



2025 Local Government Emergency Management Forum





Date

Tuesday, 17 June 2025

Location

**City of Stirling Reception Hall
25 Cedric St, Stirling WA 6021**

Theme

**Local Government future proof:
Preparing today for tomorrow's challenges.**

PROGRAM

8:30am **Registrations open**

9:00am **Introduction**

Blake Williams, Master of Ceremonies

9:05am **Welcome to Country**

Joe Collard

9:15am **WALGA President's Address**

Cr. Karen Chappel AM JP – WALGA President

9:20am **Minister's Address**

Minister Paul Papalia - Minister for Emergency Services; Corrective Services; Defence Industries; Veterans; Racing and Gaming

9:30am **Keynote Address**

Dr Jill Charker - Deputy Coordinator-General, Disaster Resilience and Recovery Group (NEMA)

Jill is the Deputy Coordinator-General Disaster Resilience and Recovery at NEMA, responsible for the administration of over \$30 billion in Australian Government disaster recovery and resilience funding programs, and disaster recovery and risk reduction policy.

10:00am **Keynote Address**

James Ashley - WA Manager, Hazard Preparedness and Response, Bureau of Meteorology

James leads the Bureau's Western Australian (WA) team of meteorologists, hydrologists, and climatologists, coordinating the Bureau's response to weather hazards in WA. James has extensive knowledge of operational meteorology across the range of natural hazards in WA, particularly tropical cyclones, fire, and severe thunderstorms.

10:30am

MORNING TEA

10:55am

ADAPTING TOGETHER – COMMUNITY DISASTER RESILIENCE

A Journey to Partnership - Cultural Burning in the Shire of York

Carol Littlefair – Arts and Cultural Heritage Officer, Shire of York

As Arts & Cultural Heritage Officer for the Shire of York, Carol works closely with the local community, particularly the Ballardong Noongar people, to support cultural needs and aspirations. Since migrating to Western Australia in 2002 and holding curatorial roles in Toodyay and York, she has been committed to growing the inclusion of Aboriginal cultural heritage in public narratives – a shared journey toward a more inclusive cultural sector.

Troy Granville - Community Emergency Services Manager, Shire of York

Troy is the Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) for the Shires of Beverley and York and has volunteered with the York Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services for 17 years. Troy has been instrumental in collaborating with numerous Indigenous and non-Indigenous stakeholders to successfully implement an Aboriginal cultural burning project in the Shire of York.

David Windsor - Cultural Fire and Partnerships Coordinator, Department of Fire and Emergency Services

David, a Kaurareg descendant from Kiriri Island in Zenadth Kes, was born on Wadjuk Boodja and attended Laverton primary school on Tjalkanti Ngurrara (Country), and Northam Senior High school on Ballardong Boodja (Country). David is the Cultural Fire and Partnerships Coordinator at DFES' Bushfire Centre of Excellence, supporting the integration of Cultural and contemporary fire practices across WA. With over 20 years in fire and emergency management, David has focused the past five years on cultural burning.

Complacent Communities Conundrum: Building a Collaborative Culture for Proactive Bushfire Resilience

Rachel Runco – Manager Community Safety, City of Busselton

Rachel is an experienced project manager currently serving as the Manager of Community Safety at the City of Busselton. Rachel's expertise in emergency management and commitment to enhancing community safety have been instrumental in developing robust frameworks and strategies to improve resilience and preparedness in the City of Busselton.

City of Rockingham and City of Kwinana - Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Journey

Chris Wells – Emergency Services Coordinator/Chief Bushfire Control Officer, City of Kwinana

As the Emergency Services Coordinator at the City of Kwinana and the Chief Bushfire Control Officer, Chris brings over two decades of experience in the volunteer bush fire service and draws from his personal experience of having family members with disabilities, aiming to improve emergency preparedness and prevention for vulnerable communities.

Kolina Brennan – Emergency Liaison Coordinator, City of Rockingham

As City of Rockingham's Emergency Liaison Coordinator, Kolina is responsible for coordinating the Local Emergency Management Arrangements with a significant focus on the preparedness and recovery elements. Previously, Kolina worked as a Police Officer in a range of Coordinator positions including Community Development, Community Safety and Emergency Management.

12:15pm

LUNCH

1:00pm

Crisis Management and Communication starts well before the Crisis

Allan Briggs – Founder, Owner and CEO, Crisis Shield

Allan Briggs is founder and owner of Crisis Shield. He started his professional career with Victoria Police, rising to the rank of Sergeant and managing the Public Relations Unit, then worked as Manager of Media and Public Relations at Victoria State Emergency Services (VICSES).

Allan now shares his expertise through his client work, presenting at events and conferences around Australia and lecturing at numerous universities in Melbourne.

2:30pm

AFTERNOON TEA

2:50pm	Bounce Back Better – Recovery Lessons Learned
	<p>Bounce Back Better, Together!</p> <p>Ian Robinson – Emergency Management and Crime Prevention Officer and Local Recovery Coordinator, City of Swan</p> <p>With over 30 years' experience in Local Government, Ian is the City of Swan's Emergency Management and Crime Prevention Officer and nominated Local Recovery Coordinator. Ian was the Local Recovery Officer for the Wooroloo Bushfire of 2021 and spent two and a half years embedded in the Gidgegannup community, supporting residents to rebuild, and dealing with all facets of recovery after the disaster.</p> <p>Liza Beinart – Senior State Programs Manager, Red Cross</p> <p>Liza is the Senior State Programs Manager at Australian Red Cross, responsible for the coordination and delivery of Migration and Emergency Services programs across WA. With 15 years' experience in the not-for-profit sector, Liza currently oversees all Red Cross Resilience and Recovery programming in WA.</p>
3:20pm	<p>Lessons from the Aftermath: Navigating Recovery in Local Government</p> <p>Panel facilitated by Blake Williams, Master of Ceremonies</p> <p>Kirsten Thrush – Manager Community Safety & Emergency Management, City of Wanneroo</p> <p>Kirsten manages the Community Safety & Emergency Management service unit at the City of Wanneroo and is the nominated Local Recovery Coordinator. The Mariginiup Bushfire was Kirsten's first major recovery experience. Despite the steep learning curve, her training and strong support from internal and external stakeholders helped deliver a recovery where the community felt genuinely supported.</p> <p>Wayne Neate – Director of Infrastructure, Shire of Derby-West Kimberley</p> <p>Wayne Neate is the Director of Infrastructure at the Shire of Derby - West Kimberley, with over three decades in Local Government and 27 years at Derby - West Kimberley. He played a critical leadership role during the catastrophic 2023 Kimberley floods. His tireless efforts significantly impacted the safety and wellbeing of the region. Wayne's exceptional service earned him the inaugural Shire of Derby West Kimberley President and Councillors Award in 2025.</p> <p>Nicole O'Neill – Director Community Experience, Shire of East Pilbara</p> <p>Nicole is the Director of Community Experience and nominated Local Recovery Coordinator at the Shire of East Pilbara. Nicole is also currently the Recovery Coordinator for Cyclone Zelia. Nicole has close to two decades of experience leading teams and is a community advocate, working with Council to assist stakeholders to understand the role of Local Government, statutory requirements, strategic implications and opportunities for collaboration and partnership. In 2021 Nicole was awarded the National Local Government Professional Emerging Leader.</p> <p>Krissy Jangi – Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Recovery Team</p> <p>Krissy is the Acting Director of Recovery Operations at the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), where she leads strategic and operational coordination of disaster recovery and resilience efforts across WA. With experience spanning Local and State Government, Krissy has worked on recovery from severe tropical cyclones Seroja and Zelia, the Bunbury storms and helped develop and implement programs that support both immediate recovery and long-term resilience.</p>
4:30pm	<p>Event Close</p> <p>Blake Williams, Master of Ceremonies</p>
4:30pm - 6:30pm	<p>Sundowner</p> <p>By registration only</p>



WALGA

Influence. Support. Expertise.

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