

FLINDERS COUNCIL SPECIAL COMMITTEE

FURNEAUX MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Unconfirmed Minutes

DATE: 9 September 2022
VENUE: Rose Garden Room
COMMENCING: 1pm

PRESENT:

Warren Groves	General Manager – Emergency Management Coordinator
Jacci Smith	Development Services Coordinator – Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator
Richard Harley	Airport Operations Officer
Kyra Newman	Executive Assistant (minute taker)
Annette Dean	State Emergency Service
Sammi Gowthorp	Council Services Coordinator
Emma Watkins	Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer (via Teams)
Chris Wilson	Infrastructure Manager
William Broadridge	Tasmanian Police
Ryan Jefferies	Tasmanian Police
Michael Walsh	State Emergency Service - Unit Manager
Robyn Dilger	Country Women Association
Justin Widdowson	Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife
Rick Mahnken	TasFire Service (via Teams)
Paul Colterol	TasFire Service (via Teams)
Jennifer Burdon	TasFire Service (via Teams)
Stephen Mason	TasFire Service - Group Officer
Marc Cobham	Flinders Island Multi-Purpose Centre representative (joined the meeting at 1:57pm)

APOLOGIES:

David Williams	Chair
Carol Baines	Flinders Island Multi-purpose Centre

CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Meeting begins 1pm
 Warren Groves is chair of this meeting 9 September 2022. David William sends apology.

That the Unconfirmed Minutes of the Furneaux Municipal Emergency Management Committee meeting held 29 November 2021 are a true and fair record.

Moved: Stephen Mason Seconded: Michael Withers
 CARRIED

AGENDA ITEMS:**Item 1 Warning system update**

Annette Dean to provide update on new fire, storm and flood warning system.

Jennifer to update and present a PowerPoint

ABC radio is how public can stay up to date at present.

This has been a whole government project, a process of reviewing policies and procedures with stakeholders and emergency management processes. A brief overview of the Australian Fire Danger rating system:

- Delayed until October for public;
- Describes potential danger;
- Describes the changes made from science and technology. Upgrades to data feeds have been done;
- Major past bushfire events encouraged this update to occur; and
- Fire behaviour index being used.

Item 2 Foot & Mouth Disease

Presentation from Dr Emma Watkins – Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer

Emma to present a PowerPoint to the committee.

Emma to issue a paper for the Island News.

Foot and Mouth disease is present in 77% of the world. There is beginning to be an increase in awareness of the disease which can spread easily.

Australia is currently supporting Indonesia, with a vaccination program underway.

Emma explained that livestock animals are high at risk of the disease. For example, cattle, sheep, pigs and goats etc.

Intervention methods need to consider risk of increasing movement which can spread the disease.

The potential to Flinders Island is the high number of feral pigs, as these animals do have the capacity to move the disease around if Foot and Mouth was to get to the island. There is potential for Australia to lose meat transportation overseas if the disease arrives in the country.

Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement that brings together the Australian government and peak industry groups. This agreement is used to reduce the risk of disease and how to manage a response if an outbreak occurs.

There are many active resources in place to prevent this event occurring. Some examples are an increased number of border security staff in Tasmania, foot mats at airports, x-ray machines and improved trackability.

There are five preparedness exercises coming up to Tasmania. Which include resource management, emergency management, public information, warnings and communication.

If the disease is detected, there will be a national livestock standstill and all movements will be stopped for at least 72 hours. 'AUSVETPLAN' has free information available online regarding this topic.

There are currently 40,000 livestock movements in and out of the State each month.

There is a vaccination available for the disease but culling is a more effective measure to eradicate the disease.

It is recommended that property owners who manage their own farm educate themselves and manage their own risks, online training available to anyone (encourage producers to do this), know the signs, all movements update.

It is illegal to feed swill to pigs. Swill includes any food that has been on a plate with meat. Information regarding this topic is to be distributed to the community.

Questions from committee members:

Richard Harley - Foot Mats

What happened to them? We do not have any at the airport anymore.

Emma Watkins to follow-up on this matter. To note that imported meat is the highest risk of transferring the disease.

Stephen Mason – decontamination of equipment used in the Foot and Mouth elimination process.

Is it an easy process?

Emma Watkins

To remove the organic material (faeces etc), it can be removed by a thorough wash. Citric acid is a good disinfectant. Routine on farm use, the process is important, making sure you look at your boots and ensuring that they are clean.

Item 3 Airport Exercise

Richard Harley to discuss the annual exercise requirement to be a combined exercise.

CASA regulations require the Flinders Island Airport to stage an emergency response exercise and to incorporate this exercise with other agencies.

Richard would like this exercise organised as soon as possible, to develop an understanding of all agencies being able to respond with an airport emergency.

Richard would like to see if an exercise could accommodate a crash in the water approximately 1km off the shore.

The committee recommends creating a subcommittee to investigate the aviation-based exercise in conjunction with all other local agencies

Motion: Stephen Mason

Seconded: Michael Walsh

CARRIED

Item 4 Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grant

Sammi to provide an update on Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grant

Council has been successful in gaining \$1.6 million as part of the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grant, from the east coast Foochow Bushfire. The funding has gone towards:

- Shipping container staging hub
- Upgrade to FAEC kitchen and generator for the hall.
- Upgrade to Emita Hall
- Upgrade to Holloway Park
- New fire stations Emita Hall and Holloway Park

Sammi and Rick confirm that this grant received can be used for infrastructure.

