

Introduction – Why We Exercise

Exercising is a critical component of effective emergency management. It provides an opportunity for agencies, stakeholders, and the community to test, evaluate, and strengthen local preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities.

Under State Emergency Management Policy 4.8 – Exercises and the Emergency Management Act 2005, local governments are encouraged to conduct regular exercises to ensure that their Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) are practical, current, and well understood by all participating agencies.

Exercises allow the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) to:

- Validate plans, roles, and procedures;
- Identify gaps and areas for improvement;
- Enhance coordination and communication between agencies;
- Build local capability and confidence; and
- Promote community awareness and resilience.

For 2026, it is proposed that the Onslow LEMC conduct a tabletop exercise in March, focusing on one hazard scenario selected by the Committee. This exercise will be discussion-based and designed to test decision-making, coordination, and information-sharing processes within the local emergency management framework.

2026 LEMC Tabletop Exercise – Hazard Options

#	Hazard Type	Lead Combat Agency (WA)	Local Context / Justification	Potential Exercise Focus Areas
□ 1	Tropical Cyclone / Severe Storm & Rainfall	DFES	High likelihood: One of WA's most cyclone-prone towns.	Warning dissemination, community communication, welfare centre activation, isolation, post-impact recovery transition.



			Flash flooding is possible from cyclonic systems and intense rainfall.	Road closures, evacuation, community isolation, logistics and supply chain continuity.
□ 2	Bushfire (Peri-Urban / Industrial Interface)	DFES / Shire	Moderate risk around outskirts and access tracks.	Command and control, resource coordination, evacuation triggers, welfare, loss of life.
□ 3	Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) / Industrial Incident	DFES	Port operations, fuel depots and transport corridors increase risk.	Scene management, plume modelling, shelter-in-place vs evacuation, impact on fisheries, public messaging.
□ 4	Structure Fire / Community Infrastructure Fire	DFES / Shire	Local risk to civic or community buildings.	Evacuation, mutual aid, welfare coordination, business continuity loss of community facilities and impacts on community
□ 5	Public Health Incident / pandemic and or Extreme Heat	Dept. of Health	Pandemic outbreak and heatwave threats.	Health messaging, welfare support, cooling Centres, vulnerable people plan, loss of life and community impact.
□ 6	Aircraft Crash (Charter or Civil)	WAPOL	Frequent FIFO and corporate flight activity	Scene control, mass-casualty coordination, fatality management, media and family liaison.
□ 7	Marine Oil Spill / Port Fire	Dept. of Transport / AMSA	Beadon Creek port, marine refueling and	Marine pollution response, environmental impact



	/ Vessel Incident		commercial operations.	control, public information
□ 8	Energy Supply Disruption / Power Station Failure	Horizon Power/ Rio Tinto	Onslow relies on hybrid power network; outages affect essential services.	Continuity of operations, generator activation, welfare centre operations, comms backup.
□ 9	Transport Emergency (Road Crash / Hazardous Cargo)	WAPOL / DFES	Heavy freight and fuel transport along Onslow Road and port corridors.	Multi-casualty response, road closures, coordination between agencies. Impact community
□ 10	Tsunami / Marine Inundation	DFES / BOM	Low likelihood, but possible due to coastal location.	Early warning, evacuation routes, community alerting, beach closure coordination. Flooding and impact to built infrastructure, loss of coastal habitat. Impact fisheries and tourism
□ 11	Animal / Biosecurity Incident	DPIRD	Livestock and zoonotic disease risk from pastoral and port movements.	Containment, public messaging, inter-agency coordination with Rangers / EHOs. Impact to local economy, reduced travel, longevity of control measure to become effective.
□ 12	Marine Search and Rescue	WA Police / AMSA	Popular recreational and	Multi-agency response coordination, welfare and next-of-kin liaison,



	(SAR) Incident)		commercial boating area.	loss of life, Impact to community.
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LEMC Discussion Purpose

To select one primary hazard for the March 2026 tabletop exercise, based on:

- Local likelihood and consequence
- Agency readiness and available resources
- Training or coordination gaps identified during 2025 incidents or meetings

LEMC Discussion and Decision Notes:

Selected Hazard:

Discussion Summary:

Recommendations / Actions: