

02/02/2018

Broome Emergency Relief Network

Convened by Broome CIRCLE

27 Frederick St Broome WA

P 08 9136425 | E: sandy.joffe@broomecircle.org.au

Local Emergency Management Committee

Attn: Aletta Nugent – Chairperson LEMC

Dear Ms Nugent and members of LEMC,

The Broome Emergency Relief Network (BERN) is a group of agencies that meet quarterly to respond to issues relating to vulnerable people living in the Shire of Broome. Most commonly, the organization responds to people's material needs, but our ambit extends to promoting people's safety and wellbeing.

Regarding emergency preparedness, we recognise that each emergency is different, and that through experience, we can learn and respond differently in future emergencies. At a recent BERN meeting, emergency preparedness, response and recovery were discussed. We hope that these learnings will contribute to the work of the LEMC and ensure the safety of vulnerable people in Broome during an emergency.

We understand that cyclones have a very specific, technical definition, and that some severe weather events may not be considered a cyclone, but are equally destructive. In these cases, a cyclone warning is not declared and the emergency shelter is not opened. This leaves people who are homeless or living in insecure or temporary housing, without safe shelter during violent weather. The BERN strongly urges you to consider opening the cyclone emergency shelter for the duration of severe weather events such as the heavy rains and wind resulting from the tropical low that hit Broome last week.

Emergency response and recovery are periods when community can pull together and help one another. They present a unique opportunity for community services to collaborate, and for volunteers to help vulnerable people with clean up, building community resilience and ensuring that all residents of Broome are cared for. BERN member organisations could provide a range of different resources to help the community during and after an emergency. For example, Broome CIRCLE can organise volunteers and other organisations can transport people to shelters. We would be keen to meet and discuss this possibility for the future.

Finally, 'Bumours' abound in emergencies and flourish on social media sites like Facebook. The media release of 2 Feb was appreciated, but media releases just prior to, and in the immediate aftermath of the weather event would have been appreciated. Services and NGO's or through sending out text messages to people registered with a LEMC alert service would reach a wider audience and make a

difference to the group for whom we advocate. We urge the LEMC to consider everyone in Broome in their communication strategy.

The BERN would be keen to contribute to debriefs and future planning to address the issues raised here.

Thank you for considering these proposals. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely

Sandy Joffe, Loretta Bin Omar and Peter Mitchell.

For the Broome Emergency Relief Network.

From: Aletta Nugent
To: ["Sandy Joffe"](#)
Subject: RE: I180205-136975 - Attn Aletta Nugent, Chairperson LEMC
Date: Monday, 12 February 2018 9:22:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)

Hi Sandy

Thank you for your letter attached to the email below.

Responsibility for activating the Welfare Centre lies with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. Responsibility for running the Welfare Centre and managing community welfare during disaster events lies with the Department of Communities.

As a result, I have forwarded your letter to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and Department of Communities for a response. I will follow up on this, and ensure a response is provided, through the Local Emergency Management Committee.

Regards

Aletta

From: Sandy Joffe [mailto:sandy.joffe@broomecircle.org.au]
Sent: Monday, 5 February 2018 4:03 PM
To: Shire <Shire@broome.wa.gov.au>
Subject: I180205-136975 - Attn Aletta Nugent, Chairperson LEMC

Dear Ms Nugent,

Please find attached a letter from the Broome Emergency Relief Network regarding the wellbeing of vulnerable people during severe weather events.

We hope that this will contribute to future planning and we look forward to working with you to contribute to a cohesive community in times of emergency.

Warm regards,

Sandy

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Sandy Joffe | Executive Officer

Broome Circle

P: (08) 9193 6425 | M: 0417 633 703 | E: sandy.joffe@broomecircle.org.au