



Local Emergency Management Committee Emergency Meeting Minutes | 22nd January 2024

The Emergency Meeting of the Shire of Cunderdin LEMC will be held on Monday 22nd January 2024 in the Council Chambers, Lundy Avenue Cunderdin commencing at 2.00pm, for the purpose of:

1. Discussing assistance requirements for Cunderdin residents experiencing hardship due to power outages as a result of storm damage incurred on Tuesday 16th January 2024

Disclaimer

Members of the public should note that in any discussion regarding any planning or other application that any statement or intimation of approval made by any member or officer of the Shire of Cunderdin during the course of any meeting is not intended to be and is not to be taken as notice of approval from the Shire of Cunderdin. No action should be taken on any item discussed at a Council meeting prior to written advice on the resolution of the Council being received.

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CONTENTS

Agenda Item	Page
ITEM 1 OPENING & ANNOUNCEMENTS.....	3
ITEM 2 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES.....	3
2.1 Members.....	3
2.2 Invited Guests / Observers.....	3
2.3 Apologies.....	3
ITEM 3 DEPUTATIONS / PRESENTATIONS / SUBMISSIONS	3
ITEM 4 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE REQUIREMENTS	5
ITEM 5 CLOSURE.....	5

SHIRE OF CUNDERDIN

ITEM 1 OPENING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the Meeting and declared the Meeting open at 2.01 pm.

ITEM 2 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

2.1 Members

Mr D Byrne	WA Police
Mr E Fawkes	Rapid Relief Team
Cr A Harris	Shire President/Chairperson
Mrs J Spadaccini	Department of Communities
Mr B Davies	Community Emergency Services Manager / Executive Officer
Mrs H Byrnes	Shire of Cunderdin DCEO
Mr J Arnott	Cunderdin Agricultural College Principal

2.2 Invited Guests / Observers

Western Power

2.3 Apologies

Mr C Turner	WA Police
Mr S Hobley	Shire of Cunderdin CEO
Mrs N Snooke	Shire Councillor
Mr P Jasper	Cunderdin District High School Principal
Mrs C Whitelock	Meckering Primary School Principal
Mr A Burges	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Mr D Graham	Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Mrs B Herne	St John Ambulance Community Paramedic

ITEM 3 DEPUTATIONS / PRESENTATIONS / SUBMISSIONS

A. Harris thanked the committee members for their attendance. Thanks also extended to all attendees and their broader affiliated organisations for the assistance provided over the last week following the substantial storm activity on Tuesday 16th January 2024. Which resulted in multiple fires, large scale clean ups and the extended power outages.

H. Byrnes reported that the Shire has and will continue to offer the CSRC changerooms for residents requiring showers, relief from the heat and the opportunity to recharge electrical appliances on a case by case basis. B. Davies added that a spreadsheet had been supplied to Admin staff for completion. The spreadsheet will assist in identifying the priority level of each case and any action required.

D. Byrne and J. Spadaccini joined the meeting via Teams at 2.10pm.

D. Byrne reported that WAPOL had completed checks on any residents falling into the elderly or vulnerable category in the days following the storm event. There are currently no residents fitting these categories affected by the extended power outage.

J. Arnott reported that the Cunderdin Agricultural College has been without power however the facility has not been impacted due to a well established generator system which has provided an adequate power supply to the college. Impacts on the school facility are reduced due to school holidays and there are currently no students on site.

J. Arnott has received reports from parents that the storm event and extended power delays have had a considerable financial impacts on their families and the parents are concerned that this may have an impact on their capacity to cover fees associated with attendance at the College.

E. Fawkes reported that the Rapid Relief Team currently have resources stretched across many regions, supplying a large quantity of BFB volunteers with much needed catering requirements. The RRT are currently looking at establishing smaller, localised assistance option for cases where the larger catering trailer maybe unavailable.

E. Fawkes enquired about the need to have a generator plug installed into the meter box/electrical circuits of the CSRC so that a generator can be directly plugged in and the facility available for use in emergencies. H.Byrnes advised that funding has been secured by the Shire through the Disaster Ready Project for the installation of a generator system at the CSRC. It is anticipated that this will be installed and functional by June 2024.

A. Harris enquired into protocol of calling an emergency LEMC meeting. B. Davies replied informing that any member of the LEMC can call a meeting. It is then the decision of the local government and committee chairperson to decide if a meeting is required. D. Byrne commented it may have been beneficial to begin the meeting process 2 or 3 days earlier than we have in this incident, even if it could just be a Teams meeting where all departments can check in an know where they are standing.

D. Byrne left the meeting at 2.22pm

J. Spadaccini reported that the Department of Communities have respite centres ready and waiting to be activated by the Hazard Management Agency. These centres would have been available to communities between the hours of 11am and 4pm. Allowing people to have access to showers, charge devices and gain some relief from high temperatures.

E. Fawkes enquired if we have a list of people affected by the extended power outages. B. Davies replied that we did not have a list of individual people or families just the affected supply areas. We have advertised to community members requiring any assistance to contact the Shire directly.

ITEM 4 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE REQUIREMENTS

Fortunately, many of the Shire of Cunderdin community members affected by the extended power outages are resilient and relatively self-sufficient.

The Shire of Cunderdin swimming pool remained open for extended hours offering residents respite from the heat when their homes were without air-conditioning on Wednesday 17th January 2024.

Two community members have requested assistance.

One community member required the use of Council Chambers for a meeting. They were unable to have the meeting in their home due to the lack of power and subsequently their mobile phone and internet services are restricted without power.

One community member required the use of the CSRC changerooms for adequate showering facilities as their home requires a pressure pump for house water supply.

ITEM 5 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Chairperson closed the Meeting at 2.33pm.