

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
26 FEBRUARY 2026 – 9:00am
City of Kalamunda Administration Building

1. OPENING OF MEETING

Mayor Margaret Thomas – 9:00am

Opening word from the Mayor.

I would like to sincerely thank all the services who responded to the two recent fires in our region, the New Years Day fire in Kalamunda and the Brand Road fire on the 7th of January. These instants are a reminder of how quickly situations can escalate and how critical strong partnerships are in protecting our community. I must say my comments about the whole thing was that it was so professional and slick. I would like to acknowledge the incredible work of KVBF, KVFRS, DFES, Department of Communities, State Emergency Service, WA Police, DBCA, Western Power, Water Corp, St John Ambulance, Main Roads and City of Kalamunda staff. My apologies if I have missed anyone. We know there are so many people behind the scenes that contribute in ways that are not always visible. Your professionalism, coordination and commitment during these events made a real difference. Our community has a deep appreciation for the work you do, often in challenging and high pressure situations. These recent fires also highlight the importance of this committee. The LEMC plays a vital role in building shared understanding of roles, responsibilities and expectations across agencies and in strengthening the relationships that underpin effective emergency response. When they take the time to plan together, train together and communicate openly we are far better prepared when real events occur. That collaboration ultimately leads to safer outcomes for our residents.

So thank you again for the strong partnership and support show to our City and our Community.

2. ATTENDING MEMBERS

Margaret Thomas – City of Kalamunda – Mayor	MT
Luke Ellis – City of Kalamunda – Director Community Services	LE
Cameron Chisholm – City of Kalamunda – AV Manager Community Hubs and Safety	CC
Grant Howatson – City of Kalamunda – AV Coordinator Community Safety	GH
Declan McCubben – City of Kalamunda – AV Senior Fire Control Officer	DM
Carli Kovacevich – City of Kalamunda – CRO Community Safety / Secretary	CK
Mike Ward – City of Kalamunda Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM)	MW
Donna Morgan – DFES DEMA	DM
Tony Moiler – KVFRS – Captain	TM
Brad Robinson – WA Police – OIC Forrestfield	BR
Paul Postma – District Officer Southeast – DFES	PP
Cheryl Gole – Red Cross	CG
Warwick Martindale – SES – Local Manager	WM
Ryan Hamblion – Dept of Communities – Senior District ESO	RH
Brett Hopley – DPIRD – State Animal Welfare in Emergencies Coordinator	BH
Helen Deacon – Kalamunda SHS	HD
Kath Parkinson – Manager Stakeholder Relations	KP

Nicholas Pagonis – Perth Airport	NP
Adam Salathiel – Coordinator Building Services	AS
Jo Harris – Kalamunda Hospital	JH
Philip Townsend – Area Manager St John Ambulance	PT
Nick Wilkinson - City of Kalamunda – Coordinator Recreation Facilities	NW
Natasha Bramber – Executive Director of Nursing – Karingal Green	NB
Rich Denny – Department of Communities	RD

APOLOGIES (MEMBERS)

Anthony Vuleta – City of Kalamunda – Chief Executive Officer	AV
Gary Ticehurst – City of Kalamunda – Director Corporate Services	GT
Freya Ayliffe – Manager Place & Community Experience	FA
Tim Parry – A/Manager Community Hubs & Safety	TP
Karl Kjaerheim – Strategic Natural Environment Lead	KK
Kerry Chipchase – Lesmurdie SHS – Principal	KC
Troy Turner – St John WA	TT

PROXY IN ATTENDANCE

Chris Thompson – City of Kalamunda – A/Director Infrastructure	CT
Matt Drinkald – Department of Health	MD
Luke Fowles – St John Ambulance	LF
Stuart Buckett – KVFRS – Lieutenant	SB

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

27 November 2025

Moved – Ryan Hamblion

Seconded – Grant Howatson

Passed Unanimously

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

4.1 Nil

5. PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Gas Pipeline Incident by Paul Hynch (DEED) and Lisa Bishop (DFES)

5.2 St John Ambulance by Philip Townsend (St John)

6. CORRESPONDENCE IN/OUT

6.1 Nil

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

Overview of Kalamunda Bushfire by Mike Ward (City of Kalamunda CESM)

Kalamunda fire 01/01/2026 New Years day / mid night approx. 12:15pm.

Report of fire at the end of Temby Avenue, Kalamunda. Resourcing was stretched due to being early hours of New Years day.

First arriving crews were from the KVFRS.

Lieutenant Buckett from KVRS provided overview as first on scene;

We could not sight fire initially as it was over the edge of hill, approx. 400m down slope. Fire was not sighted until officers began investigating on foot, due to location and City lights hiding fire glow. Incident was handed over to Welshpool Brigade around 1:00am.

