



Council Agenda

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Shire of Pingelly Special Council Meeting 23 July 2020

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MISSION STATEMENT

To enhance the quality of life for the people of Pingelly through the provision of leadership, services and infrastructure.



Shire of Pingelly

Notice of Meeting

Notice is given that a meeting of the Council will be held in the Council Chambers, 17 Queen Street, Pingelly on Thursday 23 July 2020, commencing at 2pm.

Your attendance is respectfully requested.

Disclaimer

The recommendations contained in this agenda are officers' recommendations only and should not be acted upon until Council has resolved to adopt those recommendations. The resolutions of Council should be confirmed by perusing the minutes of the Council meeting at which these recommendations were considered. Members of the public should also note that they act at their own risk if they enact any resolution prior to receiving official written notification of Councils decision.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Burton', written over a horizontal line.

Julie Burton
Chief Executive Officer

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME INFORMATION

The Shire of Pingelly welcomes community participation during public question time. This document is to be read in conjunction with the *Shire of Pingelly Standing Orders Local Law 2017* and the *Local Government Act 1995* and the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996*.

1. A member of the public who raises a question during question time must:
 - a. be in attendance at the meeting;
 - b. first state their name and address;
 - c. direct the question to the Presiding Member;
 - d. ask the question briefly and concisely;
 - e. limit any preamble to matters directly relevant to the question; and
 - f. ensure that the question is not accompanied by any expression of opinion, statement of fact or other comment, except where necessary to explain the question.
2. Each member of the public with a question is entitled to ask up to 3 questions before other members of the public will be invited to ask their questions.
3. Where a member of the public seeks a written response to their questions to be tabled at a meeting, the member of the public must submit their questions to Council by no later than 12 noon on the day prior to the meeting date of which the response is to be tabled.
4. Where a member of the public submits their questions after 12 noon on the day prior to the meeting date of which the response is to be tabled, a written response may be provided at the discretion of the presiding member.
5. Where a member of the public submits a written question after 12 noon the day prior to the meeting at which they are to be tabled, a verbal response may be provided at the meeting.
6. A member of the public may ask questions without notice at a meeting, provided they present a written copy of their questions to Council prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Questions may be submitted by e-mail to admin@pingelly.wa.gov.au.

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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Chairman to declare the meeting open.

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, present and emerging.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDING MEMBER

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

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

6. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

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 Keely 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 fee 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

Recommendation

That Council approve an allocation of up to \$22,500 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.

Moved: _____ Seconded: _____

8. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Chairman to declare the meeting closed.