



UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

13 DECEMBER 2024

I certify that the minutes of the meeting of the Local Emergency Management Committee held on Friday, 13 December 2024 were confirmed on .

Presiding Person

UNCONFIRMED MINUTES
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13 DECEMBER 2024

ATTENTION/DISCLAIMER

The purpose of this Committee Meeting is to discuss and make recommendations to Council about items appearing on the agenda and other matters for which the Committee is responsible. The Committee has no power to make any decisions which are binding on the Council or the Shire of Mundaring unless specific delegation of authority has been granted by Council. No person should rely on or act on the basis of any advice or information provided by a Member or Employee, or on the content of any discussion occurring, during the course of the Committee Meeting.

The Shire of Mundaring expressly disclaims liability for any loss or damage suffered by any person as a result of relying on or acting on the basis of any advice or information provided by a Member or Employee, or the content of any discussion occurring during the course of the Committee Meeting.

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**LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE ROOM, 7000 GREAT EASTERN HIGHWAY, MUNDARING – 10:00 AM**

1.0 OPENING PROCEDURES

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 10:06.

Acknowledgement of Country

Shire of Mundaring respectfully acknowledges the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation, who are the traditional custodians of this land. We acknowledge Elders past, present and emerging and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the region.

1.1 Announcement of Visitors

Nil

1.2 Attendance/Apologies

Members	Tania MacKenzie Cr Trish Cook Adrian Dyson Jamie O'Neill Donna Morgan Michael Phillips Chris Hassett Callum MacNeill Sam Roberts Member Rod Potter Annette Turner-Duggan	Deputy Chair / Officer In Charge Mundaring Deputy Shire President Manager Community Safety & Emergency Mgmt Department Fire Emergency Services CESM Department Fire Emergency Services Department of Communities St John Ambulance Wooroloo Prison Wooroloo Prison SES Mundaring Disaster Relief Australia
Staff	Shekofeh Elhani Craig Cuthbert Karen Dore Tom Belger Matt Lowndes Charlotte Jones	Health Manager Community Safety & Emergency Mgmt Bush Fire Risk Management Officer Fire Protection Officer Fire Hazard Inspection Officer Secretary Emergency Management
Apologies	Chairperson Neridah Zlatnik Murray McBride Ryan Hamblion	East Ward Department Fire Emergency Services Department of Communities

2.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING MEMBER WITHOUT DISCUSSION

Nil

3.0 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

3.1 Declaration of Financial Interest and Proximity Interests

Council Members must disclose the nature of their interest in matters to be discussed at the meeting (*Part 5 Division 6 of the Local Government Act 1995*).

Employees must disclose the nature of their interest in reports or advice when giving the report or advice to the meeting (*Sections 5.70 and 5.71 of the Local Government Act 1995*).

Nil

3.2 Declaration of Interest Affecting Impartiality

A Council Member or an employee who has an interest in a matter to be discussed at the meeting must disclose that interest (*Shire of Mundaring Code of Conduct, Local Government (Admin) Reg. 34C*).

Nil

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

COMMITTEE DECISION RECOMMENDATION		LEMC1.12.24
Moved by Craig Cuthbert	Seconded by Jamie O'Neill	
That the Minutes of the Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held 13 September 2024 be confirmed.		
		CARRIED

5.0 PRESENTATIONS

Adrian Dysons last day presented with a plaque of thanks on behalf of LEMC.

6.0 **REPORTS OF EMPLOYEES**

6.1 **Shire of Mundaring LEMC Exercise Program Update**

File Code	EM.PLN 3
Attachments	Nil

PURPOSE

To update, and seek feedback from, the committee on Emergency Management exercising (held and upcoming), either run by or otherwise involving Shire of Mundaring employees and other LEMC members, including the following:

- 1) Shire of Mundaring LEMC - Exercise Sirocco, 6 September 2024

A precis of the combined feedback provided by participants of this exercise and a draft Shire of Mundaring annual exercise report to be submitted to the District Emergency Management Committee will be presented
- 2) Disaster Relief Australia for City of Swan – Big Map Exercise, 18 September 2024

Annette Turner-Duggan, Manager, DRT WA will present to the committee on this innovative exercise.
- 3) Shire of Mundaring LEMC – Annual School Principals Pre- Bushfire Season Workshop and Mini Exercise – November 2024 (date TBA).

This activity will enable School Principals, Shire of Mundaring fires safety and emergency management staff and DFES Officers to engage in confirming arrangements (such as the Principals Guide to Bushfire), Shire of Mundaring Local Emergency Management Arrangements, bushfire response protocols etc.to enhance preparation for the upcoming 2024-25 high bushfire threat period.

OUTCOME SOUGHT

That the Committee discuss and provides feedback on the following:

- 1) Shire of Mundaring LEMC - Exercise Sirocco, 6 September 2024
- 2) Disaster Relief Australia for City of Swan – Big Map Exercise, 18 September 2024
- 3) Shire of Mundaring LEMC – Annual School Principals Pre- Bushfire Season Workshop and Mini Exercise – November 2024 (date TBA)

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

COMMITTEE DECISION	LEMC2.12.24
OFFICER RECOMMENDATION	
Moved by Craig Cuthbert	Seconded by Jamie O'Neill
That the Committee discuss and provides feedback on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">1) Shire of Mundaring LEMC - Exercise Sirocco, 6 September 20242) Disaster Relief Australia for City of Swan – Big Map Exercise, 18 September 20243) Shire of Mundaring LEMC – Annual School Principals Pre- Bushfire Season Workshop and Mini Exercise – November 2024 (date TBA).	
CARRIED	

6.2 Community Emergency Services Manager Report

File Code	EM.PLN 3
Attachments	1. CESM Update November 2024 ↓ 2. AFAC Seasonal Update - Summer 2024 ↓

PURPOSE
To consider a report and information provided by the Community Emergency Services Manager CESM) and AFAC Seasonal Bushfire Outlook – Summer 2024

OUTCOMES SOUGHT
The Committee notes the CESM report updates.

VOTING REQUIREMENT
Simple Majority

COMMITTEE DECISION	LEMC3.12.24
OFFICER RECOMMENDATION	
Moved by Jamie O'Neill	Seconded by Craig Cuthbert
That the Committee notes the Community Emergency Services Manager report update and AFAC Seasonal Bushfire Outlook – Summer 2024	
CARRIED	

Shire of Mundaring LEMC December 13, 2024**Prevention;**

- Shire is currently in prohibited season, bought forward due to seasonal conditions.
- Shire officers are currently inspecting properties throughout the shire for compliance to the fire break and fuel load notice.
- Hazard reduction burning conducted withing the Shire of Mundaring approximately 150ha

Preparedness;

- Moisture deficits remain across much of the Southwest Land Division. Additionally, widespread vegetation die-off from severe moisture stress has impacted forest and shrubland areas within the Warren, Jarrah, and Swan Coastal Plain bioregions. Combined with forecasted warmer temperatures, this is expected to increase fire risk in these areas through increasing surface fuel loads.
- Brigades are all operational, increased mobilisation for Chidlow VBFB and Wooroloo VBFB has been established for the high threat period.

