



**ORDINARY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
22 SEPTEMBER 2010**

ITEM NO: 12.3
FILE NO: 7.5/6/5
DATE: 14 September 2010
TOPIC: DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLANNING EXERCISE ORKO
AUTHOR: Justin Fischer
AUTHOR'S TITLE: Manager Road Infrastructure

Background

The Disaster Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill is in front of State Parliament for approval. As part of the preparation for this legislation being approved Emergency Management Queensland held an information session in Toowoomba on the 5 August for all key people that it would be affected by the legislative changes and how these changes would affect them directly.

An outcome of this information session was that a Disaster Management Working Group was formed from members of Council that would be involved when any form of disaster occurred. This Working Group identified the affects of the legislative changes on the operation of our Lockyer Disaster Management Group (LDMG).

Resulting from this the Working Group was advised that a disaster exercise known as Exercise Orko, would be undertaken from the 1 November through to the 3 November 2010 (bearing in mind that the 2 November is Melbourne Cup Day). Council and the LDMG have both been invited to partake in this exercise, as to what level of participation will be discussed at the next meeting of the LDMG scheduled for Thursday the 23 September 2010.

Discussion

Disaster Management is quite often the forgotten poor cousin of local government operations. Smaller Councils tend to rely on key staff and Councillors to respond when a disaster strikes. Legislation requires that a local government shall: - have an approved disaster plan that is reviewed regularly, - ensure it has a disaster response capability, - arrange LDMG meetings at minimum of every six months.

Since amalgamation little work has been done to improve LVRC's disaster response capability. There have been no LDMG meetings for 12 months, the Local Disaster Management Plan requires updating, there are no Local Disaster Management Plan Sub Plans for emergencies where Council is the lead agency and there is no dedicated disaster response command centre.

While Council has relied on key staff in previous disasters there is a high probability that these key staff may not be available when a disaster strikes. Staff turnover (mainly retirement), sickness, leave, personal responsibilities or physical barriers may mean that key staff are unavailable in the event of a disaster. If this were to occur Council does not have a contingency plan. While staff who are available do tend to assume responsibility many of the key aspects of disaster recovery are lost due to lack of knowledge of Council's role in a disaster response function.

QFCI

Date: 28/4/11 JFM

Exhibit Number: 160



**ORDINARY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
22 SEPTEMBER 2010**

Budget

There has been no allocation in Council's 2010/2011 budget for disaster management activities, a \$5000 allocation has been made for fire trail maintenance, of which half has already been spent. As Council has done little in the disaster management area, significant investment is required should Council wish to improve its disaster response capability. Below is an initial recommended budget, however more amendments may be required as further items for improvement are discovered.

Disaster Management Requirement	Budget Allocation Required
Fire trail maintenance (\$5000 budgeted)	\$25,000.00
Servicing/repairs to rural water tanks	\$5,500.00
AIIMS disaster management paper based systems (training and products)	\$3,000.00
Disaster management exercise	\$1,000.00
Two- way portable communication upgrade	\$5,000.00
Emergency road signage upgrade (eg water over road)	\$10,000.00
Development of disaster management sub plans	\$10,000.00
General disaster response equipment – torches etc	\$500.00
GPS location and production of fire trail maps & map books	\$ 5,000.00
Initial recommended amount	\$65,000.00

These funds have not been provided in the budget.

Management of Rural Fire Brigade & SES Funding

Council's current SES & Rural Fire levies are discussed in Sections 8.5, 8.6 and 8.7 of Council's budget meeting resolutions. These resolutions require that all funds collected through the levy process need to be distributed to the SES and the Rural Fire Services. In



**ORDINARY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
22 SEPTEMBER 2010**

future budgets Council will need to consider allocating some of the funds collected through the levy to the Regional Disaster Management activities of Council.

Prioritisation of Fire Trail Maintenance Funds

In previous years rural fire brigades have been advised to make requests to Council for fire trail maintenance. Council has then undertaken works on a first in best dressed approach.

Rural Fire Brigades will now be asked to identify a list of regional priorities and forward this through the Gatton & Laidley Rural Fire Brigades. Council will then undertake works based on this regional priority list until the budget allocation is exhausted.

Exercise Orko

This will be an opportunity to improve our readiness and practice arrangements to respond to a natural disaster.

This exercise will be a storm and flooding event engaging three Disaster Management Districts and 5 Regional Councils. The Weather Bureau will be providing updates on the weather and a number of serial events will be proclaimed to trigger action.

There will be opportunities for Council to test its communications, its skills, its plans and resources. Council need to determine its participation level, however as outlined previously due to the low level of preparedness a mid to lower level is recommended. The exercise is flexible so we can pull back or increase the level to suit our capability on the day. We will be assessing this after discussions with the LDMG at the meeting 23 September 2010 and at a further meeting with EMQ.

The following issues will be considered;

- The establishment of a generic email account for communication from the District Disaster management Group, weather bulletins etc. and feed back from the LVDMG on situation reports. The email address is likely to be [REDACTED]
- Whether members of the LDMG need coaching.
- The knowledge and familiarity of the LDMG with local disaster management plans.
- The need for deputies.
- Whether and where we set up a coordination centre.
- Whether we test evacuation plans.
- Level of involvement.
- Accommodation and transport arrangements.

Staff from EMQ and local government observers from other Councils are likely to be available. Contact with a University organised media group is available to test public information capacity.



**ORDINARY COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
22 SEPTEMBER 2010**

Conclusion

That Council note the information provided in the report and also note the dates of the Exercise Orko in their calendar. This is also an opportunity for Council to provide any key issues they feel should be identified as part of this exercise.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the

1. report be noted, and
2. budget be amended to include \$65,000 for Disaster Management Operations.

Councillor Cr Dave Neuendorf left the meeting, the time being 11:54 AM

Councillor Cr Dave Neuendorf returned to the meeting, the time being 11:56 AM

RESOLUTION:

THAT the

1. report be noted, and
2. budget be amended to include \$65,000 for Disaster Management Operations.

Moved By: Cr Moon

Seconded By: Cr McDonald

Resolution Number: 1684

CARRIED

6/0