



## **LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES**

For the **Special Meeting COVID-19**  
Held on Wednesday, 29 April 2020 at 9.00 am via teleconference.

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**MINUTES OF THE  
LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**  
Held on Wednesday 29 April 2020 at 9.00 am via  
videoconference.

**1. DECLARATION OF OPENING**

The Chairperson, Peter Northover, declared the meeting open at 9.00 am.

**2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE**

Peter Northover	Shire of Cranbrook – Chief Executive Officer
Kevin Bransby	Shire of Cranbrook – Emergency Services Officer
Trish Standish	Shire of Cranbrook – Manager of Finance and Administration
Jeff Alderton	Shire of Cranbrook – Manager of Works
Joe Duina	Shire of Cranbrook - Ranger
Teresa Lawson	Frankland River CRC - Manager
Kurt Wienert	Western Power- Field Supervisor
Wes Bailye	Department of Fire and Emergency Services-Area Officer- Rural
Neville Blackburn	Department of Communities- District Emergency Services Officer Great Southern
Laurie Seton	WA Police – Cranbrook OIC
Anne Parsons	St John Ambulance- Cranbrook
Bernie Climie	Red Cross – Cranbrook
David Rae	St John Ambulance-Community Paramedic

**APOLOGIES**

John Barden	Department of Primary Industries & Regional Development
Julie Hollingworth	Director of Nursing - Mount Barker Hospital

**3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 22 April 2020 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Neville Blackburn

Seconded: Theresa Lawson

## **4. REPORTS / UPDATES SPECIFICALLY RELATING TO COVID-19**

### **4.1 Shire of Cranbrook CEO – P Northover**

- The Shire has received inquiries regarding the possibility of people being allowed to visit the Shire's lakes due to the change of the restrictions around public gatherings. The Shire has responded by allowing the lakes to reopen to the public, however there shall be no overnight camping and the number of people in attendance to be limited to 10 persons as per the current restrictions. Peter raised this matter with Superintendent Ian Clarke from WA Police Great Southern and Supt. Clarke is happy with the Shire's response/plan.
- The Shire office shall continue to be closed until the intra-state travel restrictions have been lifted.
- The Shire will continue to hold future Council meetings via video conference until further advice from the relative State Government agencies has been obtained.

### **4.2 Cranbrook Police – Laurie Seton OIC**

- Easing of restrictions is in place now, allowing further recreational activities and gatherings of up to ten persons. Social distancing is still required and local police are conducting patrols to check behaviours. Regional border restrictions are still being enforced and patrolled regularly. This requirement has impacted the day to day business of local police as they are spending on average three hours per shift patrolling the Frankland Rocky Gully area.
- While the easing of restrictions is a welcome relief, it is also a time when we cannot relax our vigilance. Should an outbreak occur now, containing it will be much more challenging.
- The government has released the COVID tracking app, which people are encouraged to register with.
- We have received a report of a light aircraft using the local airstrip, stopping for a suspiciously short time and are seeking information on that aircraft or anyone that may be meeting it.
- Next week on Tuesday Cranbrook Police Station will be off line while a new telephone and data service is installed. Mobile contact will still be available while the communications upgrade is occurring.

### **4.3 St John Ambulance – D Rae**

- All Great Southern sub-centers now have sufficient levels of PPE in stock.
- A Parsons said Cranbrook was very well stocked with PPE.
- COVID-19 has been an 'eye opener' for St John regarding cleaning and sanitation of equipment and vehicles. St John will continue a high level of cleaning after the current situation ends.
- St John will be better prepared going forward due to COVID-19.

#### **4.4 Mt Barker Hospital / Plantagenet Cranbrook Health Service**

- Report from Julie Hollingworth read by T Standish
- The last reported case in the Great Southern was cleared 10 days ago. No new cases in the Great Southern region.
- Julie reported that Denmark and Plantagenet Shires' have reduced their LEMC meeting to fortnightly.
- Peter asked Laurie about Cranbrook moving to fortnightly meetings. Laurie replied by saying that Inspector Spencer advised that as regional coordinator for Cranbrook, it is up to Laurie's discretion to hold either weekly or fortnightly meetings however it would need to be justified to reduce the meeting frequency to fortnightly. It is recommended that Cranbrook remains at weekly meetings until advised otherwise from the State agencies.

#### **4.5 Western Power – K Weinert**

- Quiet week with only minimal faults due to the high winds.
- Staff continuing to practice social distancing requirement whilst on jobs.

#### **4.6 Frankland River Community Resource Center- T Lawson**

- No change from last report.

#### **4.7 Cranbrook Red Cross – B Climie**

- No change from last report.

#### **4.8 Department of Communities – N Blackburn**

- The Department is currently in a holding pattern wait for direction from a State level.

#### **4.9 Department of Fire and Emergency Services- W Bailye**

- Peter expressed the committee's sincere condolences to Wes and all the DFES staff in Albany on the tragic and sad passing of Rob Lake.
- Quiet weekend all round. No major incidents in the region.
- Continuing to have both Collie St and Hercules Cres open. Splitting staff between home and both offices.

## 5. GENERAL BUSINESS

- Cranbrook Police to show a presence at the primary school to ensure everyone is complying with the current regulations.
- L Seton mentioned that it was good to see the supermarket open again. Peter said that it is good for the local community and he hoped that it would be well supported. Peter also stated that the highway store would be looking to open soon and would be more of a restaurant where people could have a sit down evening meal.
- D Rae enquired about whether the scheduled April LEMC was going ahead in Frankland River. P Northover confirmed the cancellation and requested K Bransby to send out a cancellation via outlook.
- In response to moving to fortnightly meetings L Seton requested that the following scenario be discussed at the next meeting:

*A local shire worker unknowingly comes into contact with a COVID carrier while supervising a contractor repairing equipment at a shire owned facility. 10 days later he starts to display COVID like symptoms and returns a positive test. He goes into immediate home quarantine with his family but symptoms develop rapidly. Two days later his partner calls an ambulance as he is having trouble breathing. As it has been school holidays his two children have not been at school but have been identified as mixing with two other families during the last fortnight. Tracking confirms that he has not entered the main shire offices during the past fortnight but has been to the depot regularly. During that period he has only used one shire vehicle and has only worked alone, however that vehicle is now parked at the depot. How do we respond both to the health crisis and to support families / people impacted by this incident?*

## 6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Special meeting of the Local Emergency Management Committee will be held on Wednesday, 6 May 2020 at 9.00am via videoconference.

## 7. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 9.20 am.