Response;

- Brigades fully operational. One high season light tanker at Darlington and.
- Shire Response below from last LEMC

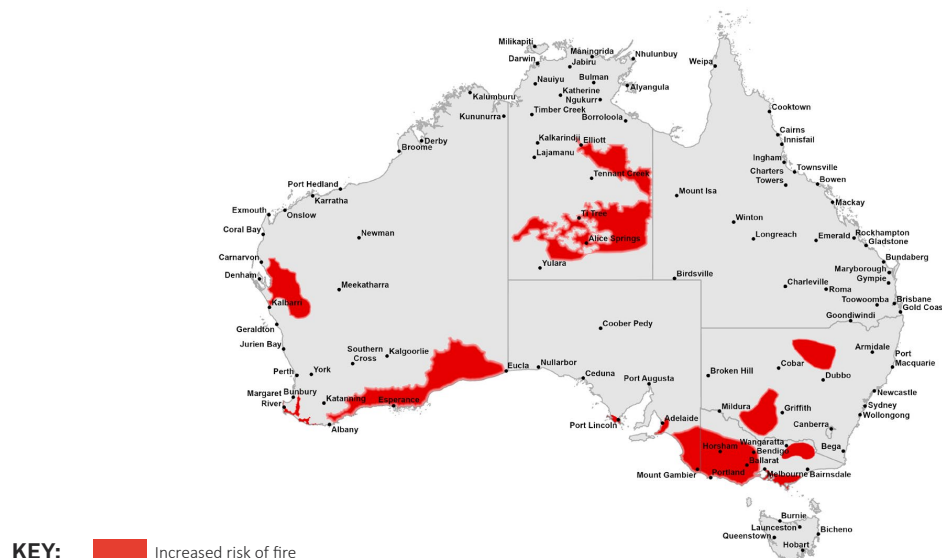
All Incidents within the Shire of Mundaring

Incident Type	2024/2025
False Alarm - System Initiated	3
False Call - Good Intent	27
Fire - Bushfire (lge)	2
Fire - Bushfire (sml)	41
Fire - Other/Rubbish/Vehicle	11
Fire - Structure	2
Hazardous Situation	3
Natural Hazard	6
Rescue & Medical	3
Road Crash & Rescue	15
Total	113



Seasonal Bushfire Outlook

Summer | 2024



KEY: ■ Increased risk of fire

Figure 1 Seasonal Bushfire Outlook Summer 2024. Areas are based on the interim biogeographic regionalisation for Australia and other geographical features.



Increased risk of fire is the likelihood of an increased number of significant bushfires occurring in the outlook period compared to average.

Overview

This outlook identifies a increased risk of fire for a significant portion of the NT and WA's southeastern coastline and central west. The SA lower coastal southeast region and lower Eyre Peninsula have an increased risk of fire. Large areas of the southwest and far west of Victoria, portions of the northeast, and the Mornington Peninsula in southwest Gippsland have an increased risk of fire, as do parts of central northern and central southern NSW.

Fire risk is increased in long-unburnt areas in the southern half of the NT and stretching up north of the Barkly Highway and to the Queensland border. Fires currently burning in the Savanna management zone are expected to ease with monsoon conditions commencing. Southwestern Victoria and parts of WA similarly have substantial amounts of dry plant material within forests due to longer term rainfall deficiencies with curing expected to advance earlier than normal. Authorities will continue to monitor landscape conditions to identify any changes to fire risk.

Northern Australia broadly received average to above average rainfall, but southern Australian received below average rainfall for the cool season and into spring. As a result, soil moisture is below average across much of southern and eastern Australia.

Mean temperatures for April to October were the third highest on record since 1910. For almost all jurisdictions, temperature means continue to be above average to very much above average.

An increased chance of above average rainfall this summer is predicted for much of the eastern states, and parts of SA and WA. Maximum and minimum summer temperatures are likely to very

likely be above average across most jurisdictions.

Communities are encouraged to be vigilant and stay alert this summer even if in areas of Australia showing normal risk of fire as catastrophic fires can still occur during normal bushfire seasons.

About the Outlook

Fire management is a year-round process. The Seasonal Outlook reflects the priorities in each state and territory for the coming months given the expected climate conditions. It identifies areas of increased risk of fire so communities are aware and primed to take appropriate action. It is not intended as a prediction of where and when bushfires will occur.

Fire risk can vary greatly, even at the smaller scale, between bordering states and territories. Each state and territory's assessment takes into account different land use types and vegetation types. This is influenced by different forecasts for temperature and rainfall over these regions. It should be noted that forecasting for longer time periods can be less accurate as the atmospheric system is dynamic; the more time passes, the less certain forecasters can be of its state.

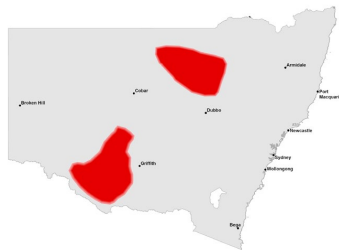
A significant bushfire is defined as being of such size, complexity, duration or other impact that requires resources (from both a pre-emptive management and suppression capability) beyond the region in which fires originate. Increased bushfire risk depends on many factors including weather and climate, fuel amount and availability, recent fire and disturbance history, natural and human barriers, and how quickly and effectively firefighting resources are able to suppress fires in an area.

AFAC is the National Council for fire and emergency services, supporting the sector to create safer, more resilient communities. AFAC drives national consistency through collaboration, innovation and partnerships. It delivers enhanced capability by developing doctrine and supporting operations.

Jurisdictional bushfire outlook summaries



New South Wales



Increased Risk of Fire

Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Summer 2024 in New South Wales

Summary

- Due to existing dryness, above average temperatures, higher than normal grass fuel loads and a mixed rainfall outlook, areas of central NSW are predicted to see above normal fire potential this summer.

For further information see: rfs.nsw.gov.au

NSW experienced mixed rainfall throughout winter and spring. In some areas, rainfall hindered prescribed burning efforts and encouraged grass growth. Meanwhile, other areas received much lower rainfall than normal, leaving them dry and, in some cases, even drought affected.

While some parts of the state are forecast to receive more rain than usual this summer, this forecast could change. This uncertainty, combined with forecasts for higher than average temperatures, means there is significant risk that the forecast rainfall will not address all the areas in NSW that are currently experiencing dry conditions.

Areas around Deniliquin, Hillston, Walgett and Coonamble have higher than normal grass fuel loads. Grasses in these areas are already dry (cured) and are predicted to see above normal fire potential this summer.

Elsewhere in NSW existing conditions and a forecast for above normal rainfall is expected to provide normal fire potential.

