



Local Emergency Animal Welfare Plan 2026 - 2031

The Shire of Cranbrook Animal Welfare Plan has been prepared in accordance with Section 41 (4) of the Emergency Management Act 2005 and forms a part of the Local Emergency Arrangements. This plan has been endorsed by the Council of the Shire of Cranbrook and approved by Shire of Cranbrook Local Emergency Management Committee.

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ENDORSEMENTS

This information has been produced and issued under the requirements of the State Emergency Management Plan section 5.3.2, endorsed by the Shire of Cranbrook Local Emergency Management Committee and the Council of the Shire of Cranbrook.

The Animal Welfare Plan, which is a Support Plan, to the Local Emergency Management Arrangements has been tabled for noting with the Great Southern District Emergency Management Committee and State Emergency Management Committee.

Endorsed By Shire Of Cranbrook Local Emergency Management Committee

Signature _____ Date _____

(LEMC Chair) XXX

Endorsed By Shire Of Cranbrook Council

Motion Number _____ Date _____

Shire President XXX _____ Date _____

AMENDMENT RECORD

Version No.	DATE	AMENDMENT DETAILS	AUTHOR
1	2020	Initial Write	J Duina
2	July 2021	Document Review and Re-format	K Bransby
3.0	Jan 2026	Review and update • Updated version control sequencing • Aligned document format to SEMC recommended version • Updated Acronyms used • Revised role responsibilities • Reorientated appendices to allow more space • Added PPRR Animal Welfare in Emergencies checklist for Shire use as determined	Derek Jones t/as The Emergency Management Consultant
3.1	Feb 2026	• Clarified DPIRD activation process • Added Heatwave actions • Minor adjustments	

DISTRIBUTION

This Local Animal Welfare Plan forms part of the Shire of Cranbrook Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA). This plan will be distributed to relevant stakeholders in conjunction with the LEMA.

Copies of these arrangements and associated support plans can be found free of charge during office hours at the Shire's Administration office and on the Shire's website:

- Shire's Administration Office - 19 Gathorne Street, Cranbrook;
- Frankland River Community Centre – Wingebellup Road, Frankland River;
- and
- Shire Website www.cranbrook.wa.gov.au

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Terminology used throughout this document shall have the meaning as prescribed in either section 3 of the *Emergency Management Act 2005* or as defined in the State Emergency Management Glossary. In addition, the following definitions apply;

Biosecurity: The protection of the economy, the environment, social amenity or human health from negative impacts associated with the entry, establishment or spread of animal or plant pests and disease, or invasive plant and animal species.

Companion animal

Any animal other than livestock or horses kept primarily for companionship, hobbies, sport, or work.

Hazard

Has the meaning of 'hazard' in the *Emergency Management Act 2005*.

- a) A cyclone, earthquake, flood, storm, tsunami, or other natural event
- b) A fire
- c) A road, rail or air crash
- d) A plague or an epidemic
- e) A terrorist act as defined in the Criminal Code section 100.1 set out in the Schedule to the Criminal Code 1995 of the Commonwealth
- f) Any other event, situation or condition that is capable of causing or resulting in;
 - I. Loss of life, prejudice to the safety, or harm to the health, or persons or animals, or
 - II. Destruction of, or damage to, property or any part of the environment, and is prescribed by the *Emergency Management Act 2005*.

Horse

Any horse or equine hybrid (*Equus caballus*, *Equus asinus*).

Livestock

Has the meaning of 'Stock' as defined in Regulation 4 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Regulations 2013*, including the following (as set out in Schedule 1 of the regulations).

- Buffalo, including buffalo/cattle hybrids
- Camel
- South America camelids
- Cattle, including cattle/buffalo hybrids
- Deer and any hybrids
- Emu
- Goat
- Ostrich
- Pig
- Poultry and any hybrids
- Sheep.

