

Shire of Pingelly

Minutes

Special Council Meeting
23 July 2020

Contents

1.	DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS	3
2.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY.....	3
3.	ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDING MEMBER.....	3
3.1	Council Agenda Reports.....	3
4.	RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE	3
5.	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	3
6.	DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST	3
7.	OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER	4
7.1	Community Emergency Services Manager Partnership Opportunity.....	4
8.	CLOSURE OF MEETING	7

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Chairman declared the meeting open at 2pm.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We acknowledge the Noongar people of this area and recognise their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay respect to both the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people past and present and emerging.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDING MEMBER

Nil.

3.1 Council Agenda Reports

Please note that all elected members have been provided with the relevant information pertaining to each Officers reports within today's Agenda and the Officer Recommendations are based on Council Policy and or State Acts and Legislation.

4. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

MEMBERS PRESENT

Cr W Mulroney (President)
Cr K Hastings
Cr B Hotham
Cr P Narducci
Cr P Wood
Cr D Freebairn

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Ms J Burton Chief Executive Officer
Mr S Billingham Director Corporate and Community Services
Mrs D Sweeney Executive Manager Corporate Services
Mr D Watkins Director Technical Services
Mrs L Boddy Executive Assistant

APOLOGIES

Cr J McBurney (Deputy President)
Cr A Oliveri

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No members of the public present.

6. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Nil.

7 OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

7.1 Community Emergency Services Manager Partnership Opportunity

File Reference: ADM0637
Location: Not Applicable
Applicant: Not Applicable
Author: Chief Executive Officer
Disclosure of Interest: Nil
Attachments: Nil
Previous Reference: Nil

Summary

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider funding a joint Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM), in partnership with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), the Shire of Brookton and the Shire of Corrigin for a period of three years.

Background

Additional demands are continuing to emerge in the emergency services field with respect to increased planning and mitigation requirements resulting from the Ferguson and Keelty reports, and also the heightened awareness of bushfire risk across Australia. CESMs are a recognised way to resource the management of risks, through their involvement in brigade personnel training and development needs, recruitment, succession planning for emergency management leadership roles, emergency risk management, infrastructure planning, resource planning and grants administration.

The Shire's organisational structure and capacity in respect to emergency management is limited, with this impacting on the ability to proactively address emergency related risks. It is difficult for the vast majority of local governments to resource strategic planning priorities in addition to preparedness, prevention and response priorities to keep the community safe. Partnerships with DFES, in conjunction with other local governments, is a very common approach to address this gap.

Pingelly has a very strong brigade capability which has been established over a number of decades. This has benefited from a strong culture of volunteerism and community capacity in the space of bushfire response. There is an ongoing need for further support of the brigades to work towards succession planning and ensuring volunteer attraction and retention programs.

Comment

Shire staff held meetings with DFES in early 2020, to explore the likelihood of any allocation of resources to CESMs, with indications at the time being that resourcing these roles in all areas throughout the Wheatbelt was likely to be very difficult. The greater likelihood of funding for joint positions was noted, with the Shire being encouraged to submit a letter to DFES, expressing interest in a joint role with another local government. This expression of interest was submitted to DFES in April 2020.

The Shire of Brookton, through their discussions with DFES, has indicated a joint CESM resource will be available, and is requesting consideration of a partnership between DFES and the Shires of Pingelly, Brookton and Corrigin.

This opportunity of a partnership between three local governments and DFES to deliver emergency services functions, is a logical approach, with the Shires involved all having similar landscapes, resourcing needs, and being in close proximity.

The CESM role will provide a number of benefits, with a particular focus to:

- Deliver coordinated prevention programs to reduce the incidence of emergencies and improve the level of safety in the community
- Provide efficient systems of communication between organisations at all levels to improve service delivery outcomes
- Promote and support volunteer organisational arrangements that combine the spirit of volunteerism to attract and retain members
- Provide and or coordinate the level of training to personnel, to ensure the competencies are appropriate to the risk level of emergencies to which volunteers will be required to respond
- Develop a partnership that will see a best practice approach to emergency service delivery implemented between the Shire and DFES
- Enhance community ownership of fire prevention and preparedness programs and activities.

