



A Fortunate Place

Shire of Wickepin

Adverse Events Plan

2020

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Part 1 – Administration	3
Authority	3
Purpose	4
Objectives	4
Scope.....	4
Definition	4
Principles.....	4
Level of Response	4
Communication.....	5
Test and Review Process.....	5
Part 2 – Community Context.....	6
Major Features.....	6
Major Roads	6
Rail Routes	6
Airstrips	6
Agricultural Land	6
Economy and Industry	6
Hazards and Risks Summary	8
Risk Analysis and Evaluation	8
Part 3 – Delivery	11
Context	11
Key Strategies and Actions	12
Local Sub Plans, Supporting Plans and Policies.....	15

Part 1 – Administration

Authority

The Shire of Wickepin Adverse Events Plan has been prepared by the Shire of Wickepin in response to the requirements of the Federal Government’s Drought Communities Programme.

This document responds to ‘Drought Australia’ Coordinator-General for Drought advice on a strategy for Drought Preparedness and Resilience.

This Plan was endorsed by Council on the 19th August 2020

Purpose

The Shire of Wickepin Adverse Events Plan is to provide detailed guidance to Council and the Community to prepare for and manage adverse events that directly and indirectly affect the Shire of Wickepin.

Objectives

The objectives of this plan are to:

- Build community leadership capability and community resilience and capacity to adapt and cope with chronic stresses and acute shocks caused by adverse events
- Identify key strategies and actions to be undertaken by Council and other relevant stakeholders, in order to prepare for and manage adverse events that affect the Shire of Wickepin
- Standardise the approach of Council to meet the needs of the community in dealing with adverse events

Scope

The plan describes the key strategies and actions at Local level to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from adverse events. These events may be events for which the Shire of Wickepin has full or partial responsibility or external events which are the responsibility of another agency (eg. Fire Services, Regional Health Services) that may involve a commitment from the Shire of Wickepin.

This plan shall be considered in conjunction with other relevant plans and policies, including:

- Shire of Cuballing and Wickepin Joint Local Emergency Management Plan
- Shire of Wickepin Risk Management and Procedures

Definition

An adverse event means an event or incident that has a negative impact on the wellbeing of the community.

Principles

The following principles are applied in this plan:

- a) Responsibility for preparation, response and recovery rests initially at Local level. If Local agencies and available resources are not sufficient they are augmented by those at State and Federal level.
- b) Control of adverse event response and recovery operations is conducted at the lowest effective level.

Level of Response

The response of Council will vary in relation to adverse events depending on the:

- Seriousness of the event
- Numbers of people involved
- Risk exposure
- Financial impacts

- Media interest
- Need to involve other stakeholders

Therefore, the response to each adverse event should be proportionate to its scale, scope and complexity.

Communication

Communication in relation to any adverse events shall be in accordance with Council's media policy. Council will use a variety of communication media to provide the community with relevant information in relation to adverse events including print, radio and social media.

Test and Review Process

The Shire of Cuballing - Wickepin Joint Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) will review this Plan every three (3) years, or following any:

- activation of the Plan in response to an adverse event
- legislative changes affecting the Plan; and
- Exercises conducted to test all or part of the Plan.

Part 2 – Community Context

Major Features

Major Roads

Narrogin Kondinin Road M38

Rail Routes

Southern Lines

- Brookton - Corrigin
- Narrogin - Merredin
- Yilliminning - Merredin
- Wagin - Newdegate
- Lake Grace - Hyden

Airstrips

Harrismith

The Shire of Wickepin has an unlicensed airstrip located in Harrismith approximately 700m south of Harrismith east off Harrismith South Road. Co-ordinates are Latitude 32o 57'S, Longitude 117o 53'E, Magnetic Variation 2 W, Elevation 900ft, WAC Chart 3462.

- Runway information: 04/22 Natural 750m, 12/31 Natural 900m.

There are no public facilities located at the airstrip but are available at the Harrismith Caravan Park and the Oasis Hotel in Harrismith.

Agricultural Land

Wickepin contains rich agricultural lands that were opened for settlement in 1893. The locality began as a watering point known as Yarling and was used by early sandalwood cutters.

The Shire covers an area of 198,900 hectares and includes the towns of Wickepin, Yealering, Harrismith and Tincurrin. The Avon, Blackwood and Murray Rivers rise in the Shire.

The Shire is a prosperous farming area with excellent wool and lamb production. Cropping is done on a large scale with wheat, oats, barley, lupins and canola grown. Wickepin is also home to the Facey Group, a prominent grower group in Western Australia that is committed to improving the economic, social and environmental sustainability of broad acre farming through research, development and information in the region.