Parts of southeast NSW have seen lower than average rainfall over the past few months. There remains a risk that if they do not see the forecast rainfall that forests in these areas could become dry enough to fuel fast moving, damaging fires.

Similarly, in other areas west of the Great Dividing Range, grass fuel loads remain high due to favourable grass-growing conditions. If these grasses dry out and cure over summer a combination of high fuel loads and cured grass could also pose a risk for fast-moving, intense grass fires, particularly during mid to late summer. ■

Australian Capital Territory



Increased Risk of Fire

Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Summer 2024 in Australian Capital Territory

Summary

- There is a normal risk of bushfire expected for the ACT this summer.
- The long-range outlook for summer predicts warmer conditions with average to slightly above average rainfall.
- Fire agencies and land managers will continue to implement mitigation activities during summer where conditions allow.

For further information see: esa.act.gov.au

The ACT received below average rainfall during winter and spring, resulting in drier soils and minimal spring grass growth. While conditions are dry, the ACT is not entering the bushfire season under drought conditions and can expect a normal risk of bushfires in the ACT during summer.

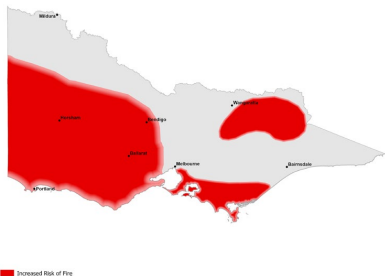
The long range outlook for summer in the ACT predicts average to slightly above average rainfall and above average day and night time temperatures. There is a high chance of unusually warm conditions overnight.

If below average rainfall is received in the first part of summer, there could be an increased risk of bush and grass fires as summer progresses. It is important for community members to be emergency ready by preparing their properties and creating or updating their survival plans. For information on how to prepare for bushfires visit esa.act.gov.au.

To manage bushfire risk, fire agencies and land managers will continue to implement mitigation activities, including prescribed burns, physical removal, and grass slashing or grazing, throughout the season. ACT residents can keep track of planned and ongoing prescribed burns through the ACT Emergency Services Agency and ACT Parks and Conservation Service websites or the Hazards Near Me NSW App.

By staying informed and prepared, we can collectively work towards minimising the impact of potential bushfires. Let's prioritise safety and ensure a proactive approach to safeguarding our community and environment. ■

Victoria



Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Summer 2024 in Victoria

Summary

- Increased risk of fire is indicated for most of Victoria’s west, but also north-east Victoria, and south-west Gippsland, including Mornington Peninsula and greater Melbourne.
- Fire authorities will continue to monitor conditions for any changes in fire risk.

For further information see: emergency.vic.gov.au

Severe longer term (18-month) rainfall deficiencies persist across southwest Victoria, resulting in a substantial amount of dead and dry plant material within forests which will make it easier for fires to start and spread.

A lack of autumn-winter-spring rainfall has also affected much of western and northeast Victoria as well as significant parts of greater Melbourne, Mornington Peninsula and southwest Gippsland, where fuel availability in forests and heathlands is higher than normal and fire occurrences are higher than average.

While the outlook has higher chance of warmer maximum temperatures, rainfall may be variable, potentially ranging from above average to below average. If a wetter outlook eventuates, fire activity may be moderated in early summer, but a drier pattern may translate to continued increase in fuel availability across much of the State and potential for long-duration fire events over summer.

An increased risk of fire is indicated for most of western Victoria, as well as for southwest Gippsland, including Mornington Peninsula, greater Melbourne and north-east Victoria. The current level of landscape dryness in these areas is strong enough that without significant rainfall, the flammability of fuels in forests, woodlands and heathlands will remain high with elevated potential for fires to start and spread. Grasslands in these areas have superficial green-up, concealing underlying dryness (known as 'green drought'). Curing is likely to advance earlier than normal in these areas

Elsewhere across the state, the fire risk potential is assessed to be normal, noting that, at any time, areas dominated by drier forests, woodlands and heathlands (inland and coastal) can support fast running fires under the onset of hot, dry and windy weather conditions. Landscape conditions will be monitored to identify any significant changes to fire risk. ■

Tasmania



Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Summer 2024 in Tasmania

Summary

- Normal bushfire risk is expected for summer.
- Bushfire risk will be strongly dependent on the timing of rain events.
- Property owners must be prepared for fire events for which there will be little notice.

For further information see: fire.tas.gov.au

Rainfall across the state through late winter and early spring was close to normal or above normal, other than in the southeast which was below normal. However, November was relatively dry and produced widespread surface dryness, with significant surface dryness in the southeast. Root zone moisture levels are below normal across most of the state, while deep soil moisture is very low in the western half of the state. The pattern of underlying dryness will prevent bushfire fuels in contact with the soil from moistening up overnight. This will allow fires to stay alight overnight even when temperatures are low and the air is humid.

Conditions are not expected to improve moisture levels as summer is expected to have average rainfall.

The planned burning season is underway in all areas of the state and has achieved significant bushfire risk reduction. Unfortunately, a few strong wind events have resulted in a number of escapes requiring significant firefighting efforts. The community needs to ensure their properties are ready for the summer ahead as relatively small but fast fires could cause local damage and property losses.

The Fire Permit Period has been declared across Tasmania slightly later than usual, while campfire bans have commenced in national parks and reserves.

Conditions at the beginning of summer are close to normal with no strong indications of being either significantly drier or wetter. Fire potential for summer is therefore assessed as normal.

The community should expect some periods of elevated fire danger and should prepare their properties and have a bushfire plan. ■

Jurisdictional bushfire outlook summaries (cont.)



South Australia



Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Summer 2024 in South Australia

Summary

- SA enters summer with expanding areas of serious rainfall deficiency in the south of the state.
- Above average maximum and minimum temperatures throughout the state are expected this summer.
- SA's focus for the fire season will be primarily influenced by dry conditions in forest and scrub areas.

For further information see: cfs.sa.gov.au

SA enters summer with large areas of serious rainfall deficiency in the south of the state.

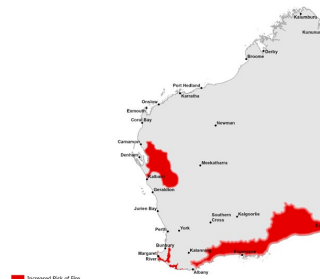
The long-range forecast for summer overall is for above average maximum and minimum temperatures for most of the state.

There are no strong indications of above or below average rainfall overall, and if rainfall meets expected close-to-average levels in the coming months, it is unlikely to reduce the overall rainfall deficits.

Long term dry conditions have meant an early start to harvest in parts and below average crops in other areas. This means, for most of SA, a normal level of fire activity is expected across cropping areas.

