



MINUTES

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday 31 August 2026, 2:00pm
Shire of Kulin Council Chambers
38 Johnston Street Kulin

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1 DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Chair declared the meeting open at 2.14pm.

2 ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed all present in person or via Teams and noted apologies received. The Chair requested each attendee briefly introduce themselves and the organisation they were representing.

ATTENDANCE

In person

Alan Leeson	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Kulin (Chair of LEMC)
Cr Clinton Mullan	Councillor, Shire of Kulin
Judd Hobson	Executive Manager of Works, Shire of Kulin
Taryn Scadding	Executive Manager of Community Services, Shire of Kulin
Carey Higgins	Executive Support Officer, Shire of Kulin (<i>Minute taker</i>)
Barry Osbourne	WA Police (Kulin)
David Worcester	WA Police (Kulin)
Brendon Sloggett	Coordinator, St John Ambulance (Kulin)
Julie Young	Secretary, St John Ambulance (Kulin) – <i>observer</i>

By Teams

Blake Halford	DFES Narrogin – Area Officer (East)
Brett Dew	Western Power, Team Leader, Operations South East Team
Vivienne Gardiner	Regional Coordinator (Great Southern) - Department of Communities (on behalf of Jo Spadaccini)

APOLOGIES

Cr Jarron Noble	Councillor, Shire of Kulin
Megan Syred	Principal, Kulin District High School
Jo Spadaccini	Department of Communities (<i>represented by Vivienne Gardiner, Department of Communities</i>)

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

4 GUESTS

Nil

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the Shire of Kulin Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting of 26 March 2026 – **Attachment 1**.

The Minutes were received.

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Nil

7 AGENDA BUSINESS

7.1 Confirmation of Facilities on the State Evacuation Register 2026-27

Vivienne Gardiner from the Department of Communities attended via Teams on behalf of Jo Spadaccini (unwell and an apology). Confirmation of the identified Shire of Kulin facilities on the State Evacuation Register 2026-27 and proposed resolutions were discussed (formal Agenda Item circulated after the meeting) – **Attachment 2**. Feedback was sought from the meeting on the suitability of current facilities on the State Evacuation Register and if they have been reviewed against requirements for hazard specific situations, refuge and shelter purposes. The Chair confirmed that inclusion of the Freebairn Recreation Centre and Kulin District High School as currently

recorded on the Evacuation Centre was correct. The potential inclusion of the Pingaring Golf Club was raised, however the suitability of that site was unknown and would need to be reviewed.

Moved Brendon Sloggett **Seconded** Barry Osbourne that the Shire of Kulin LEMC endorse the inclusion of the Freebairn Recreation Centre and Kulin District High School on the State Evacuation Register for 202-27. **Motion carried.**

Training in relation to bushfire and prescribed hazards was discussed. Blake Halford will send suggested training dates to the Chair. Vivienne Gardiner noted that Jo Spadaccini would be interested in joining the training. The Chair noted this would be raised at a staff meeting,

7.2 Review of Local Emergency Management Arrangements

The Chair, Alan Leeson, noted that a draft work in progress of the Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) had been circulated to the Committee for noting at this stage. The State Emergency Management Committee had issued a communication to advise that new templates and guidance to support Local Governments in developing and reviewing their LEMA were available (this information had been circulated to the Committee prior to the meeting). The Chair also noted that the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) were hosting a webinar on 4 September 2026 which would provide more information.

7.2 Agency Updates

DFES

Blake Halford, Area Officer, East Narrogin spoke to a report he had prepared. Blake highlighted some key matters in his report including post fire season update information, emergency management information including storm preparedness information and noting that the State Hazard Plan – Fire had been updated (links included in report). The report also commented on the Local Government Emergency Management Knowledge Hub which provides information and an overview of the roles and responsibilities of Local Government in the *Emergency Management Act 2005* and State Emergency Management Framework. Staffing changes were noted and the Upper Great Southern DFES Brigade Training Calendar for 2026. Lithium-ion batteries being a major cause of fires across Western Australia was also noted in the report (more than three lithium-ion battery related incidents on a weekly basis), with a public campaign being run by DFES with more details and information.

A full copy of the report is attached as **Attachment 3**.

Western Power

Brett Dew, Team Leader, Operations South East Team. Brett shared a presentation covering Western Power's position regarding summer preparedness, bushfire mitigation and vegetation management. Brett noted Western Power would be working with DFES as required. Discussion included noting that aluminum is now used in transformers and Western Power do not have control over windfarms in the area and potential for any influence in hazards or outages that may be attributed.

A full copy of the report is attached as **Attachment 4**.

WA Police – Kulin

Barry Osbourne and David Worcester attended on behalf of WA Police (Kulin Station) and provided a verbal report. David Worcester was introduced as the new Officer in Charge. Business as usual. Early notification of any issues continues to be appreciated. David provided his mobile number for use by Shire staff and fire control officers for emergency management purposes.

Shire of Kulin

The Shire of Kulin was represented by Cr Clinton Mullan, CEO Alan Leeson, Executive Manager Works Judd Hobson and Executive Manager Community Services, Taryn Scadding. A verbal report was provided. Discussion noted the dry winter and firefighting water heading into warmer months. There are 16 standpipes in the network, with the water available at the time, and regular access is via a PIN and billed. In the event of an emergency/fire mode, the standpipes are opened by the Shire. The Shire noted the intention to put together an asset summary and identify all the standpipe locations. It is noted that there are tanks around the unused CBH silos (not managed/controlled by CBH). In Pingaring, there are two tanks to collect roof water (for emergency services access) but they are not linked to the standpipe and both tanks are empty.

St John Ambulance

Brendon Sloggett (Coordinator) and Julie Young (Secretary) attended on behalf of St John Ambulance. Business as usual and no significant changes to report.

Brendon commented regarding water tanks and the observed difficulty in accessing water quickly from some tanks as not all tanks have pumps. He noted the practice of needing to drive further, past closer tanks, due to the speed of water access, particularly if required quickly.

Kulin Bush Fire Brigade

In the absence of Rod Diery, CBFCO, Alan Leeson commented on his awareness of bush fire risk mitigation steps, including enhancing fire breaks near Beard Street and Day Street. There was discussion regarding hazard reduction and burn offs to reduce risks. Alan will be speaking further with Rod Diery and the local brigade at the meeting in Pingaring on 10 September 2026, with a view to discussing low level control burns.

7.3 Information for Noting

- Fire Control Officers Meeting – 10 September 2026, Pingaring
- Update of Shire of Kulin information in DFES Upper Great Southern Regional Directory 2026/2027
- Western Power – Pole Top Fires

8 OTHER BUSINESS

Nil

9 NEXT MEETING

To be advised.

10 MEETING CLOSURE

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 2.53pm.



Attachment 1

Shire of Kulin

Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting

MINUTES

Date	Thursday 26 March 2026
Time	3.00pm
Location	Shire of Kulin Council Chambers

1. WELCOME AND RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

The Chair, Alan Leeson, Chief Executive Officer of the Shire of Kulin, opened the meeting at 3pm and welcomed all present, as named below:

- Alan Leeson, Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Kulin (LEMC Chair)
- Cr Jarron Noble – Shire of Kulin
- Cr Clinton Mullan – Shire of Kulin
- Judd Hobson – Executive Manager of Works - Shire of Kulin (*by Teams*)
- Taryn Scadding – Executive Manager of Community Services – Shire of Kulin
- Trent Nagtegaal – DFES Narrogin – Area Officer (East) (*by Teams*)
- Rod Diery – Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
- Barry Osborne – WA Police
- Lisa Biglin – WACHS Kondinin Hospital (*by Teams*)

2. APOLOGIES

No apologies were recorded.

3. BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**3.1 Fuel Supply Situation – Rural / Regional Communities**

The meeting was convened following concerns raised by WA Police regarding fuel availability and its potential impact on emergency service capability.

WA Police advised that there is growing concern at a regional level regarding fuel shortages and pricing, with a need to ensure adequate reserves are available for emergency response. It was also noted that there is an increased risk of fuel theft, with one significant incident (approx. 10,000 litres) recently reported in the region.

The Chief Executive Officer provided an overview of the current fuel situation, including engagement with the State Incident Controller. It was noted that there remains a lack of clarity regarding supply constraints affecting independent distributors, contributing to uncertainty within the agricultural sector.

The Shire's fuel reserves were outlined, with approximately 12,000 litres of ULP and between 22,000 to 30,000 litres of diesel currently held. Access is being managed through controlled hours and limits, with priority for emergency use.

Discussion occurred regarding trigger points for restricting fuel access, with indicative thresholds discussed between 5,000 and 10,000 litres.

Members noted concern regarding supply continuity into the seeding period and the lack of clear communication from suppliers.

WACHS advised that health services are currently unaffected. DFES noted mobile fuel tankers can be deployed for extended incidents.

The Shire will continue to monitor the situation and circulate updates as available.

3.2 Weather Outlook – Tropical Cyclone Narelle

DFES provided an overview of the forecast system, noting that Tropical Cyclone Narelle is expected to weaken to a tropical low by the time it reaches the region.

Forecast conditions include winds of 50–70 km/h with higher gusts and rainfall of 20–50mm. Potential lightning activity was also noted.

The primary concern is wind preceding rainfall, contributing to erratic fire behaviour. Brigades have been placed on alert and messaging issued to extinguish burns.

The Shire has issued community preparedness messaging, and SES resources are on standby.

Any significant changes will be communicated.

4. OTHER BUSINESS

4.1 Active Fire – Pyne Road

The Chief Bush Fire Control Officer provided an update on an active fire at Pine Road originating from a power pole failure.

Machinery has been deployed to knock down trees, with the fire being monitored and allowed to burn under controlled conditions due to the nature of the fuel load.

The site is contained with adequate firebreaks and low surrounding fuel loads. Ongoing monitoring will continue.

It was noted that fuel availability may become a factor in extended fire response operations.

5. NEXT MEETING

To be advised.

6. MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting closed at approximately 4.00pm.