the following Local Government Regulations:

- financial management
- functions and general, and
- long service leave.

An overview of the amendments is outlined below:

### **Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations**

The removal of the requirement to give public notice during a state of emergency when

- repurposing financial reserves
- borrowing money
- changing the use of borrowed money

for the purpose of responding to the emergency.

### **Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations**

An increase to the tender threshold to \$250,000.

Removing the requirement to publicly invite tenders during a state of emergency for:

- the supply of goods or services associated with a state of emergency and
- a contract renewal or extension of no more than 12 months when the original contract is to expire within three months.

**Local Government (Long Service Leave) Regulations:**

- clarifying that long service leave will continue to be accrued during any period of absence from duty due to the employer's response during a state of emergency
- allowing long service leave to be taken in two or more separate periods and
- allowing employees to access long service leave during a state of emergency if they have completed at least seven years of continuous service.

The regulations are due to be gazetted on Thursday 9 April 2020 and take effect on Friday 10 April 2020.

For further information, please email [LGreponse@dlgsc.wa.gov.au](mailto:LGreponse@dlgsc.wa.gov.au)

You are receiving this email because you are a CEO of a local government in Western Australia and/or are an officer of a local government authority.

**Our postal address is:** Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries  
GPO Box R1250, Perth, WA 6844

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Good afternoon Committee members

DFES will be launching its first campaign aimed at educating people about burning on private land. The Burn SMART campaign has been designed in response to a report from the Office of Bushfire Risk Management regarding escaped burns in the South West and Great Southern Regions in May 2018.

Burn SMART is being developed to educate small landholders and improve the quality of planned burns on private land. Planned burns on private property are an essential part of reducing bushfire risk.

Please find below some information around the DFES Burn SMART Campaign and a shift in terminology from Winter Burn to Burn SMART. If you could pass this information to pass on to relevant staff, chief bushfire control officers and fire control officers, that would be most appreciated.

The campaign aims to:

- educate the community about how to Burn SMART
- raise awareness about personal risk
- clarify responsibility and accountability

Efforts will be targeted in the South West, Lower South West and selected parts of the Great Southern, Upper Great Southern, Goldfields Midlands and metropolitan regions. In coming years the campaign may expand.

Burn SMART will replace the term 'Winter Burn' which is currently used by DFES staff, bushfire volunteers and Local Governments. As conditions are changing, we have seen an increase in planned burning outside the months of winter and therefore, the term 'Winter Burn' is no longer relevant to Western Australian communities. Further to this, it was identified the campaign must simplify technical information and ensure that it is relevant, relatable and meaningful to community members as well as reinforce positive action and behaviour.

The Burn SMART campaign will incorporate social media advertising and printed material. Education resources will be available to all BGUs and the targeted Local Governments that support the campaign. A new Planned Burn webpage will also launch on the DFES website.

Additionally, the *Winter Burning Guide* has been updated with a new revised edition *Burn SMART – A planned burning guide for small landholders* to launch as part of the Burn SMART campaign.

The Burn SMART campaign is intended to run in the lead up to winter, but dates are yet to be confirmed.

Once confirmed I will post an update with the launch dates on the BOC MS team site.

Best regards

**Jo Harding**  
**Committee Support & Project Officer | Rural Fire Division Executive**

20 Stockton Bend, Cockburn Central WA 6164  
**M:** 0428 490 164 | **E:** [jo.harding@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:jo.harding@dfes.wa.gov.au) | **W:** [dfes.wa.gov.au](http://dfes.wa.gov.au)



Department of  
Local Government, Sport  
and Cultural Industries

Departmental Circular 1  
February 2020

# LGalert



## **PROPOSED NEW LAWS TO STOP PUPPY FARMING IN WA**

### Introduction of Dog Amendment - (Stop Puppy Farming) Bill 2020

On 19 February 2020, the Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Bill 2020 was introduced into Parliament. The Bill proposes to introduce:

- mandatory dog de-sexing;
- dog breeder registration;
- a centralised dog registration system to track dogs; and
- the transition of pet shops into adoption centres.