SA's focus for the fire season will be primarily influenced by dry conditions in forest and scrub areas across the lower southeast of the state, the Mount Lofty Ranges and coastal parts of the lower Eyre Peninsula. ■

Western Australia



Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Summer 2024 in Western Australia

Summary

- The Mallee and Esperance Plains bioregions, and Balladonia are expected to face heightened fire risk. Elevated fuel availability is raising fire risk in the Nullarbor, Yalgoo, and southern Carnarvon bioregions.
- Very dry areas, particularly in the Warren, Jarrah, and Swan Coastal Plain Bioregions, have an increased fire risk.
- A forecast warmer than average summer means it is crucial to remain vigilant and prepare your property.

For further information see: dfes.wa.gov.au

An average fire risk is likely for the Pilbara, Kimberley and Central Interior due to average to above average cool season rainfalls and broadly above average root zone soil moisture. Isolated areas of below average root zone soil moisture may increase fire risk in the western Cape Range Bioregion south of Exmouth. Over summer regions with an average fire risk will likely see significant fires that require additional management and suppression resources.

Lower than average fuel loads in the eastern Carnarvon and Coolgardie bioregions will help to mitigate the potential fire risk from the severe rainfall and soil moisture deficits in these areas. Higher fuel loads could elevate fire risk in the grassy woodlands and shrublands of the Yalgoo and southern Carnarvon bioregions. Western parts of the Midwest-Gascoyne have increased fuel loads due to above average cool season rainfall; however, completion of the hay and crop harvests will help mitigate the fire risk.

The Nullarbor Bioregion faces increased fire risk due to significant grassland growth following last March floods, along with average rainfall and soil moisture forecasts. In the Mallee, Esperance Plains Bioregions and Balladonia Land District, severe root-zone moisture, deficiencies, combined with forecasted warmer conditions and a low likelihood of exceeding average rainfall, are expected to increase fire risk.

Moisture deficits remain across much of the South West Land Division. Additionally, widespread vegetation die-off from severe moisture stress has impacted forest and shrubland areas within the Warren, Jarrah, and Swan Coastal Plain bioregions. Combined with forecasted warmer temperatures, this is expected to increase fire risk in these areas through increasing surface fuel loads. ■

Jurisdictional bushfire outlook summaries (cont.)



Queensland



Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Summer 2024 in Queensland

Summary

- Queensland's varied climate increases bushfire risk in some areas, requiring climatic conditions to be closely monitored to enable effective response.
- High fire danger is likely around Mt Isa and in grass-rich regions like Northern Goldfields and Upper Flinders where heightened vigilance is required.

For further information see: fire.qld.gov.au

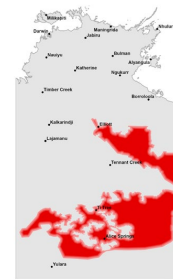
The grassland and woodland areas in northern Queensland will continue to face significant bushfire management challenges in early summer. The elevated fire risk is due in part to recent erratic weather conditions experienced across the area. Immediate fire risk in the central and southern interior of the state have reduced due to moderate rainfall experienced in late spring, although a large section of these areas will remain at risk of elevated fire behaviour until the onset of the mid-summer rains.

The current seasonal outlook indicates that fire risks predominantly depend on current weather patterns rather than fuel abundance. Authorities are advised to incorporate real-time weather data into their risk management strategies, emphasising readiness to respond to sudden changes.

There is heightened fire danger in north western parts of the State, particularly around Central and Western parts of the Gulf Country, due to a large presence of cured spinifex grasses, combined with projections of average to below-average rainfall. Conversely, regions like Northern Goldfields and Upper Flinders, Wide Bay and Burnett, plus Central Highlands and Coalfields, are seeing high growth in grassland fuels that may rapidly dry out, becoming highly flammable during anticipated periods of hot and dry weather despite the high chances of above average rainfall.

Plentiful rainfall in forested regions will keep duff and surface layers moist, requiring a prolonged dry spell before they can burn intensely. Agencies will monitor climatic conditions closely to protect communities and natural areas. The public is encouraged to stay informed about forecast weather and fire risks to maintain personal safety during summer months. The variable climatic factors necessitate a vigilant and adaptable approach to bushfire preparedness across Queensland. ■

Northern Territory



Seasonal Bushfire Outlook for Summer 2024 in Northern Territory

Summary

- Above normal fire risk expected north of the Barkly Highway in the Mitchell Grass Downs through to Elliot, extending south of the Plenty Highway to the Queensland border.
- Fire risk is likely to be above normal in unburnt areas from Kintore to Alice Springs and south into the Finke, top of the Simpson Desert, through to south of the Davenport Ranges.

For further information see pfes.nt.gov.au or [Bushfires NT](#)

Rainfall dependent fire risk is likely to ease across NT in December before drying out in Central Australia in January and February. In these later months, fire risk may increase in long-time unburnt areas within the Alice Springs and Barkly Fire Management Zones. The Greater Darwin Region, Arnhem, Vernon Arafura and Savanna Fire Management Zones are returning to normal conditions with the onset of the wet season.

Fire intensity in most parts of the Barkly and Savanna Fire Management Zones is easing as monsoon conditions begin. Landholders have commenced wet season burning and this is expected to continue until heavier rainfall sets in the Top End. High and continuous fuel loads remain across long-time unburnt areas in the Barkly, with further growth events occurring in 2024, contributing to increased fire activity over the previous period.

The Alice Springs Fire Management Zone, the MacDonnell Ranges, northern Finke, eastern Great Sandy Desert, northern Simpson Strzelecki Dunefields and Central Burt Plains have potential for landscape fires a few weeks post rain. In the northern Simpson Desert through to the Davenport Ranges, high curing and available fine surface fuels could result in large fires.

The frequency and intensity of high-pressure systems is expected to return to normal which means that prolonged periods of sustained winds may be less of a risk if fires start in the Alice and Barkly region during this time. With an indication that December may be wetter and the latter month's drier, conditions are likely to be similar to the spring outlook. With consideration to recent regrowth, landholders and land managers across the NT are urged to ensure they are prepared for bushfire and have their fire management plans in place. ■

Recent climate conditions

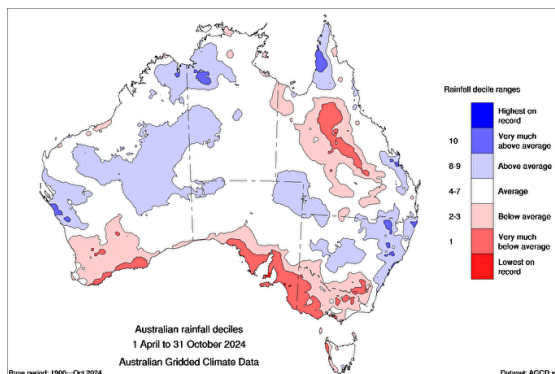


Figure 2a 1 April to 31 October 2024 rainfall deciles relative to all years since 1900.