It is expected that a shed, PPE and trucks are to stay at Emita. All agencies should be able to partner with Council and other agencies to use this facility. Funding has been allocated for these projects. Staging area for mid island response facility near sports ground. A multi-use area for the community. Shipping container has arrived. Defibrillator to go into the shipping container. Sammi would appreciate any ideas for what may be needed from committee members.

Sammi presents designs for the projects.

Item 8 Standing Reports

Tasmanian Police

Ryan Jefferies – There has been a couple of incidents. Discussions with SES about a possible exercise which developed after an incident on Cape Barron Island and TasPorts contamination land issue. There have been quad bike incidents and there were a few resources available on the night with two accidents in isolated areas.

TasFire

Stephen Mason provided an overview since last meeting number of incidents, vegetation fires (cause of these fires has been addressed), 3-4 car fires which is unusual for Flinders Island and there are now protocols in place to avoid future incidents. These incidents appear to be spontaneous.

There have been four structure fires in short period of time and they have resulted in high credit given to the responding crews as the structures were saved and with minimal damage.

Training has been provided to volunteers, including a chainsaw course, training exercises in the event of an aviation event, overall successful training.

Rick acknowledges that Stephen has taken over from Alan Tuxworth on the island as head officer and this has given an opportunity to re-align the role. There is now more systems and processes on the island. The maintenance on vehicles has been an issue and this have been delegated to Darren Grace. TasFire mechanics have not been getting over to Flinders Island, therefore local businesses Lees and Baileys have been servicing the vehicles on island. Community members delegated various duties.

Rick states that the training model has been updated and works far better now than it ever has for Flinders Island. Rick would like each fire fighter to become a level 1 fire fighter. Rick would like to see crew leader courses rolled out to bridge the gap between the level of competence on the Island compared to elsewhere.

Flinders Island has qualified trained volunteers who are reaching their individual goals and TasFire are happy with their progress.

Currently there are twelve people trained in breathing apparatus. This figure has gone up.

Cape Barron – junior cadets

Cultural burning is being delivered on the east coast of Cape Barron in the last couple of weeks. Competitions are being held in November in mainland Tasmania for juniors, Cape Barron cadets are to hopefully attend this event. Recently had a women cultural workshop on burning. Cape Barron Island are kicking goals. They need rewarding for their efforts.

Swapped hoses on fire trucks recently. Maintenance is to be done regularly.

Pre-fire preparation to happen in the future with volunteers.

Thanks to Stephen Mason, the volunteers and the training you are preparing them.

This fire season – brief to come to committee soon. Rick is predicting a good fire season due to heavy growth over wet winter.

Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife update

Justin did not have any specific items but would like to remind everyone that Parks is a biosecurity resource in the event of a Foot and Mouth disease outbreak.

SES regional update

Annette - regional planner update

Her role is coordination of all hazardous management and reminded the committee that David Nicolls is the state coordinator, the roles are different but collaborative.

DPAC is responsible for coordinating recovery but haven't provided the plan so unsure what that will look like as Health is no longer responsible.

NSW floods has highlighted local knowledge as important in any flood model/action.

FMD is being developed and will be communicated soon.

Flood warning system is now live and like the fire warning system.

Tas Alert system should be alerting everyone on this committee, via email. If this alert is not occurring, please ensure that you are signed up to be alerted. High importance to this alert.

There is currently a review of the protocol regarding the Tsunami alert.

The new flood planner is due to come to the island soon.

Michael Walsh – local SES update

In 10 months since last committee meeting there has been four road crashes that SES volunteers have attended. One major injury during that time.

Due to the Cape Barron Island incident, a training exercise has been identified for volunteers performing boat to land transfers has been and this will be conducted in conjunction with Tasmanian Police.

Local volunteers are planning a SES display at the Flinders Island Show. Simple road crash to be shown to the community.

Tas Gov Radio Network (TGRN) are coming to install radios in TasFire and SES vehicles. Tas Police already have these devices. It may be worth clarifying what the options were for local government. Committee members believe there should be a radio in the local hospital.

Warren Groves – Are there critical stress management protocols for volunteers?

Michael Walsh – Yes there is and it is working for those using the free service.

Item 9 General Business

Jacci Smith

Regarding John Loudon, he did take on board defibrillator location inaccuracies on the island and he was going to investigate. Now with his absence can Marc Cobham please find out further information.

Marc Cobham is happy to follow-up on this matter.

Warren Groves

Question regarding preparedness for the upcoming fire season and island-based resourcing coming up to the fire season.

Is there a resources list being used on the island already?

It has been brought up in discussions in the past. Some people do not want the items to be tracked on the island. It appears from memory of committee members that the project began but did not progress to completion.

TasFire do have a list of resources for the State, majority of resources are listed on the Island is from the Flinders Council. TasFire can put in a list from Council to the Fire Action Plan in the future. Rick believes it is worth pursuing and creating a list of items for all agencies on the island. It is a worthwhile if communications go down in the event of an emergency and to know the rates of equipment before being utilised, it will also prevent people from overcharging.

TasFire to find out compliance documents to send through. Spread sheet to be sent through to TasFire – Rick and other information from the agency.

Rates of use of the machinery to be added to the documentation.

Meeting Closed

2:52pm

Next Meeting: TBA Nov/Dec