Owner or carer

Has the meaning of 'person in charge' in the Animal Welfare Act 2002. Person in charge in relation to an animal, means;

- a) the owner of the animal
- b) a person who has actual physical custody or control of the animal
- c) if the person referred to in paragraph (b) is a member of staff or another person, that other person, or
- d) the owner or occupier of the place of vehicle where the animal is or was at the relevant time.

Triage

The process by which animals are sorted and prioritised according to their needs for care, veterinary treatment or euthanasia.

Wildlife

An animal that is indigenous to Australia's land or water, living without regular human intervention or support and having the meaning of fauna, as defined within the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*.

Animal Welfare: Animal welfare refers to the state of the animal; the treatment that an animal receives is covered by other terms such as animal care, animal husbandry, and humane treatment. [World Organisation for Animal Health May 2008 – International Office of Animal Health].

GENERAL ACRONYMS USED IN THIS PLAN

Acronym	Terminology
AWC	Animal Welfare Coordinator
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CESM	Community Emergency Services Manager
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
DFES	Department of Fire and Emergency Services
DoC	Department of Communities
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
DFES	Department of Fire and Emergency Services
HMA	Hazard Management Agency
IMT	Incident Management Team
ISG	Incident Support Group
LEC	Local Emergency Coordinator
LEMA	Local Emergency Management Arrangements
LEMC	Local Emergency Management Committee
LRC	Local Recovery Coordinator
LRCG	Local Recovery Coordination Group
SES	State Emergency Service

INTRODUCTION

Authority for the Plan.

The Shire of Cranbrook Animal Welfare Plan has been prepared in accordance with Section 41 (4) of the *Emergency Management Act 2005* and supports the Local Emergency Arrangements.

This support plan has been approved by Shire of Cranbrook Local Emergency Management Committee and endorsed by the Shire Council of Cranbrook.

The Animal Welfare Plan has been tabled for noting with the State Emergency Management Committee and the Office of Emergency Management.

Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to guide the Shire of Cranbrook, Hazard Management Agencies, Controlling Agencies and Support Agencies to assist the community with the care and management of domestic and native animals during an emergency.

Objectives

The objectives of this Animal Welfare Plan are to:

- Provide a clear guide for the effective management of animals during a local emergency.
- Enhance public safety and community resilience within the Shire through effective planning and management of animals in emergencies, and
- Ensure the welfare of all animals are considered as a result of a local emergency.

Associated Documents

Document	Owner	Location
Local Emergency Management Arrangements 2026 - 2031	Shire of Cranbrook	Shire Office Shire Depot DEMC
Local Emergency Evacuation Plan 2026 - 2031	Shire of Cranbrook	Shire Office
Local Emergency Recovery Plan 2026 - 2031	Shire of Cranbrook	Shire Office
Local Emergency Relief and Support Plan 2026 - 2031	Dept of Communities	Department of Communities Great Southern Shire Office

Scheduled review dates of each these plans is outlined in the Shire of Cranbrook Local Emergency Management Arrangements 2026-2031.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Animal Welfare Coordinator

The Shire of Cranbrook Ranger is the Animal Welfare Coordinator.

He/she is responsible for the implementation and management of this plan.

This role may be delegated to another suitably qualified Shire Officer if required.

Shire Ranger

The Ranger reports to the Manager of Works.

It should be noted that the Ranger may also fulfil other important roles during emergencies and his services may be limited.

Animal Owners

Animal owners are responsible for the welfare of their pets and livestock at all times, including during emergencies. This responsibility includes before, during and after an emergency.

State Agencies and Support Groups

Allied state agencies and support groups may be called upon to provide additional assistance and support during an emergency.

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD)

The Director General of Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development is the designated HMA for animal or plant pest, or disease emergencies.

DPIRD is responsible for coordinating animal welfare in emergencies following the activation of State arrangement, via the State Support Plan for Animal Welfare in

Emergencies. It has significant responsibilities across the phases of Preparation, Prevention, Response and Recovery phases as outlined in this Support Plan.