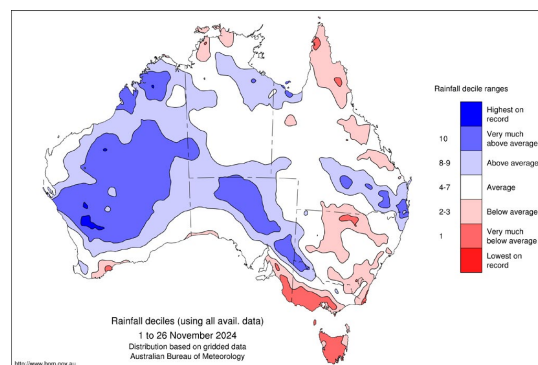


Figure 2b 1-26 November rainfall deciles relative to all years since 1900.

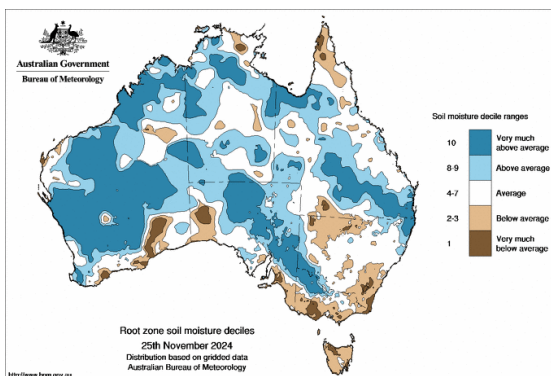


Figure 3 25 November 2024 root zone (top 100 cm) soil moisture deciles relative to this day between 1911-2017.

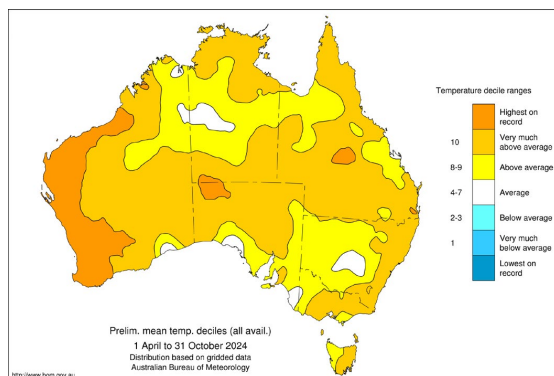


Figure 4 April to October 2024 mean temperature deciles relative to all years since 1910.

The risk of grass fires and bushfires in Australia is dependent on many factors, including the amount and type of fuel (vegetation), and the dryness of the fuel. Fuel conditions are influenced by recent rainfall, temperatures, and soil moisture.

Cool season (April to October 2024) rainfall was below to very much below average over broad areas of southern Australia, extending from southern WA to southern SA and across most of Victoria and southern NSW (Figure 2a). Below average rainfall was also seen along the west coast of Tasmania.

For the northern half of the country, April to October rainfall was broadly average to above average, except for central parts of Queensland, which were below average.

For November to date, below average rainfall has continued across the far southwest and southeast, while for much of northwest and central Australia, and parts of NSW and southern Queensland, rainfall has been average to above average (Figure 2b).

Soil moisture as at 25 November 2024 is below the average for this time of year across much of southern Australia (Figure 3). Soil moisture is mostly average to above average elsewhere, although northern NSW extending into southwest Queensland is currently below average.

The national area-averaged mean temperature for April to October was the third highest on record since 1910. Temperatures have been above to very much above average for almost all areas, with highest on record April to October mean temperatures for a broad area of western WA, and small pockets of inland SA and Queensland (Figure 4).

Long-range forecasts

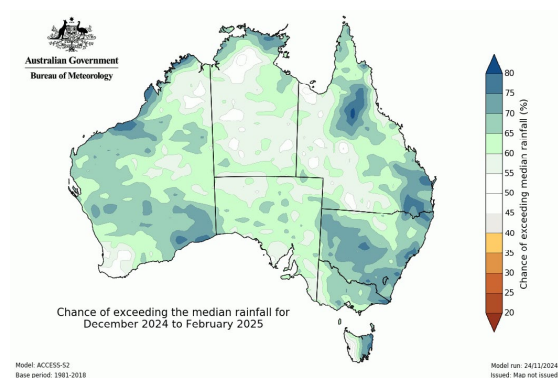


Figure 5 December 2024 to February 2025 chance of above median rainfall.

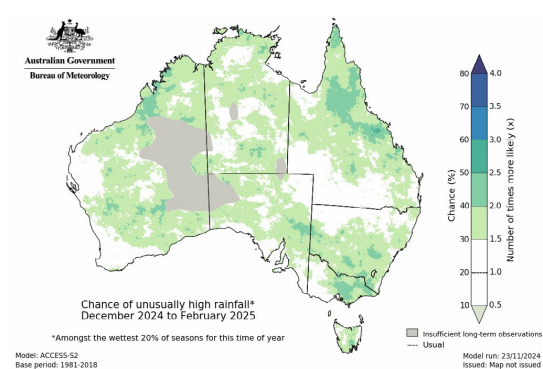


Figure 6 December 2024 to February 2025 chance of unusually high rainfall.

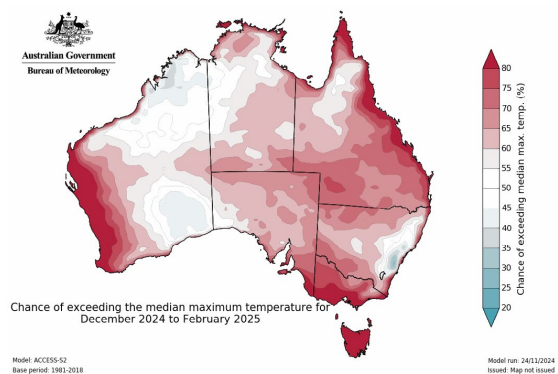


Figure 7 December 2024 to February 2025 chance of exceeding medium maximum temperatures.

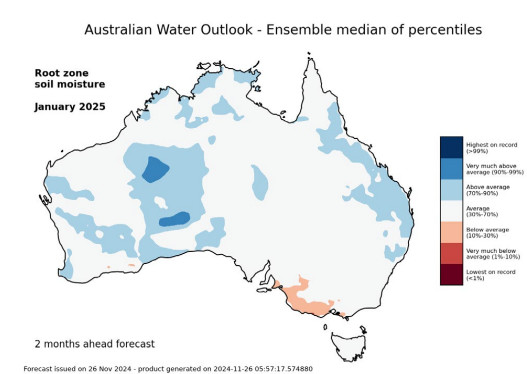


Figure 8 January 2025 soil moisture outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's long-range forecasts are based on global modelling of the oceans, atmosphere, land and ice. The model simulates the physics of the atmosphere, similar to our weather model, but also includes the physics of the oceans. It implicitly captures most climate influences, including long-term trends due to climate change and modes of interannual climate variability, such as the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD).

For December 2024 to February 2025 (Figure 5) there is an increased chance of above average rainfall for much of Australia. Many regions also have an increased chance of unusually high rainfall (Figure 6). Unusually high rainfall is defined as the highest 20% of December to February rainfall observations between 1981 and 2018. For much of far north WA, the southern and central NT and western Queensland, there is no strong signal suggesting above or below average rainfall over the forecast period.

