

PRESENT: Nicole Benson (Chairperson) (LEMO/WSC), Jason Connolly (LEOCON/Police), *Marcus Lees (REMO/Police), David Dickey (TfNSW), David Minehan (DCJ), *Dez White (RFS), Deanna Faulks (RFS), Andrew Young (RFS), David Cook (VRA), Rod Williams (VRA), Adrian Rusten (FRNSW), Brad Size (FRNSW), Rodney Coombes (VRA), Doug Goard (VRA), Sharon Thompson (MPS Coolah), Sara Edwards (NSW Ambulance), *Zac Estens (FRNSW), *Stewart Row (FRNSW), *Sara Masonwells (NSWRA) and *Annabelle Watson (SES).

IN ATTENDANCE: *Neil Dufty (Water Technology).

** Attendance by Zoom Video Conference.*

APOLOGIES: Justin Falkiner (Police), Kendall Lewis (LLS), Tayliah Doran (LLS), Stephen Gilbert (VRA), Chris Cusack (FRNSW), James Easterbrook (NPWS) and Brendan Mansell (NSW Ambulance).

PRESENTATION WATER TECHNOLOGY – WARRUMBUNGLA SHIRE DISASTER RESILIENCE PROJECT OVERVIEW

LEMO opened the meeting at 7.01pm and introduced Mr Neil Dufty from Water Technology who has been engaged by Warrumbungle Shire Council to develop a Shire wide Disaster Resilience Plan.

Neil gave a 15 minute presentation on the WSC Disaster Resilience Project. LEMC attendees were encouraged to get on Council's website to have their say. People can also contact the WSC Media and Communications team direct. Information from the SES Flood Intelligence Team was also discussed.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3/2324 RESOLVED that the minutes of the Warrumbungle Shire LEMC meeting held on Monday, 21 August 2023 in Coonabarabran be accepted.

Watson/Minehan

BUSINESS ARISING

Nil.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Contact List

The contact list was circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the list could be shared with Water Technology to enhance engagement on the Disaster Resilience Project however that a disclaimer around use of the information was included in the email.

ACTION ITEM – LEMO to email Water Technology with a disclaimer around use of the information contained on the list.

2. REMO Report

No report tabled for this meeting however, the REMO advised that the LEOCON and LEMO should keep in regular contact as it's a pretty fierce fire season coming up.

3. NSW Reconstruction Authority Agency Report

The NSW Reconstruction Authority Agency Report was received and noted.

4. NSW SES Agency Report

The NSW SES Agency Report was received and noted. Weather this week is looking like lots of rain and SES can coordinate additional resources at short notice.

5. Fire & Rescue NSW Agency Report

No report tabled for this meeting however, there is a new Commissioner Jeremy Fewtrell AFSM. Locally it's business as usual.

6. NSW RFS Agency Report

The NSW RFS Agency Report was received and noted.

7. NSW VRA Agency Report

No report tabled for this meeting and business as usual.

8. NSW Ambulance Agency Report

No report tabled for this meeting and business as usual.

9. NSW LLS Agency Report

The NSW LLS Agency Report was received and noted.

10. Red Cross Agency Report

No report tabled for this meeting.

11. WSFA Disaster Welfare Agency Report

The WSFA Disaster Welfare Agency Report was received and noted. There was some discussion around evacuation centres and a request for this to be an agenda item for the next meeting.

ACTION ITEM – Evacuation centres to be an agenda item for the next meeting.

12. Events

Date	Summary of Major Events in the Shire	Estimated No of Participants
25/11/2023	Bungle Rumble Concert – Coonabarabran Showground from 4pm to 11.30pm	
26/11/2023	Binnaway Lions Club Christmas Tree Carnival – Binnaway Showground	
09/12/2023	Coolah Lions Club Christmas Carnival and Street Parade – Binnia Street, Coolah from 4pm to 10pm	300-400
09/12/2023	Coonabarabran Christmas Spectacular Markets and Carols – Coonabarabran No 1 Oval	
16/12/2023	Mendooran Christmas in the Park	150

13. Updating Warrumbungle Local EMPLAN

Zac Estens outlined changes including facility audits and Census data. It was noted that the community provided feedback at the engagement sessions for the Disaster Resilience Project that they are not aware of the location of evacuation centres.

Evacuation centres are not advertised in advance due to the unknown nature of emergencies and what will be required, furthermore that the information is considered to be classified information. It was decided that updating of the EMPLAN'S Hazards and Risk Summary would be completed by the REMO and the LEMO outside the LEMC meeting and information brought back to the next meeting.

14. Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Audit

Information regarding the EOC Audit was received and noted. It was confirmed that the audits need to be completed quarterly between the LEOCON and LEMO.

15. Grass Fire at Binnaway Water Treatment Plant

A discussion was held regarding an RFS truck attending a grass fire at Binnaway Water Treatment Plant with no water. Trucks should arrive carrying water.

ACTION ITEM – to be discussed further between the LEMO and RFS (Dez White).

16. Biosecurity Exercise Debrief

It was noted this is a LLS matter to be followed by LEMO as to whether the debrief had been provided or not.

17. LEMC Exercise Debrief – Bushfire Preparedness Scenario

Debrief report only came out today but the interim report has been out for a week. There are six recommendations including a number of administrative matters such as use of templates etc.

ACTION ITEM – to be discussed in detail at the next LEMC meeting.

18. REZ – Impacts on Emergency Services

A question was asked about the workers camps and if there is a fire who responds. There was discussion around who it should be and that there needs to be a MoU for such matters. LEMO will talk to mid-western LEMO as they are dealing with similar issues on a larger scale. LEMO advised that there are working groups related to the REZ Steering Group being Housing and Accommodation, Transport and Logistics, Environmental Delivery, Social Services and Economic Participation. Meetings of the working groups have been ongoing since September 2023 and action plans are being developed. WSC website has a lot of REZ information including all of Council's submissions made on the REZ projects – [Renewable Energy Zones \(REZ\) - Warrumbungle Shire Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au/renewable-energy-zones).

There is also a link to the EnergyCo website <https://www.energyco.nsw.gov.au/cwo>

Dubbo Regional Council are presently dealing with the height of wind farms and impact on fire fighting.

19. Proposed Change to Meeting Time

The group talked about moving the meeting time to either within business hours or closer to business hours. The REMO noted that 12 LGAs he looks after all meet within business hours. It was agreed to swap the Rescue meeting around and start the LEMC at 6pm and once that's over, move into the Rescue meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS

The following matters were discussed.

- David Minehan – the number of evacuation centres in the EMPLAN could be reduced and will be discussed at the next meeting.
- David Dickey advised that TfNSW has a new member of staff for this area so February 2024 will be his last meeting.
- Fire and Rescue let the group know that there was a 13 hour blackout in town the weekend of the Coolah Veterans Touch Football weekend. The entire town was blacked out and all communications were lost. Ambulance positioned people at the station in case of an emergency. Two way radio was used. There was general discussion around how to solve the issue however complexities with NBN, WiFi and routers requiring electricity were noted. REMO advised that if you can escalate through the telco you are with emergency services you should get better service.

CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence was received and noted.

LEMO advised that an email had been received by Department of Education stating they had formed an Emergency Response Team. The correspondence will be on the next agenda and they will be invited to the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING

Date – Monday 19 February 2024 at 6.00pm.

Location – RFS Fire Control Centre, 111 Saleyards Road, Coonabarabran.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.08pm.

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CHAIRPERSON