



Balingup Progress Association

**Post Office Box 89, BALINGUP WA 6253
ABN 25 083 400 356**

Important Notice – Please Read.

ARE YOU READY FOR THE BUSHFIRE SEASON?

“If your plan is to stay and actively defend.....you need an independent water supply because public water supply and water pressure **cannot be guaranteed**”. (Water Corporation)

Mains power **cannot be guaranteed** (Western Power)

Mobile phones and landlines **cannot be guaranteed** (Telstra)

For updates on all community emergency warnings – go to www.emergency.wa.gov.au or download the Emergency WA App onto your phone.

BALINGUP HAS EMERGENCY PLANS IN PLACE COMMUNITY INFORMATION & SOCIAL CENTRE & NEIGHBOURHOOD PHONE TREE

The aim of the Community Information & Social Centre (CISCO) is to provide a venue where members of the community can gather together to provide mutual support during an emergency (could be during a fire, storm or major incident). A process is now in place to open the Balingup Recreation Centre for use as a CISCO when such support is required.

During bushfires and regional power outages, power may be lost, resulting in the loss of telecommunications (including copper landlines) after 4- 8 hours. There are systems in place to obtain a generator, however if it is a widespread power outage a generator cannot be guaranteed.

The CISCO will provide access to the following services:

- information and support
- air-conditioning, toilets and showers.
- Sky Muster pop-up internet and phone service which can be accessed from inside or outside the building. If we cannot get a generator, this will not be available.
- Note: Sky Muster does not support a traditional phone service – calls can only be made using internet based applications such as WhatsApp, Messenger, Facetime, Zoom, Skype etc. If you don't have these Apps on your phone, ask a friend to set up your phone now and explain it to you.
- CWA may be able to provide teas/light refreshments.

If we activate the CISCO, signs will be placed on the highway and we will advise local businesses.

If you decide to go to the CISCO please be aware:

- It is important you take your medication
- Small cats/dogs/pets that are safely contained in a cage/container will be permitted on the verandah. Large dogs/ other animals must be kept safely restrained outside/in cars.
- For your own comfort, consider bringing your own food and comfortable (portable) chair.

Note: The Recreation Centre is also designated as an Emergency Evacuation Centre. In the event that the Evacuation Centre was activated, the building would be handed over immediately to the Department of Community Services.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PHONE TREE

Balingup also has Neighbourhood Phone Trees where one volunteer in each street/area agrees to:

- Receive information from emergency agencies and pass that information on via their phone tree (word for word) and
- Let people know if/when the CISCO is opened.

Anyone wishing to be a Neighbourhood Phone Tree Coordinator should contact Wendy Trow (0457 404 571) or Anne Carrigg (0427 595 610)

The list of Neighbourhood Phone Tree Coordinators will be updated and displayed on local noticeboards in December. If no volunteers step forward, then that neighbourhood will not be covered.

It is the responsibility of community members to contact your local Phone Tree Person if you wish to be added to their list.