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)

DBCA provides support to the State Animal Welfare in Emergency Committee. It can provide advice to other organisations and wildlife carers with respect to care and temporary containment of wildlife during and after emergencies. DBCA can also provide advice surrounding wildlife during recovery phase of an emergency.

Department of Communities (DoC)

DoC is primarily responsible for the operational management of Evacuation Centres and providing assistance to evacuees. They can provide incidental assistance to evacuees with respect to animal welfare at Evacuation Centres.

RSPCA

The RSPCA operates animal care and adoption facilities. It seeks to raise community awareness regarding the humane treatment of animals and works with government and industry to establish standards for animal care.

FAWNA

FAWNA is a not-for-profit government approved wildlife rescue and rehabilitation organisation (based in Busselton) for sick, injured and orphaned native fauna. FAWNA may be able to provide assistance for native animal welfare during and emergency situation.

Veterinarians

Veterinarians can provide a wide range of medical services for sick and injured animals. Veterinarians also have facilities to home sick animals that require some level of intervention.

SCOPE

This plan does not include the routine management of animal welfare during everyday life. It only applies in emergencies.

Owners and carers of animals are responsible for the welfare of their pets and livestock at all times. This responsibility remains during emergencies.

The Shire of Cranbrook Animal Welfare Plan 2026-2031 acknowledges the local government has a key role in supporting emergency animal welfare services. The Shire can play a key role in the provision of animal welfare support during an emergency.

While the care of the native animals is the responsibility of the DBCA this plan does identify processes that can be undertaken to provide preliminary assistance to injured, distressed or displaced wildlife during an emergency.

Financial Considerations

Animal owners will be encouraged to supply their own equipment when their animal is impounded.

The Shire of Cranbrook Ranger Services has a limited capacity to assist with the provision of welfare to animals during an emergency.

It is possible the provision of additional or extended welfare will incur expenses. Expenses may be incurred for temporary fencing, shade/shelter, watering and feeding resources, including consumables, and/or waste management equipment.

Fees & Charges

Where possible the Shire will endeavour to assist the community in caring for their animals, by the waiving of selected fees and charges for a period of time of no longer than fourteen (14) days. Only the Animal Welfare Coordinator has the delegated authority to waive, amend or impose fees and charges as deemed appropriate.

To ensure there is a consistent approach to the waiver of fees, the following points for consideration are to be clarified by the Animal Welfare Coordinator as early as practicable:

- Length of impoundment fee waiving period;
- Fees for the use of alternate animal sheltering facilities (i.e. boarding kennels);
- Fees for the extended impoundment of existing boarded or impounded animals due to emergency controls (i.e. road blocks);
- Veterinary costs related to impoundment period;
- Fees for surrendering animals for destruction or rehoming; and
- Extension period for micro chipping or registration fees.

PREPAREDNESS

The Shire of Cranbrook is committed to the provision of Animal Welfare during an emergency. The Shire will ensure necessary preparations are made. These will include;

- Promoting to members of the community the DPIRD Local plan for animal welfare in emergencies information and planning guides for companion animals, livestock and horses in bushfire, flood and storms.
- Regular checks of possible impounding facilities to ensure they are fit for purpose.
- Maintenance of adequate stocks of supplies covering initial impact of an emergency.
- Communicating personal responsibility of owners and carers to the welfare of animal under their care.
- Ensuring the community is aware that animals, with the exception of assistance animals, will not be allowed into Evacuation Centres.

RESPONSE

General Operations – All Animals

An Animal Welfare Centre will be established in a suitable location.

This could be the Shire Office, Shire Pound, or, in the event of a larger scale event which includes large numbers of displaced people and animals, at a location close to the nominated Evacuation Centre. (See appendix 3 for identified locations).

The Animal Welfare Centre will;

- Record, register and prioritise all requests for assistance (See Appendix 1)
- Record and register all lost, found, rescued and impounded animals
- Assist with the logistics of caring for all impound animals, and
- Maintain all financial and administrative records.

