

# OBERON COUNCIL

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## **Present**

Ian Tucker, Oberon LEMO (in the Chair); Mick Holland, NSW Rural Fire Service; Tom Shirt, NSW Rural Fire Service; Alan Sharp, Oberon SES; Jim Young, Oberon SES; Craig Ronan, Central West SES; John Mayfield, DEMO; Craig Tribolet, Forests NSW; Peter Thompson, NSW Police; Karen Matthews, Oberon Health Service; Ron Gavin, ASNSW; Matt Wilkinson, ASNSW; Andrew Sterling, Department Corrective Services; Brad Smith, FRNSW; Shane Bennett, Burruga SES.

## **Apologies**

Bruce Watt, Tablelands LHPA; Marilyn Staines, Community Services; Kim De Govrik, NPWS; Tony Hoolahan, NSW Police; Eric Ford, Oberon Health Service; John Kanne, ASNSW.

## **Confirmation of Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 August 2011 were accepted, subject to correcting "DEMP" to "DEMC" on page one. (Sterling/Thompson)

## **Business Arising from Minutes**

1. Craig Ronan distributed copies of the Oberon Interim Local Flood Plan. Soft copies are also available.
2. No response has yet been received about the condition of the helicopter pad at Kanangra.

## **Road Closure Procedures for Jenolan Caves**

Paul Maloney from the Roads and Traffic Authority attended a previous meeting of this committee to discuss procedures for closing and re-opening Jenolan Caves Road, and for issuing notifications. However it appears there has been little progress implementing any improved procedures.

Stephen Darlington from RMS (formerly RTA) was in attendance to further discuss this issue. He outlined their recent experiences during the flood events.

Stephen explained that their protocols for determining when a road should be closed or re-opened are generally working well. He explained what 'road closed' actually means, and that closures are legally enforceable.

Stephen advised that all information about closures should be directed through the Traffic Management Centre (TMC). Anyone at Jenolan Caves or elsewhere can obtain current information by phone or from the website.

Minutes of the duly convened Oberon Local Emergency Management Committee Meeting held at the Rural Fire Service Training Room, Oberon on Thursday 17 November 2011, commencing at 4.00pm.

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General Manager

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Chairman

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Ian Tucker outlined Council's inspection and information procedures. Notifications are sent to many recipients, including the TMC.

Stephen pointed out that there is an MOU between the various response agencies which sets out the responsibilities for incidents on State Roads. This will be distributed with the minutes.

Stephen Darlington's contact details are:

Ph: 6393 5431

Mob: 0429 504 668

Email: [Stephen\\_DARLINGTON@rta.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Stephen_DARLINGTON@rta.nsw.gov.au)

The TMC contact details are:

131 700 Report an incident

132701 Traffic Information Line

[tmc@rta.nsw.gov.au](mailto:tmc@rta.nsw.gov.au)

A further discussion will also be arranged with Jenolan Caves Reserve Trust, Oberon Council, and Oberon Correctional Centre about improved notification procedures. This will include the potential for VMB signs at the caves.

Queries were also raised about guardrails on Jenolan Caves Road, in particular to prevent vehicles from being pushed over the edge. Stephen will investigate this.

## **Emergency Operations Centre**

John Mayfield explained that each LEMC is required to nominate a location for its Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), and preferably one or more alternative locations. A policy document has been issued which sets out the requirements for a suitable EOC. A copy of the document will be distributed with the minutes.

The Committee agreed that the RFS building is the most suitable venue in most instances. However depending on the nature and location of the emergency, and if the RFS building is not available for some reason, other options are required.

Several potential locations were suggested:

- Showgrounds Pavilion
- Oberon Correctional Centre
- Day Care Centre at Hospital
- SES building

An inspection of some of these will be arranged for the next LEMC meeting. The Committee will then nominate its preferred location, and plan for a future exercise.

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## **LEMC Meetings**

There was discussion about attendance at LEMC meetings, and about meetings being held as scheduled. This pressure partly results from the outcomes from recent disaster enquiries. There is also a need for members to be appropriately trained.

The LEMO again explained that meetings have only been cancelled when no items of business have been notified to go on the agenda. Members were urged to notify any items when the advance meeting notice is distributed.

It was also noted that there is no legal requirements for a certain number of meetings to be held.

John Mayfield also raised the issue of the Emergency Risk Management (ERM) report which was completed several years ago. He suggested it is due to be reviewed and updated.

Committee members were asked to review the ERM report. A copy will be distributed with the minutes. This will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

It was also suggested that at each meeting, one agency provide a short presentation outlining their role. The SES was nominated for the next meeting.

## **General Business**

### **RFS**

The RFS reported they have enhanced their radio coverage to Jenolan Caves. They have a fire unit based at Bindo Cabins. They have also established a cadet program.

### **SES**

Jim Young provided an agency report. They have also established a cadet program at the High School.

Shane Bennett provided an agency report for Burruga.

### **DEMO**

John Mayfield reminded members about the training program and requested nominations. He advised that Chifley Zone now has three qualified search and rescue co-ordinators.

### **Police**

Peter Thompson commented that there seems to have been an increase in motor vehicle accidents, particularly trucks.

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## Health Service

Nil to report

## Ambulance

Reported they had a visit from the Primary School.

## Department of Corrective Services

Andrew Sterling reported that they are working with the PCYC, and have also held workshops at the High School.

## Fire and Rescue

Brad Smith reported that they are looking at changing their retention system. There have been few recent calls, and they have been conducting inspections. He also advised they have a thermal imaging camera available.

## Meeting Dates

The meeting dates chosen for 2012 are:

16 February 2012  
17 May 2012  
16 August 2012  
15 November 2012

Meetings will continue to be held at the RFS commencing at 4.00pm.

This concluded the business of the meeting, the meeting closed at 5.55pm.

Confirmed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2011

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General Manager

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Chairman

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General Manager

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