



Department of
**Primary Industries and
Regional Development**



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Grower Groups in Emergencies



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Role of Grower Groups in Emergencies

Outline

- **Role in emergencies**
- **Brief introduction to Emergency Management in Regions.**
- **Grower group in emergencies**
- **Examples**
 - Esperance Fires 2015
 - South Coast floods 2017
- **Office of Emergency Management views of recovery**
- **Final thoughts**

Emergency Management structures in Regions

- **Local Emergency Management Committee – Shire responsibility**
- **Fits within State wide structure**
- **Command and control structure focus on**
 - **Preparedness**
 - **Response**
- **Many agencies and groups may be represented at the LEMAC**
 - **Esperance has 15 agencies and groups at a meeting.**
 - **Ravensthorpe less that 10, smaller community.**

Incidents that involved grower groups

- **Esperance Fires 2015**
 - **SEPWA**
 - **4 fatalities**
 - **135 000 ha burnt farmland.**
 - **74 Ag Properties Impacted**
 - **\$ Impact – half way through grain harvest**

- **Ravensthorpe Flood Feb 2017**
 - **RAIN**
 - **160 Impacted Farms in Ravensthorpe hotspot**
 - **\$100 000 estimate earth works damage per farm**

What the grower groups did

SEPWA

- Part of the Recovery Committee
- Emotional Support including workshops
- School Support
- Fire Recovery project
- Fire Recovery book
- Fire report
- Coordinated information to members
- Plus more...

What the grower groups did – RAIN

- **Part of recovery (links to the shire)**
- **Information to members (e-news)**
- **Facebook page for photos**
- **Presenting at community forums**
- **Getting funding grant for NRM Officer**
- **Apply for other grants**
- **Organising post flood workshops.**
- **DAFWA joining the RAIN office office for a week**
- **Plus more...**



Role of Grower Groups in Emergencies

- **Join the Recovery Processes**
- **Not part of the formal or standing Emergency management structure**
- **Not funded by the Emergency management structure**
- **Self funded or externally funded**

Emergency management view of Grower Groups

- Part of the Recovery Processes locally
- Come forward in emergencies to support members and wider community
- Not part of the formal or standing Emergency management structure
 - Depending on the local groups may even struggle to deal with the groups
- In Emergency Management speak considered an
 - Emergent Group
 - Extending Group
- Volunteering the groups resources for the recovery

Planning for Recovery ¹

- Recovery needs the same level of planning as Response
- Recovery is recognised as being under resourced

“This leaves the clean-up to be managed by often under-equipped and under-resourced local governments”

- Resources that might be considered to support the state recovery:
 - the ability to second personnel to support recovery
 - a pool of suitably trained recovery project managers
 - administrative support and funding
 - dedicated facilities to manage a recovery
 - standing contracts with appropriate service providers

¹ Office Emergency Management 2016



Final thoughts

- **Grower Groups are part of the Emergency Management especially the recovery process, often self funded**
- **Bring flexibility to the recovery processes**
- **OEM is considering how to better manage and resource recovery**
- **Grower Groups part of conversation?**



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Thank you

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