The animal will be assessed and necessary steps undertaken. These could include but are not limited to;

1. Scanned for presence of a chip
2. If chip present then steps are taken to return animal to registered owner as quickly as possible. The Shire Ranger has access to an Australia wide data base of owners to facilitate reunification
3. If no chip present, or animal is unregistered animal is impounded at suitable facility and the existing Shire of Cranbrook process followed
4. If animal is injured and no owner located, steps will be taken to transport animal to Veterinarian for further assessment and treatment

Request for Assistance

All incoming requests for assistance from the public in regards to animal welfare (i.e. rescues, roaming, lost and found) shall be recorded using the Synergy computer system and will be prioritised by the AWC or designated officer for actioning.

Activation

The Shire's Animal Welfare Coordinator or Recovery Coordinator will activate the Shire's Animal Welfare Plan following the advice of, or request from, the Hazard Management Agency, Local Emergency Coordinator or Incident Controller.

Triggers for the activation of this plan may include;

- An emergency where Animal Welfare has been impacted
- Receipt of an Emergency Incident Controller request to do so, or
- Opening of an Evacuation Centre.

The State Support Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies may be activated if

1. The HMA or Controlling Agency determines;
 - Animal Welfare is beyond the capacity and capability of the owners or carers, and
 - Any local or district arrangements are no longer sufficient or effective, or
 - No local or district arrangements exist.
2. Then this request to activate is approved by DPIRD

The Shire of Cranbrook can also advocate for the activation of the State Animal Welfare plan through its involvement on the Incident Support Group or through the Operational Area Support Group.

Following activation, DPIRD assume all coordination of animal welfare support and management for the period of activation, allowing the Shire of Cranbrook to focus on other aspects of a current emergency event.

Public Information

The Controlling Agency or Hazard Management Authority is responsible for providing information to the public. This responsibility extends to matters surrounding animal welfare.

Shire of Cranbrook can provide support to the controlling agency using their existing emergency communication tools.

During significant incidents DPIRD can provide information relating to animal welfare; state of general animal welfare, the location of animals affected and the reunification process in coordination with the Controlling Agency.

Transportation and Evacuation Route Options

Any animals requiring relocation for assessment or treatment will be transported by the most suitable and practicable means. Routes taken will be developed in consideration of any road closures and will generally be confined to major highways, sealed roads, or if necessary major unsealed roads within the Shire of Cranbrook.

Temporary Evacuation Centres/Shelters

With the exception of assistance animals (i.e Guide Dogs), animals are not allowed inside an evacuation centre. For this reason, owners and carers will be urged to arrange shelter for their animals with friends or family outside of the impact area. Where this is not possible the Shire of Cranbrook pound will be utilised as a temporary shelter for smaller animals.

Should the Shire of Cranbrook pound capacity be breached then alternative accommodation arrangements will be sought. Refer to Appendix 4 – for nearest kennels.

Livestock and/or horses will, where possible. Be contained within the closest safe paddock with intact fences, adequate water, space to move and, in the case of a fire emergency, surrounded by low or no flammable fuel.

If suitable transport can be arranged livestock and/or horses not able to be contained in nearby paddock will be impounded at the small stock yard at Frederick Square or, if necessary, the Shire's enclosed waste facility until alternative arrangements can be made.

The National Livestock Identification System will be used to re-unite livestock and their owners as soon possible.

Access to Properties

Caring for animals after the emergency has passed becomes a significant consideration in the recovery process.

For safety and security reasons it may not be possible for residents to readily return home and/or tend to their animals. The Incident Controller will determine if, and when, this can occur.

When the Incident Controller determines that it is safe to implement a controlled return to property, a Restricted Access Permit system may be implemented. This will allow the systematic management of returning of owners and carers so they can, amongst other essential tasks, provide animal welfare.