The Bill progresses amendments to the Dog Act 1976 as part of the State Government's commitment to stop puppy farming by regulating the

breeding and sale of dogs in Western Australia.

The State Government received 4,754 submissions from dog owners, dog breeders, local governments, rangers and pet rescue organisations following consultation in 2018, with Western Australians showing overwhelming support for the proposed reforms.

### **Puppy farming and indiscriminate dog breeding**

Puppy farming leads to extensive long-term health and behavioural issues in dogs; both for the puppies that are bred, and the dogs used to breed.

Local governments must often seize, impound or dispose of irresponsibly bred dogs at their own expense.

The proposed initiatives will contribute to a more regulated breeding industry and a reduction in the number of dogs needing rehoming and suffering neglect due to puppy farms. The intent of these provisions is to ensure local government authorities have the tools to deal with irresponsible dog breeders.

Further information for local governments on the proposed initiatives is available in the fact sheet **Stop Puppy Farming – Information for Local Governments**.

These changes will not increase costs for local governments and may result in savings. Registration fees will be reviewed to cover the ongoing costs of the centralised registration system, with new fees for approvals to breed or supply dogs through a pet shop.

### **Greyhounds**

The Bill also removes the muzzling requirements for pet or retired racing greyhounds when in public places.

Racing greyhounds registered with Racing and Wagering Western Australia will continue to be required to wear muzzles in all public places

by application of the Greyhound Rules of Racing.

All greyhounds will still be required to be on a leash in a public place.

### **Timeline**

The provision removing the requirement for greyhounds to be muzzled will come into effect when the Bill is assented to by the Governor.

The other provisions that aim to prevent and stop puppy farming will come into effect once the centralised registration system is operational.

Procurement of the centralised database will occur this year, with transfer of data in 2021.

You can follow the passage of the Dog Act Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Bill 2020 by registering on the Parliament House website.

A public awareness campaign will be launched once the Bill has passed through Parliament to inform the community on what the provisions mean for dog owners and dog breeders.

The Department will provide local governments with further advice as the Bill progresses through Parliament, particularly in relation to the development of the centralised registration system.

For further information, please contact the Strategic Initiatives team via email at [puppyfarming@dlgsc.wa.gov.au](mailto:puppyfarming@dlgsc.wa.gov.au).

Duncan Ord OAM  
DIRECTOR GENERAL  
24 February 2020

[View this email in your browser](#)



**Wheatbelt**  
Development  
Commission

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Round Three Regional Economic Development Grants now open

The McGowan Government is investing up to \$6 million in regional projects to sustain jobs and build business resilience, opening round three of the Regional Economic Development (RED) Grants program today.

The RED Grants program supports locally driven projects that contribute to the economic growth and development of regional Western Australia.

The McGowan Government has committed \$28.8 million over five years towards the regional grants program.

Round three RED grants will have a particular focus on projects which help sustain jobs, expand or diversify industry, build skills and capacity, attract new investment and maximise the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic impacts.

Applications are now open and close on 7 July 2020. Grant funding of up to \$100,000 per project will be available in the Wheatbelt.

For more information on RED Grants, guidelines, FAQs and application forms, please visit the Wheatbelt Development Commission [website](#) or call (08) 9622 7222.

## Comments attributed to Regional Development Minister Alannah

### MacTiernan:

"The McGowan Government is investing in regional WA to support regional jobs, growth and sustainability, particularly now as we all manage the economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This is an important time for Government to get behind our regional communities to help stimulate long-lasting economic growth.

"Through the first two rounds of RED grants we have provided funding of \$13.39 million to 137 projects focused on agriculture and mining manufacturing, infrastructure construction, tourism and professional skills development.

"We encourage everyone in the regions to consider how RED grant funding could be used to support or enhance their business or community project.

"Securing the future sustainability of our regions is key to encouraging people to live and work in regional WA."

[www.wheatbelt.wa.gov.au](http://www.wheatbelt.wa.gov.au) | [info@wheatbelt.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@wheatbelt.wa.gov.au)

PO Box 250 Northam WA 6401 | Ph 08 9622 7222

#### PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



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