It should be noted that the highest chances of exceeding the average rainfall occur earlier in the season (December), with chances decreasing significantly as summer progresses. However, for the southeast and far east of Australia, the forecast indicates above average rainfall is likely to continue into January.

Both maximum (Figure 7) and minimum temperatures during December to February are likely to very likely (60% chance to greater than 80% chance) to be above average across most states and territories. There is an increased chance of unusually high maximum temperatures for western WA, much of southeast Australia, and scattered parts of Queensland and the NT. Unusually high maximum temperatures are defined as the highest 20% of December to February maximum temperatures from 1981 to 2018. Unusually high minimum temperatures are likely to very likely nationwide, with the highest chances across the north and west.

For much of the country, soil moisture is expected to be above average during December, except for southwest Victoria and western Tasmania. By January, near average to slightly above average soil moisture is forecast, but for parts of southeast Australia, soils are likely to remain drier than average. (Figure 8).

The Bureau's long-range forecasts are updated regularly and are prepared for seasonal, monthly, fortnightly and weekly periods. In addition to forecasts on rainfall and temperature, they include forecasts on the Indian Ocean Dipole and El Niño-Southern Oscillation. The Bureau's long-range forecasts are published at www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead and <https://awo.bom.gov.au/>

Climate influences



The El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) has been neutral (neither La Niña nor El Niño) since April. The Bureau's model suggests sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are likely to remain within the ENSO-neutral thresholds (-0.8°C to $+0.8^{\circ}\text{C}$) throughout the forecast period to April 2025. Of the six other climate models surveyed¹, only two suggest SSTs in the tropical Pacific are likely to exceed the La Niña threshold (below -0.8°C) throughout December to February, which is sufficient duration to be classified as a La Niña event. All models forecast neutral ENSO by March.

Weekly values of the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) index have been negative in October and November, bordering on meeting negative IOD event thresholds. However, most model outlooks indicate the IOD will return to neutral values in December. IOD events are typically unable to form between December and April. This is because the monsoon trough shifts south over the tropical Indian Ocean, changing the wind patterns, which prevents an IOD event forming.

Global SSTs persist at near-record warm temperatures, just short of the record values observed in 2023, but well above all other years since observations began in 1854. The sustained nature of this significant global ocean heat suggests that climate indicators such as El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) may not behave or evolve as they have in the past.

Australia's climate has warmed by $1.51 \pm 0.23^{\circ}\text{C}$ between 1910 and 2023. The warming in Australia is consistent with global trends, with the degree of warming similar to the global average for land areas.

The background global warming trend means Australia will experience ongoing changes to its weather and climate, including:

- more heat extremes, and fewer cold extremes
- reduced average cool season (April to October) rainfall over the southern half of the continent
- more intense heavy rainfall events, even in regions where average rainfall has decreased
- a longer fire season, with more dangerous fire weather days.
-

Further information

For further information about climate forecasts and conditions, please visit the following pages

- bom.gov.au/climate/ahead
- bom.gov.au/weather-services/fire-weather-centre/fire-weather-services
- www.bom.gov.au/climate/about/australian-climate-influences.shtml

1. Climate Model Summary for December to April 2025: <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/model-summary/?index=nino34#tabs=Pacific-Ocean®ion=NINO34>

This Seasonal Outlook was developed by AFAC, the Bureau of Meteorology, Queensland Fire Department, NSW Rural Fire Service, ACT Emergency Services Agency, ACT Parks and Conservation Service, Country Fire Authority, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action VIC, Tasmania Fire Service, SA Country Fire Service, Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions WA, and Bushfires NT.

6.3 Bushfire Risk Management Report & Grant Funding Opportunities

File Code	GV.MTG 6.5
Attachments	1. BRMO Report - Update 28 November 2024 ↓

PURPOSE

To brief the Committee on Shire of Mundaring progress against its Bushfire Risk Management Plan as per the Bushfire Risk Management Officer (BRMO) Quarterly Update 30 September 2024 (with amendments as at 28 November 2024) and Grant Funding Opportunities.

COMMENT

The Committee is briefed on the BRMO Quarterly Update 30 September 2024 (with amendments as at 28 November 2024).

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

COMMITTEE DECISION	LEMC4.12.24
OFFICER RECOMMENDATION	
Moved by Jamie O'Neill	Seconded by Craig Cuthbert
That the Committee notes and provides feedback on the BRMO Quarterly Update 30 September 2024 (with amendments as at 28 November 2024) and Grant Funding Opportunities.	
CARRIED	



Bushfire Risk Management Officer (BRMO)

Quarterly Update, 30/09/24 LEMC update 28/11/24

Key
 Up-to-date ●
 In progress ●
 Overdue ●

1. Bushfire Risk Management Plan (BRMP) and Bushfire Area Access Strategy (BAAS)				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● BRMP 2019-2024: draft review commenced for 2025-2030 update. The first draft is currently undergoing internal review, once feedback has been incorporated into the document the second draft will be shared with stakeholders, including LEMC and BFAC, for their feedback. ● BAAS: Audit complete. Strategy update underway. The first draft of the updated Strategy is currently being reviewed internally. ● OBRM: annual report submitted. The breakdown for the 2023-2024 mitigation spend was: Shire budget 32% and MAF 68%. 				
2. Stakeholder Relations				
<p><i>Stakeholder Relations Plan Summary available on request.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DBCA – attended annual presentation, 27/08/24. ● DoE (DFES) – ongoing liaison with DFES Bushfire Risk Management Liaison Officer. ● DPLH (DFES) – as per CESM mitigation plan. ● MRWA – pre-season 2024-2025 to be scheduled, awaiting their reply. ● WaterCorp – pre-season meeting held, 28/08/24. <p><i>Other Agencies 'as required' and / or via Shire's FHIO / FPO.</i></p>				
3. Community Engagement				
Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ProPer Prep (Inform & INSPIRE) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● https://engage.mundaring.wa.gov.au/emergency-response-recovery ● At Risk Communities / Disability Inclusive Emergency Preparedness (DIEP) (Involve) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● https://collaborating4inclusion.org/diep/reports-wa/ ● Volunteer Recruitment (facilitate to Empower) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue to await Brigade feedback prior to creating a plan for next 12 months. ● Bush Fire Ready Groups / Community Initiatives (Collaborate) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WVBFB – supported Burn Smart talk, Saturday 27 July 2024. ● SVVBFB – supported Open Day, Saturday 14 September 2024 (including Community Preparedness VR Goggles). ● Wooroloo Community – supported Community Dinner, Friday 20 September 2024 (including Community Preparedness VR Goggles). ● Winter Burning Workshop – run on 29 September 2024 (noting that three previous were cancelled due to weather and other issues). ● Darlington Bush Fire Ready – attended annual pre-season brief, Monday 21 October 2024. ● DVFBFB – assisted with Darlington Arts Festival Bush Fire Ready Stall, Saturday 2 November 2024. ● CVBFB / Mundaring Fire School – supported Firewise Gardening in WA workshop, Saturday 16 November 2024. Very well received, kudos to George for the initiative and all the volunteer hours invested. 				