Economy and Industry

Principal employment within the Shire of Wickepin revolves around agricultural and supporting industries, including transport, wholesale trade and trade services and a Kaolin Mine.

Wickepin is known for being the home of Albert Facey, an Australian Biographer. His house has been moved to the centre of the town as a tourist attraction. The Homestead was built in 1924 and has been fully restored.

The town offers excellent facilities for locals and travellers. Great walks, a BBQ area, children's playgrounds plus there are two primary schools in the Shire – Yealering and Wickepin, a medical centre, police station, church, and Community Resource Centre in Wickepin, as well as a Bushfire Brigades, sporting and community groups across the Shire. St John Ambulance covers the Shire of Wickepin with Ambulances in Wickepin, Harrismith and Yealering.

Hazards and Risks Summary

The Shire of Wickepin Adverse Events Plan identifies the following hazards as having risk of causing loss of life, property, utilities, services and/or the community's ability to function within its normal capacity.

These hazards have been identified as having the potential to create an emergency.

The Shire's of Cuballing and Wickepin Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) identified the most likely risks facing the Shire's community and environment. The risks were then reviewed and assessed for the likelihood of them occurring and also the impact they would have on the Community and the Environment.

Risk Analysis and Evaluation

The Shire's of Cuballing and Wickepin Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) uses the following Qualitative Risk Analysis matrix to assess the level of risks facing the local Community.

LIKELIHOOD	CONSEQUENCE				
	In-significant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic
Almost certain	High	High	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme
Likely	Moderate	High	High	Extreme	Extreme
Possible	Low	Moderate	High	Extreme	Extreme
Unlikely	Low	Low	Moderate	High	Extreme
Rare	Low	Low	Moderate	High	High

The Shire of Wickepin Local Emergency Risk Plan should be referenced to identify the complete list of consequences and risk descriptions.

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT RISK PRIORITY EVALUATION TABLE

Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Analysis	Priority
Bush Fire	Almost certain	Moderate	Extreme	1
Structural Fire	Likely	Minor	High	2
Transport Accident	Almost certain	Major	Extreme	1
Hazardous Materials	Likely	Minor	High	2
Industrial Accident	Likely	Minor	High	2
Severe Storm	Possible	Moderate	High	2
Search & Rescue on Land	Almost certain	Minor	High	2
Flood	Possible	Minor	Moderate	3
Earthquake	Rare	In-significant	Low	4
Exotic Animal Disease	Rare	In-significant	Low	4
Aircraft Accident	Rare	In-significant	Low	4
Infrastructure Failure	Rare	In-significant	Low	4
Communicable Disease (Human) Pandemic	Almost certain	Major	High	2

RISK IDENTIFICATION MATRIX - VULNERABLE ELEMENTS AT RISK

SOURCES OF RISK	People	Property	Environment	Economy	Industry	Infrastructure	Social & Cultural Cultural
Bushfire	X	X	X	X		X	X
Structural Fire	X	X		X		X	X
Flood	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Severe Storm	X	X	X			X	
Earthquake	X	X				X	
Transport Accident	X			X			X
Hazardous Materials	X		X	X	X		X
Infrastructure Failure	X			X	X	X	X
Aircraft Accident	X	X	X				X
Exotic Animal Disease		X	X	X	X		X
Industrial Accident	X	X		X	X	X	X
Communicable Disease (Human) Pandemic	X			X	X		X

The objective of treatment options is to reduce the risks by modifying the characteristics of the hazard, vulnerable community and the environment in order to reduce the likelihood of the hazard occurring or reduce the impact.

Resilience may be created by Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery (PPRR) and risk management achieved by evaluating risks and treatment options.

Options may be:

- Avoid the risk – do not proceed with activity likely to cause risk
- Reduce the likelihood of occurrence – by modifying the hazard
- Reduce the consequence of the occurrence – by modifying susceptibility and vulnerability or by increasing resilience
- Transfer the risk – cause another party to bear or share the risk
- Retain the risk – accept the risk and plan to manage the consequence

Part 3 – Delivery

Context

The key strategies and actions within the Shire of Wickepin Adverse Events Plan is to respond to the objectives of the plan and to build community leadership capability and community resilience and capacity to adapt and cope with chronic stresses and acute shocks caused by adverse events. These adverse events in particular, drought as well as the potential for floods and bushfires, and other adverse events, affect businesses and communities. These events impact upon the productivity and profitability of farms, which is the main employment area within the Shire of Wickepin.

When farming experiences a downturn, local services and businesses suffer as less money is spent locally. This may lead to staff unemployment, some businesses closing, fewer employment opportunities and some people leaving the community to access employment elsewhere.