Tony Moiler – Captain – KVRS- provided overview for mopping up ;

Fire was contained quickly, however crews from the City's Bushfire team, KVRS and DPAW monitored fire for another 7 days. First few days teams were monitoring the area 24hrs a day. Multiple calls received in the following days from bushwalkers and members of the public finding smouldering logs and smoke.

- 7.1** Terrain is a very steep slope across the scarp which is national park. Challenges with strong easterly and katabatic winds, pushing fire downhill towards Holmes Road quite quickly. Fire escalated to 4th alarm which triggers additional incident and management support. All appliances were then directed to Holmes Road to commence asset protection. Fantastic job protecting properties in this area as fire came down the hill super quick.
75 fire appliances on fire ground at one point for a 21-hectare fire.
Fire contained around 5:30/6:00am.
No loss of property, some damage to infrastructure. Very close call, great work by all fire crews that attended.
High Wycombe Rec Centre activated as Evacuation Centre.

Grant Howatson - A/Coordinator Community Safety Discussions between myself and A/Senior Fire and Emergency Management Officer, Declan, once we received the Emergency WA app alert and whether an Evacuation Centre may need to be activated.

Stayed in contact once the call was made to activate by Department of Communities around 2:58am.

ETA for Department of Communities was 40mins, Declan lives locally and able to be there much quicker and start setting up the centre.

Smooth transition from City of Kalamunda to Department of Communities.

City staff split into 2 shifts to ensure coverage to support DoC.

Evacuation Centre closed approx. 5:00pm following day.

Successful evacuation centre and good feedback from other agencies.

48 people registered for Evac centre, lower numbers likely due to time of day/ night and that it was New Years Day. Some more people who stayed outside in cars with their pets.

Overview of Brand Road fire by Grant Howatson

Fire started during the day, very close to contaminated site.

Roe Highway had to be closed. High Wycombe Rec Centre used again as Evacuation centre to help those in need or who couldn't get home due to road closure.

Another smooth operation.

After the fire Rangers visited impacted residents with packs to see if they needed assistance with recovery and debrief. This also included a survey on how they felt, how prepared they were, what they will need from the City going forward.

7.2 Feedback from residents to be provided at the next meeting.

Luke Ellis – Director Community

Residents put signs out on their properties thanking the Fire Brigades.

City to continue to work on the recovery aspect in areas throughout the City.

Proposal to move LEMC meetings to external venues in significant locations throughout the City. Next meeting once LEMC has concluded, there will be a second meeting with stakeholders regarding the recovery process and those who would be keen to participate in those areas.

8. AROUND THE TABLE - AGENCY UPDATE

Nick Pagonis - Perth Airport

8.1 Business as usual. No impacts from the New Years Day fire incident.

Lisa Bishop - DFES

8.2 Representing DFES in today's presentation with (DEED). Normal role is District Office Swan. Areas of coverage Kiara, Malaga and Belmont. Infrastructure Perth Airport, Forrestfield Airport Link and Optus Stadium.

Helen Deacon – Kalamunda Senior High School

8.3 Smooth start to the year. 1145 students enrolled this year.

Rich Denny – Department of Community

8.4 Attended Evac Centre in High Wycombe and said it was done perfectly. Feedback he has received said it was very well set up.

Ryan Hamblion – Department of Community

8.5 Agreed with Rich's comments. A lot of feedback received that the Local Gov set up the Evac Centre perfectly. Great job to Declan, Grant and Tim. Really happy to have that support from a local government and encouraging staff to attend the training sessions to understand what to do.

8.6 Key Contacts & Activation Procedures

- **Activation:** To activate the State Support Plan Emergency Relief and Support, call the Communities Emergency Operations Coordinator (EOC) at **0418 943 835**.
- **Correspondence:** Send all ISG, IMT, and other meeting invites to emergencyservices@communities.wa.gov.au.
- **Regional Contacts:**
 - **Regional Officer:** Rich Denny (0448 704 835)
 - **Regional Coordinator:** Ryan Hamblion (0467 615 083)
 - **Regional Manager:** Anthony Nemeth (0400 827 563)

8.7 State Recovery & Policy Updates

- **New Roles:** The Department of Communities has adopted new roles under the State Emergency Management Arrangements for Recovery, endorsed by the SEMC on 4 December 2025.
- **Collaboration:** Communities is actively working with Local Governments and the Community Services Sector to support local-led recovery programs.
- **Support Services:** Assistance includes practical help, wellbeing services, and social supports, tailored to the specific psychosocial impacts of the hazard.
- **Evacuation Guidelines:** The *WA Community Evacuation in Emergencies Guideline* is open for feedback until **20 February 2026** at <https://engagewaem.com.au/evacuation-guideline>.