<p>● Voluntary Fire Hazard Inspections</p> <p>The Shire has two Fire Hazard Inspection Officers (FHIO) who provide personalised advice in relation to property and personal preparation. During the reporting quarter they have undertaken 265 inspections: 38 x Voluntary + 19 x Targeted + 208 x Property Sale.</p>		
<p>4. Mitigation Works</p>		
<p>Mitigation Activity Funding Summary</p>		
● 23-24 \$740,000.00	● 22-23 \$499,146.12	● 21-22 \$499,968.54
● 20-21 \$331,596.00	● 19-20 \$308,082.91	● 18-19 \$166,288.00
<p>● MAF 24-25 \$327,500 approved. Sixteen treatments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Christmas Tree Creek, Parkerville <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - no Aboriginal Cultural Heritage approval required, works scheduled March. 2. Railway Reserve Heritage Trail - Old Sawyers to Sawyers Road, Sawyers Valley <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - no Aboriginal Cultural Heritage approval required, works underway. 3. Railway Reserve Heritage Trail - Railway Terrace to Keane Street West, Mount Helena <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage consultation underway pending Whadjuk Corporation comments. 4. Railway Reserve Heritage Trail - Stoneville Road to Sexton Street, Sawyers Valley <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage approval pending, works scheduled March. 5. Superblock, Glen Forrest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aboriginal Cultural Heritage approval received, works to be undertaken January. 		
<p>● FPO Works Program</p> <p>Note: future reports will also include a summary of works being undertaken on Shire managed reserves by Fire Protection Officers (FPO).</p>		
<p>5. Other Funding Opportunities</p>		
<p>● All West Australians Reducing Emergencies Aware (AWARE) 2024-25.</p> <p>Due to current capacity / previously successful grants the decision was made not to apply.</p>		
<p>● National Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) 2023-24 successful. <i>Acquittal in progress, due mid-December.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ref: NDRR2324-014, \$10,000 to cover contractor fees. • Project: creation of a further ten informative localised property and personal preparation related videos as per project plan (to build on the existing series of 7). • Status – videos all available on Engage Mundaring page. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. July: "Clean Gutters". 9. August: "Prune Rake Remove". 10. September: "Fix Fire Traps". 11. (scheduled) October: "Firebreaks and Fuel Load". 12. (to be scheduled) November: "Check Your Insurances". 13. (to be scheduled) December: "Plan and Connect". 14. (to be scheduled) March: "Burning Periods" <i>*also promoted September 2024 as part of the "restricted burning period" promotion.</i> 15. (to be scheduled) April: "Mundaring VBFs". 16. (to be scheduled) May: "Extinguish Properly" 17. (to be scheduled) "Clean Chimneys". <p>Additional promotional shorts are being prepared, <i>due mid-December</i>, one for each Brigade.</p>		

<p>● National Disaster Risk Reduction (NDRR) 2024-25 successful.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ref: NDRR2425-014, \$139,671 project, \$69,720 requested. • Static Water Supplies Support Community Safety – three 60,000 litre static water tanks, one with a community mural to support a community awareness campaign. • Status: Site Preparation / Pad Installation – underway, to be completed by end of October Tank Installation – underway, to be completed by mid-November (water / plumbing / cage installation booked) Mural Workshop – complete. Mural Selection – three options released for public voting: VOTE NOW! via: https://engage.mundaring.wa.gov.au/emergency-response-recovery/userinfo/mural-design-votes. Mural Installation – planned for February (note: will be installed on the Campground’s external bathroom wall as it is more visible than the Rosedale Road tank (relocated following further internal conversations)).
<p>● All West Australians Reducing Emergencies Aware (AWARE) 2023-24 successful. Acquittal submitted and accepted. Summary report available on request.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ref: AWARE2324-018, \$21,600 to cover training courses. • Formal BAL Assessor training for six staff (6) to assist with community engagement in relation to personal preparedness, including retro-fitting older homes. • Status – course completed by all staff and promotion undertaken to raise community awareness (refer to Voluntary Fire Hazard Inspections for more details). Evaluation and acquittal underway.
<p>● Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) Round Two (2024) successful.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ref: DRF2425-080, Evacuation Centre Power Redundancy Project (generator at The Arena), \$91,235 requested (+ \$91,235 contribution). • Status: Awaiting agreement, understanding is that funds will be available early 2025. Further advice received from DFES advising that the agreement should be available in March 2025, with the funds available in April 2025.
<p>● Disaster Recovery Funding (DRFA) pending.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing liaison following storm event (16 January 2024), refer Manager Community Safety & Emergency Management.
<p>● Projects Under Discussion / Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Preparedness Message Boards – two mobile variable message signs for Brigade use (\$60,000). • Emergency Response Trailer – Animal Welfare (\$15,000). • Firewise Garden, Mundaring Fire School. Awaiting feedback from Brigades. • Brigade Calendar – could be used to promote Brigades AND monthly ProPer Prep messaging. Awaiting feedback from Brigades.
<p>● Project Ideas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bushfire Area Access Strategy works. • Jane Brook and / or Wooroloo Brook management plan and works. • Public awareness video, multi-layered walk-through of an incident. • Generators – Boya Community Centre, Brown Park and Mundaring Police Station. • Telecommunications. • Equipment, ie drones, dashcams, mobile CCTV.

6.4 Department of Communities Report

File Code EM.PLN 3
Attachments 1. Department of Communities Report November 24 [↓](#)

PURPOSE

To consider a report and information provided by Ryan Hamblion from Department of Communities

OUTCOMES SOUGHT

The Committee notes the Department of Communities report.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Simple Majority

COMMITTEE DECISION	LEMC5.12.24
OFFICER RECOMMENDATION	
Moved by Craig Cuthbert	Seconded by Cr Trish Cook
That the Committee notes the Department of Communities report provided by Ryan Hamblion.	
CARRIED	



Emergency Relief and Support

Local Emergency Management Committee Update 2nd Quarter 2024 – 2025

For activation of the Emergency Relief and Support (ERS) services for hazards defined under the WA Emergency Management Arrangements call 0418 943 835 24 hours/7 day.

North and Metro Team

North Metro Regional Coordinator: Ryan Hamblion: Ryan.Hamblion@communities.wa.gov.au
Regional Officer for Metro Region: Naomi is on leave until January 2025.
Regional Manager: Anthony Nemeth: Anthony.Nemeth@communities.wa.gov.au

Emergency evacuation centre training

10 sessions of Emergency Evacuation Centre training have been completed across the North Metro since the end of August.