Adverse events also have significant social and environmental impacts. Stress affects health and wellbeing of the whole community. Farmland and natural areas can become degraded as a result of adverse events.

The Shire of Wickepin Adverse Event Plan is intended to assist the Council and the community to prepare for adverse events.

The support of Federal and State Governments is essential to this process, as Local Councils do not have the capacity to respond to the full extent required to prepare their communities for future adverse events.

The outcome of responding to the key strategies and objectives is a stronger rural community and stronger local economy.

Our Vision – A collaborative Council dedicated to maintaining and developing our community assets for the benefit of our resident's whilst supporting a strong community, a vibrant economy, successful business and a sound environment.

Key Strategies and Actions

The Shire of Wickepin has identified the following key strategies and actions in order to prepare for and manage adverse events that affect the Shire of Wickepin. The key strategies and actions are presented within the Federal Government's priorities framework.

Priority	Key Strategies and Actions
Council staff are trained and prepared to assist in managing the impacts of adverse events	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council staff have received training relevant to their area of work to assist and protect the community in adverse events, such as clearing fallen trees from roads as a result of storms, and managing road access during flood events and traffic incidents
Council owned resources are well maintained to manage the impacts of adverse events on facilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to maintain Council facilities including roads and buildings in accordance with Council's maintenance schedules to manage impacts of minor adverse events, including minor storm events through drainage work maintenance 2. Respond to major repairs incidents in accordance with Council works procedures, including road and building repairs
Stewardship of important natural resources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to support the Facey Group delivering agricultural innovation to enhance knowledge of farmers and farm services professionals to deliver increased crop, pasture yields, which in turn benefits the economy. 2. Support and encourage workshops and seminars organised by Government agencies, including Local Land Services to assist farmer and farm businesses, including pest management
Incentives for good practice	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote and advocate for local training opportunities to support the provision of additional skills for both on and off farm work opportunities

Improving planning and decision making	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support awareness of, and encourage access to, Rural Financial Counselling Services. 2. Connect local people to relevant services through the Wickepin Community Resource Centre and provide contact details for relevant organisation and service details through Councils social media and website 3. Support awareness of available Government assistance, including the farm household allowance 4. Promote communication with local financial institutions and accounting firms to provide advice and work cooperatively with clients during times of adverse events 5. Provision of Council policy that allows for deferral of Council rates with no penalty for those landholders experiencing genuine hardship as a result of an adverse event.
Building Community Resilience	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support continued advocacy by Councillors and the Chief Executive Officer towards Federal and State Government members of parliament in the interests of the Shire of Wickepin Community 2. Support the Community Development Officer to actively pursue new economic opportunities for the Shire of Wickepin that will strengthen the local economy 3. Support a proactive Council that is innovative and progressive in responding to opportunities to diversify the local economy and improve the provision of local infrastructure, facilities and services. 4. Support capacity and resilience of individuals to support others through mental health training and counselling services

	<ol style="list-style-type: none">5. Actively pursue grant opportunities that benefit the Shire of Wickepin Communities in the long term6. Support the buy local to support local businesses7. Diversifying the Shire of Wickepin's economic base to minimise impacts of adverse events
Informing farmers, communities and government	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Promote the delivery of local project, programs and services to the community through a range of media sources, particularly through social media

Local Sub Plans, Supporting Plans and Policies

Policy	Purpose	Combat / Responsible Agency
Local Emergency Management Plan	Details arrangements for, prevention of, preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies	Shire of Cuballing - Wickepin Joint Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC)
Shire of Wickepin Risk Management Plan 4 Independent Living Units	Document Council's commitment to adopting risk management principles	Shire of Wickepin
Shire of Wickepin Business Continuity Response Plan	This plan's main purpose is to offer guidance in restoring the Shire to an acceptable level of operation by focussing on communications, time-critical business activities, staff welfare and who will need to be contacted due to the circumstances of the incident.	Shire of Wickepin
Shire of Wickepin Records Management Disaster Recovery Plan	The purpose of this plan is to protect the records of the Shire of Wickepin from the effects of a disaster event and to facilitate the restoration of normal operations with minimal disruption and cost. The plan also identifies the steps to be taken to minimize damage to the Shire of Wickepin records and enable staff to meet an emergency with efficiency and minimal loss of records.	Shire of Wickepin
Shire of Wickepin Health and Safety Management Plan	To achieve best practice in Occupational Safety and Health by building a safety culture dedicated to preventing injuries and ill health to employees, contractors and the general public ensuring all can operate in a safe and healthy environment, whether at work or in their own time.	Shire of Wickepin