8.8. Evacuation Centres & High Threat Season

- **Facility Registers:** Communities is responsible for maintaining the register of endorsed community facilities.
- **Suggestion for LEMC:** It is recommended that Communities and Local Government review and confirm the register of endorsed facilities before the high-threat season to ensure they meet HMA needs.
- **"Go Bags" Feedback:** The new "Go Bags" have received positive feedback during recent evacuations. Hygiene packs have been popular for "freshening up," and the take-home packs (air bed, pillow, sleeping bag) have been welcomed.

8.9. Response Statistics (October 2025 – January 2026)

The ERS team was activated for **22 incidents** during this period.

- **Breakdown by Hazard:**
 - **Bushfires:** 11 incidents
 - **Complex Bushfires:** 5 incidents
 - **Single House Fires:** 4 incidents
 - **Cyclones:** 2 incidents (Tropical Cyclone Hayley & Tropical Cyclone Luana)
- **Activity Volume:**
 - **December 2025** was the busiest month with 11 incidents.
 - **January 2026** saw 8 incidents.

Paul Postma – DFES

9.0 Bushfire season not close to being over. A very hot and dry next 3 months. Below average summer rain, soil moisture level is still very dry. Increased bushfire risk to some parts of the state. Busy fire season due to dry lightning, deliberate and accidental fires.

9.1 DFES has been working with CoK in regards to an investigation of damage to a fire appliance in Boddington. Key takeaway was the training and equipment given to crews allowed for a good outcome. Thank you to the City for assistance with fire events. PowerPoint slides provided below.

Brad Hopely – DPIRD

9.2 Reduced incident response capacity. Two large plant biosecurity incidence that are based around the metro. Last 3 months field operations staff have gone from 650 to 150. Focus on readiness of exotic animal disease preparation, Foot and Mouth was high priority. High threat currently is Avian Bird Flu that has arrived in Australian territories but not on the mainland.

Discussion based exercise 7th May 2026 run by DPIRD around a EM incident and animal welfare arrangements.

Warwick Martindale – SES

9.3 Business as usual for us.

Tony Moiler – Kalamunda VFRS

9.4 Influx of people wanting to joining the VFRS, lots of young people 20-30's. Strain on the brigade to provide training to new members.

9.5 Brigade has concerns with responding fire appliance for this area. Proposal to downgrade the response vehicle, brigade seeking an explanation on how that would be justified.

Luke Fowles – St John

9.6 Kalamunda, Mundaring and Belmont region. Business as usual for us, still busy. We provided some support for the Kalamunda fires at the start of the year. Thank you to the IC on the day for the inclusion and support.

Philip Townsend – St John

9.7 St John working on how to manage patients that call from inside the emergency warning zone. Conscious not to increase load on the IC, however, might reach out to facilitate safe access into the emergency zone for escorting an ambulance. Work on confirming if the patients can be managed remotely before entering fire ground.

Brad Robinson – WAPOL

9.8 Business as usual. Crime rate is pretty good at the moment. I am currently managing stations north of the river at this time.

Adam Salathiel – City of Kalamunda – Building Services

9.9 Business as usual.

Natasha Bramber – Karingal Green

9.10 Working on how we can assist with preventing ambulance ramping, by taking patients from other areas. Good relationship with paramedics who can assist with blood tests and other vitals to confirm if a patient does need to go to hospital.

Cameron Chisholm – City of Kalamunda – A/ Manager Community Hubs and Safety

9.11 Filling in for Tim Parry who will be back next week.

Tim McGrae – DFES

9.12 Still high urban fire risk. Over 300 lithium battery fires over the last year, notoriously hard to extinguish.

Paul Hynch – DEED

9.13 Focus on system lack plan. Kalgoorlie / wheatbelt area lost power, Kalgoorlie restored relatively quickly, however some areas had no power for 12 days. Unsure of exact causes, software upgrades and cyber attacks considered.

Last year a series of desktop exercises have been carried out to prepare for these types on incidents, with both internal and external staff.

Kath Parkinson – City of Kalamunda - PR

9.14 Shadowing the DFES Comms team throughout the fire incidences was great.

Chris Thompson – City of Kalamunda – A/Director Infrastructure

9.15 Just returned from leave. Business as usual and focus on maintaining public buildings and large City fleet.

Mike Ward – CESM

9.16 Five large fires since the last LEMC meeting. City's brigade maintain capability and ran recruiting campaign. 40 applicants, 12 new people on probation. We have gone to the builders for costings for the Pickering Brook station. Design has been slightly modified.

Jo Harris – Kalamunda Hospital

9.17 Business as usual for us. Actively involved with Armadale and East Metro, no change from summer there are no beds with aged care. Palliative care is full and have a wait list.