Animal Welfare Assessment, Triage and Treatment

Upon receipt of an animal at the Animal Welfare Centre it will be assessed and if deemed necessary treatment arranged at the nearest suitable Veterinarian Hospital.

Euthanasia and Disposal.

Every reasonable effort should be made to transport sick or injured animals to a veterinarian for professional assessment and/or treatment.

Any method employed to euthanise an animal should be humane. In instances where animals are severely injured or, there is little chance of survival, euthanasia may be the best option.

The Shire of Cranbrook Ranger has limited capacity to euthanise small animals. He does not have capacity for euthanising larger animals.

Given the potential sensitivities and legalities associated with euthanasia the owner should, wherever possible, be consulted and part of the decision making which arrives at euthanasia as the best option. If consultation before an animal is euthanised is not possible they should be contacted as soon as possible afterwards.

The disposal of deceased animals remains the responsibility of an owner or carer. Advice can be sought from DPIRD (livestock and horses) or DBCA (wild life).

Emergency Supplies

At times emergency food, water and shelter may be required by animals affected by an emergency. This is especially the case for animals 'left behind' during an emergency.

Initially, owners and/or carers of animals will be required to provide essential food/water supplies and equipment. Where this is not possible the Shire of Cranbrook maintains a supply of essential food and equipment primarily that may be used for impacted animals.

Additional supplies are available from Elders Cranbrook. Also refer to Appendix 4.

In these circumstances DPIRD can be called upon to provide assistance with provision of basic nutritional requirements of isolated animals.

If delivery of supplies is not possible then consideration will be given to agistment of affected animals until a longer term solution can be found.

Reunite

The Shire of Cranbrook will record as many details as possible when impounding an animal. This information will be used to facilitate a re-unification process as quickly as possible.

The Shire Ranger has access to nation-wide animal ownership data bases which will be used to assist the reunification process.

Volunteers and Donations

For Health and Safety reasons volunteers will be actively discouraged from assisting during an emergency.

Donations of fodder can be made via the through the GIVIT online platform www.givit.org.au and distributed to those in need via local emergency management committees and/or existing welfare agencies.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS/CHALLENGES

Impacts from Utility Outages

Utility outages, particularly the loss of power and/or water at different times of the year can be challenging. Temporary shade facilities will mitigate, to a certain extent, any loss of utilities.

Bulk water supplies can be sourced from the Shire of Cranbrook Works Depot.

Rescue Requirements

Requests for animal rescue will be referred to the controlling agency or Recovery Coordinator for their consideration.

Rescues will only be undertaken if it is safe to do so and the necessary resources are available.

Decontamination

If animals have been exposed to any form of contamination (asbestos, flood waters, hazardous smoke, chemicals) advice will be sought from the controlling agency and the recommended clean down process undertaken.

Any clean down actions taken will be recorded against the affected animal/s and communicated to the owners or carers when the animal/s is/are returned.

Biosecurity

In the event that Shire of Cranbrook is identified by DPIRD as being in, or adjacent to, a biosecurity 'Advice, Look and Report or Active Zone', advice will be sought and, where possible, acted upon.

Intensive livestock industry exists within the Shire of Cranbrook. The nature of this industry will need consideration if/when combating breaches of biosecurity or when undergoing preventative measures against spread of disease.

Zoonotic Disease

Zoonotic diseases are those that are transferable between animals and humans and have the potential to cause pandemics.

To reduce the likelihood of zoonotic diseases people, including owners and carers, handling animals will be expected to wash hands after handling animals or their products; ensure food is thoroughly cooked or washed prior to consumption, ensure vaccinations are current and through relevant public education.

Prominent signage at the animal holding areas and Evacuation Centre will be used to reinforce the need for good hygiene practices to be employed when dealing with animals.

Mental Wellbeing Support

The Shire of Cranbrook Local Emergency Management Arrangements identify a number of readily available counselling services that are available regionally or via telephone that can be accessed as required.

Refer to Local Emergency Management Arrangements Contacts – Recovery for contact details for Support Agencies able to provide assistance.