These functions have an alignment to the implementation of preparedness, prevention, response and recovery. The role is also focussed on forming a closer relationship between Local Government and DFES. Some of the specific areas that a CESM may be allocated to include:

Preparedness:

- Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade Training Coordination
- Bushfire Brigade Incident Management Capacity/Capability
- Personal Protective Equipment management - monitoring & replacement and deployment
- Local Emergency Management Committee Participation
- Bushfire Advisory Committee Participation Planning
- Emergency Services Forums
- Respond to incidents as requested by DFES
- Assistance provided to DFES Region in provision of Regional Training Courses

Prevention:

- Bushfire Risk Management Plan developed, maintained and endorsed
- Bushfire management and mitigation programs developed and implemented for Unallocated Crown Land and Unmanaged Reserves
- Practices for bushfire management on local government lands in the Shire developed in accordance with the BRMP priorities.
- Support Community Engagement and awareness programs as identified
- Emergency Services Strategic Planning
- Local Government Grant Scheme - administration of capital and operational grant processes as per LGGS manual

Collaboration:

- Land Use Planning
- Emergency water supply
- Suspicious and deliberately lit fires
- Appropriate support and counselling available to Emergency Service volunteers as required

Special Projects:

- Bush Fire Brigade and SES fleet maintenance program managed
- Administration of relevant Statutes, Regulations, Policies and Local Laws
- Administration of State Emergency Service (SES)
- Respond to emergency incidents that impact on communities, infrastructure and assets in the Shire.

The Shire’s Corporate Business Plan outlines an action to support the joint employment of a CESM, however, the timing of this was predicted as:

- 2020/21 – planning and further lobbying
- 2021/22 onwards – allocation of \$35,000 towards this resource

This partnership, while being offered earlier than predicted and therefore having a financial implication that has not specifically been provided for, has both community and longer term financial benefits if entered into in 2020/21.

Consultation

The Chief Bushfire Control Officer has been informally consulted and is supportive of the CESM resource for Pingelly.

Statutory Environment

Nil

Policy Implications

Nil

Financial Implications

The financial implications arising from the officer recommendation result in a commitment of \$15,000 per year for three years, if all three local governments agree to this arrangement. If only two local governments participate, an allocation of \$22,500 per year for a period of three years is required. Under this proposal, DFES will be funding 70% of the cost.

The contribution required for the 2020/21 year is proposed to be allocated from the \$25,000 ‘discretionary projects’ (which remain unspecified) in the budget. There will therefore be no impact on the projected 30 June 2021 financial position.

Strategic Implications

Goal 2	Community
Outcome 2.3	People feel that their community is safe for all, free of nuisance and protected from risk of damage
Strategy 2.3.2	Act to reduce the risk of bushfire and be prepared in case of bush fire in terms of emergency response and disaster recovery.
Action 2.3.2.3	Support the joint employment of a Community Emergency Services Manager

Risk Implications

Risk	The key risk lies in the failure to take up this opportunity to resource a CESM in partnership with other local governments and DFES. If Council does not wish to proceed, it is unlikely to be presented with another offer in this regard for at least three years due to the funding cycle of this resource.
Risk Rating (Prior to Treatment or Control)	Medium (6)
Principal Risk Theme	Reputational
Risk Action Plan (Controls or Treatment Proposed)	Nil

Consequence Likelihood		Insignificant	Minor	Moderate	Major	Catastrophic
		1	2	3	4	5
Almost Certain	5	Medium (5)	High (10)	High (15)	Extreme (20)	Extreme (25)
Likely	4	Low (4)	Medium (8)	High (12)	High (16)	Extreme (20)
Possible	3	Low (3)	Medium (6)	Medium (9)	High (12)	High (15)
Unlikely	2	Low (2)	Low (4)	Medium (6)	Medium (8)	High (10)
Rare	1	Low (1)	Low (2)	Low (3)	Low (4)	Medium (5)

Voting Requirements

Absolute Majority

12877 Moved: Cr Narducci Seconded: Cr Hotham

Recommendation and Council Decision:

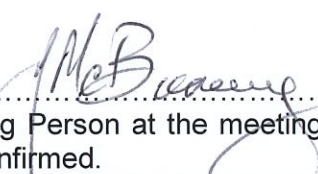
That Council approve an allocation of up to \$26,250 for a Community Emergency Services Manager, for each of the 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 financial years, with the contribution for Year 1 to be assigned from the discretionary projects allocation in the 2020/21 Budget.

Carried 6:0

8. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 2.12pm.

These minutes were confirmed by Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 19 August 2020.

Signed 
 Presiding Person at the meeting at which the minutes were confirmed.