Matt Drinkald – Kalamunda Hospital

9.18 New to Emergency Management role at Armadale Kalamunda Group.

Cheryl Gole – Red Cross

9.19 No updates, business as usual.

Donna Morgan – DEMA

9.20 Hand out – attached. Spot it, Share it, Strengthen it mechanism using the EM WA platform.

9.21 Documents under review this year: State Support Plan, State Hazard Plan, Local Recovery Guidelines, Impact Statement Guidelines and Templates. Currently open for consult WA Community Evacuation and Emergencies guidelines, State Hazard Plan & Local Government Emergency Knowledge Hub.

9.22 Disaster Resilience Fund about to launch.

9.23 Western Central - Aged care forum at the end of March.

9.24 City of Stirling inviting central EM district large exercise in early May 2 days. Sunday – Monday. Sunday focus on response and Monday focus on local recovery coordination.

10 NEXT MEETING

28 May 2026

[Location to be confirmed.](#)

11 CLOSED

Meeting closed at 11:02am

UNCONFIRMED



Kalamunda LEMC February 2026 Paul Postma DFES District Officer South East

The 2025/26 AFAC summer forecast indicates an increased bushfire risk potential driven in part by severe rainfall deficits across parts of WA, along with high fuel loads across several regions in WA. Persistent soil moisture deficits in parts of WA are driving increased bushfire risk in parts of the Swan Coastal Plain, Jarrah Forest, Esperance Plains, and Mallee regions. With long-term rainfall deficiencies persisting in western WA, we are seeing Soil dryness conditions well below the 5yr average across the Metro South East Region. Whilst these are somewhat normal summer weather patterns, we have experienced a busy fire season thus far due to several dry lightning thunderstorm events as well as fires started by deliberate and accidental actions.

DFES have been working with the City of Kalamunda following a serious burn over event on one of the Bush Fire Brigades Appliances at Boddington Bushfire. Thankfully the crew training and appliance safety systems ensured that the crew were not injured. We have had the one serious Level 2 New Years Day Kalamunda Bushfire incident which resulted in emergency warnings and evacuation to the High Wycombe Community Centre. Early escalation of first arriving crews as well as strong emergency warning messages resulted in a positive outcome with limited damaged and impacted residents able to return home late in the afternoon. Thanks to the City of Kalamunda for support in staffing and facilities for the days following this incident.

As well as several shifts at the Kalamunda Bushfire, the City of Kalamunda Fire Service has continued to support other fire agencies out of region with continued deployments to Boddington, Wandering, Crossman, Bullsbrook, Gingin, Rockingham and Mogumber. To ensure enhanced response across the Metropolitan South East Region as well as supporting other Metropolitan regions, Metropolitan South East Region has established a permanent Volunteer Strike Team consistent of appliances from Kalamunda BFB, Roleystone VFRS, Gosnells BFB, Roleystone Karragullen BFB and Oakford BFB. This means that DFES COMCEN has access to a preformed team consisting of 3 Heavy Tankers and 2 light tankers, available as soon as an incident is identified as escalating and requiring support.

Incident Response by City of Kalamunda based brigades for the financial year to date stats.

Kalamunda BFB incidents YTD 39

Pickering Brook BFB incidents YTD 21

Kalamunda VFRS incidents YTD 83

No. of Incidents					
<i>This report shows the number of Incidents turned out to in any capacity. It does not count multiple turnouts to the same Incident. HAZMAT incidents are <u>included</u>, <u>but</u> not displayed. Note: Bushfire (lge) is a fire greater than 1 hectare</i>					
Dates: 01/07/2025 to 25/02/2026	25/26	Total	Dates: 01/07/2025 to 25/02/2026	25/26	Total
KALAMUNDA BFB			KALAMUNDA VFRS		
Called Off - No Attendance	2	2	Called Off - No Attendance	2	2
EVENT - Not an Incident	2	2	False Alarm - System Initiated	14	14
False Call - Good Intent	5	5	False Call - Good Intent	16	16
Fire - Bushfire (lge)	16	16	Fire - Bushfire (lge)	4	4
Fire - Bushfire (sml)	7	7	Fire - Bushfire (sml)	7	7
Fire - Other/Rubbish/Vehicle	6	6	Fire - Other/Rubbish/Vehicle	9	9
Total:	38	38	Fire - Structure	6	6
			Hazardous Situation	8	8
PICKERING BROOK BFB			Rescue & Medical	6	6
Called Off - No Attendance	2	2	Road Crash & Rescue	11	11
EVENT - Not an Incident	1	1	Total:	83	83
False Call - Good Intent	2	2			
Fire - Bushfire (lge)	8	8			
Fire - Bushfire (sml)	4	4			
Fire - Other/Rubbish/Vehicle	4	4			
Total:	21	21			