Heatwave Escalated Response

A Heatwave Forecast for the Shire of Cranbrook, coinciding with animals in care, will necessitate a review of facilities and arrangements to ensure the welfare of animals is not compromised.

This could include additional water supplies, misting of water, sprinkler set up, generators for fans and/or air conditioners (if internal pounding undertaken) and/or additional shade.

RECOVERY

A prime objective of the recovery process is to 'return to normal' as quickly as possible after an emergency.

To this end every effort will be made to return responsibility for animal welfare with the owners or carers as quickly as possible.

The Local Recovery Coordinator will determine the animal welfare requirements during the recovery phase of an incident. These could include, but not limited to;

- Establishing a Local Recovery Coordination Group, including the nominated Shire Animal Welfare Coordinator, to assist with more complex recovery situations.
- Issuing Restricted Access Permits allowing owners and carers to enter an incident area to care for their animals. This will need the approval of the Incident Controller.
- A staged close down of any pound facilities established in response to an incident.
- Ensuring reunification processes are undertaken as quickly as possible.
- Ensuring a defensible re-homing process is undertaken for animals without owners.

APPENDIX 1 - Animal Registration Form

PAGE _____ **of** _____

[illegible]

APPENDIX 2 - Equipment/Food Registration Form

PAGE _____ **of** _____

[illegible]

APPENDIX 3 - Alternate Facilities Map



Legend:

Shire Pound - Brown – Domestic

Shire Welfare Centre – Pink – Cats, Dogs & other domestic. Small number of horses.

Shire Waste Facility – Green – Horses.

Old Sports Ground – Blue – Overflow facility horses.

APPENDIX 4 – Animal Welfare in Emergencies

The following table is an appendix to the Shire of Cranbrook's Local Emergency Animal Welfare to assist them meet the requirements of the State Hazard Plan – Animal Welfare in Emergencies and uses the established requirements; Prevention, Preparation, Response and Recovery.

PREVENTION		
PREPAREDNESS		
<i>Consider the development, maintenance and review of the Emergency Animal Welfare.</i>		
Exercise Shire Animal Welfare Plan		
<i>Community Education Initiatives</i> - Owner/carer is primarily responsible for animal welfare, even during emergencies - Undertake education campaign to highlight animals not permitted in Evacuation Centres - Obtain, publicise and distribute DPIRD publications supporting good animal welfare actions - Pause for your PAWE – bushfire - Companion animals and bushfires - Horses and bushfires - Livestock and bushfires - Pause for your PAWE – floods - Companion animals and floods - Horses and floods - Livestock and floods - Pause for your PAWE – storms - Companions animals and storms - Horses and storms - Livestock and storms		
<i>N.B Cyclone fact sheets surrounding Animal Welfare are also available</i>		
<i>Liaise with DPIRD as required</i>		
RESPONSE		
<i>Liaise with DPIRD for animal welfare in emergency information and communication.</i>		
<i>To ensure coordinated response to Animal Welfare is in place.</i>		
<i>Liaison addresses issues associated with resource requirements and/or transportation requirements when in place</i> <i>Set-up pre-identified facilities in accordance with Animal Welfare Plan</i> <i>Assist the Incident Controller to manage access to non-evacuated animals</i> <i>Liaise with DPIRD to identify owner contact details as required</i> <i>Liaise with DPIRD to determine the suitable carcass disposal locations if required</i> <i>Engage with euthanasia discussions as required</i> <i>Assist animal/owner reunification process as required</i>		
<i>If the required emergency response exceeds the capabilities of the Shire of Cranbrook engage with DPIRD and the Controlling Agency to consider activation of the State Support Plan for Animal Welfare in Emergencies.</i>		
RECOVERY		
<i>Include DPIRD and DBCA (wildlife) in recovery actions as required</i>		
<i>Consider animal welfare in Recovery Plan</i>		
<i>Review Animal Welfare Plan after activation</i>		