- Over 150 participants attended the training.
- 70% of participants were local government representatives.
- Over 90% of local government in North Metro had participants attend the training.

Thank you to the City of Perth, Joondalup, Wanneroo, Kalamunda, Stirling, Swan, Bayswater, Vincent, Subiaco and the Town of Cambridge for hosting these sessions.

Further training will be held from the 2nd quarter 2025.

Revision of the Local Emergency Relief and Support Plans (LERSP)

- The ERS Directorate has completed the first draft of the Local Emergency Relief and Support Plans (LERSP).
- The LERSP details the operational management and coordination of ERS under the Western Australian (WA) Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMAs).
- These LERSPs are in process of being sent out to local government for feedback.
- Once the LERSP has been finalised they can be tabled at the next quarterly LEMC meeting.

Emergency Relief and Support Directorate Updates

Emergency Relief and Support (ERS) Sector Partners

Over the past 12 months, ERS has delivered a series of engagement sessions and circulars to the ERS Sector Partners to:

- share knowledge across the sector
- build connections between organisations, and

Emergency Relief and Support Directorate Updates

- increase engagement in the activities of ERS and the emergency management sector outside of activations.

ERS Sector Partners include organisations that deliver services under the State Support Plan, key State agency stakeholders, and sector peak bodies.

Since October, ERS has delivered to the Sector Partners:

- Four communiques
- Three activation-specific written updates, and
- Three presentations co-delivered with partners.

The last engagement session for 2024 was a pre-season forum held on 17 October. The purpose of the session was to build knowledge and connections with a focus on preseason preparedness. The program included a preseason weather briefing deliver by the Bureau of Meteorology, a presentation on ERS specific preseason preparedness activities, and a short workshop to facilitate feedback from Sector Partners.

Centre for National Resilience Perth

Ahead of the high threat season, Communities is working with the Department of Premier & Cabinet to finalise MOU negotiations with the Commonwealth for the Centre for National Resilience Perth.

Annual Review of the Support Plan

Communities has conducted an Annual Review of the State Support Plan – Emergency Relief and Support and is proposing minor changes following the implementation of its enhanced structure.

As part of this process, Communities is undertaking consultation to formalise its role in providing support services to people impacted by local level (Level 1) incidents when 'tasked by a HMA and/or controlling agency'.

Strategic Procurement Framework

ERS is developing a Strategic Procurement Framework to enable effective and efficient decisions about procurement strategies. The Framework provides comprehensive approach to engaging suppliers and sector partners in the preparedness, response, and recovery phase of emergencies.

The Framework is intended to simplify the engagement of partners during peak high threat periods to enable rapid engagement in emergency incidents.

Medium - Long Term Accommodation Strategy

Communities is collaborating with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services to define the State responsibilities for medium and long-term temporary accommodation for impacted residents and workers following a disaster.

This Project has four objectives:

- Establish a clear policy position for the delivery and management of post-disaster accommodation in WA.
- Define roles, responsibilities and funding arrangements and other enabling arrangements across State and local government in relation to post-disaster accommodation.
- Develop tools and resources to support decision-making and planning for the prompt delivery of post-disaster accommodation.
- Progress the development of streamlined statutory approval pathways for post-disaster accommodation.

Emergency Relief and Support Directorate Updates

Western Australian Post-Disaster Cultural Outcomes Framework

Communities has developed the first iteration of the Western Australian Post-Disaster Cultural Outcomes Framework, which will continue to be refined to ensure appropriateness and effectiveness.

The Framework includes a list of specific indicators that can be used to measure whether cultural outcomes are being achieved through the recovery process and can be used to support early recovery planning, as well as the evaluation of recovery programs.

The Framework includes outcomes that are applicable across different communities, and can be adapted to the circumstances, needs and priorities of individual communities.

It can be used by anyone working in an Aboriginal community after a disaster, and can be implemented by local and State government, as well as non-government organisations.

The next iteration of the Framework will be finalised following a sector-wide consultation process which ends October 2024.

Disaster Ready Fund

Several LGs in Western Australia (WA) submitted applications for the Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) in 2024 to support the improvement of their facilities used as evacuation centres.

The ERS Directorate had the opportunity to review LGs applications for the Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) provided to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) for 2024 and assessed that the projects would contribute to the State's ability to provide emergency accommodation for evacuating communities. All applications were considered suitable to progress for further consideration in the DRF process.

7.0 URGENT BUSINESS (LATE REPORTS)

8.0 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

Meeting Closed to Public at 11:06

The Local Government Act 1995, Part 5, Section 5.23 states in part:

- (2) If a meeting is being held by a council or by a committee referred to in subsection (1)(b), the council or committee may close to members of the public the meeting, or part of the meeting, if the meeting or the part of the meeting deals with any of the following —
- (a) a matter affecting an employee or employees; and
 - (b) the personal affairs of any person; and
 - (c) a contract entered into, or which may be entered into, by the local government and which relates to a matter to be discussed at the meeting; and
 - (d) legal advice obtained, or which may be obtained, by the local government and which relates to a matter to be discussed at the meeting; and
 - (e) a matter that if disclosed, would reveal —
 - (i) a trade secret; or
 - (ii) information that has a commercial value to a person; or
 - (iii) information about the business, professional, commercial or financial affairs of a person, where the trade secret or information is held by, or is about, a person other than the local government; and
 - (f) a matter that if disclosed, could be reasonably expected to —
 - (i) impair the effectiveness of any lawful method or procedure for preventing, detecting, investigating or dealing with any contravention or possible contravention of the law; or
 - (ii) endanger the security of the local government’s property; or
 - (iii) prejudice the maintenance or enforcement of a lawful measure for protecting public safety; and
 - (g) information which is the subject of a direction given under section 23(1a) of the *Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1971*; and
 - (h) such other matters as may be prescribed.

COMMITTEE DECISION RECOMMENDATION		LEMC6.12.24
Moved by Jamie O'Neill		Seconded by Craig Cuthbert
That Council Closes the meeting to members of the public, in accordance with s5.23(2) of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> , in order to consider the confidential reports as detailed below:		
8.1 Local Emergency Management Arrangements - Major Review - Endorsement by Local Emergency Management Committee and Referral to District Emergency Management Advisor		
Item 8.1 is considered confidential in accordance with the Local Government Act 1995 section 5.23(2) (b) as it contains information relating to the personal affairs of any person.		
		CARRIED

Meeting Opened to Public at 11:23

COMMITTEE DECISION RECOMMENDATION	LEMC7.12.24
Moved by Jamie O'Neill	Seconded by Craig Cuthbert
That the meeting again be opened to the public.	
CARRIED	

9.0 CLOSING PROCEDURES

9.1 Date, Time and Place of the Next Meeting

The next Local Emergency Management Committee will be held on 14 March 2025 at 10:00 AM in the Committee Room, 7000 Great Eastern Highway, Mundaring.

13 June 2025
12 September 2025
12 December 2025

9.2 Closure of the Meeting

11:28 AM