



Shire of
Nannup
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MINUTES

Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting

Monday 6 May 2024

Nannup SES, Sexton Way, Nannup

Unconfirmed copy

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**Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday 6 May 2024**

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY:

Meeting declared open at 7:00pm.

Welcome to country acknowledged by presiding member:

I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on, the Wardandi and Bibbulmun people. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and their contribution they make to the life of this region.

2. ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES:

2.1 Attendance

Councillors	Staff
Cr Cheryle Brown (Presiding Member)	Dale Putland – Acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
Cr Patricia Fraser (Deputy to Presiding Member)	Nathan Manning – Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM)
	Andrea Jenkins – Communications Officer (CO)
	Brent Pope - Ranger

Members (Full Voting rights)
Robin Mellema – Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (CBFCO)
Mark Scott – Balingup Road FCO/Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Paul Lamers – North Nannup FCO
Victor Lorkiewicz – East Nannup FCO
Gerald Brown – Cundinup FCO
Carey Curtis – Nannup Brook FCO

Other Attendees (Non-Voting rights)
Peter Thomas – District Officer - Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)
Helen Holzheuer – Parks and Wildlife, Blackwood District (DBCA)

2.2 Apologies

Councillors	Staff

Members (Full Voting rights)
John Patman –Darradup FCO/Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Andrew McNab – Scott River/Jasper FCO
John Jonker – Peerabeelup Coastal FCO
Peter Hastie – Carlotta FCO
Brett Fowler – Peerabeelup

Other Attendees (Non-Voting rights)
Ed Hatherley – District Park Coordinator, Blackwood District - Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)
Greg Hodgson – Fire Manager - Forest Products Commission (FPC)

3 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS:

Nil.

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

4.1 Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting – 5 February 2024

Motion

That the Minutes from the Bush Fire Advisory Committee held 5 February 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record (Attachment 4.1).

<i>MOVED</i> Mark Scott	<i>SECONDED</i> Nathan Manning
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CARRIED

5 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:

Nil.

6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES:

- 9.2** Ed Hatherley (DBCA) to communicate with Nathan Manning (CESM) regarding debrief details regarding Jalbarragup fire.
- 9.2** Andrew McNab (Scott River/Lake Jasper FCO) to send map of potential water source on Fouracres Road to Ed Hatherley (DBCA).

- 9.3** Greg Hodgson (FPC) to inform David Taylor (CEO) of upcoming harvesting operations when known.
- 11.1** Shire of Nannup to create a policy to compel landowners to attend a fire on their land once the running fire is out.
- 11.2** Shire of Nannup to liaise with and utilise the list of contractors that DBCA and FPC are creating and add local contractors to it.
- 11.2** Shire of Nannup to distribute firebreak contractors list to FCOs.
- 11.4** Darradup Bush Fire Brigade to create a document to assist in the setup of the other two fast fill trailers.
- 11.6** Shire of Nannup to organise a debrief for the Jalbarragup fire as used to occur where all brigades are invited.

Business arising from previous minutes taken as read.

7 REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

7.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

The Prohibited Burning Period has ended, and the Shire of Nannup is now in the Restricted Burning Period. It has been requested that the signs be changed.

Regarding permits, still act with caution with large log burns or wind rows and check that everything is in order prior to issuing a permit. The bush is wet, but the soil underneath is still dry.

Also, a reminder that the new Local Laws and the new regulations are still open for review if you have changes or recommendations to make.

7.2 Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officers

7.2.1 John Patman

NIL

7.2.2 Mark Scott

Referred to Attachment 7.3.1.

Mentioned his surprise that the Blackwood Valley Response Zone did not have a major incident this season.

7.3 Bush Fire Control Officers (FCO's)

7.3.1 Balingup Road (Attachment 7.3.1)

Referred to Attachment 7.3.1.

7.3.2 Carlotta (Attachment 7.3.2)

Peter Hastie is an apology, but his report was referred to (Attachment 7.3.2).

7.3.3 Cundinup

NIL

7.3.4 Darradup

NIL

7.3.5 East Nannup

There was lots of blue gum logging over the season but there were no issues associated with this.

7.3.6 Nannup Brook

The brigade attended the Waroona and Maidment Bridge incidents. There were three camp fire call outs. There was also one ride-on mower that caught fire, but this did not escalate as it was parked in a carport.

7.3.7 North Nannup

NIL

7.3.8 Peerabeelup

NIL

7.3.9 Peerabeelup Coastal

NIL

7.3.10 Scott River/Lake Jasper

NIL

8 REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

8.1 Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM)

Spoke to report as attached in Attachment 8.1.

Reiterated issuing permits with caution and making sure there is sufficient water.

Cr Patricia Fraser (Deputy to Presiding Member) questioned the incident Nathan Manning Spoke (CESM) spoke of on Vasse Highway, asking if it was a very hot day, would it be advisable to go on to the property, despite of risk, to tackle the fire. Dale Putland (Acting CEO) responded stating that safety must come first. He stated that if you are at risk, walk away. Call 000 and escalate it if you need to. Peter Thomas (District Officer DFES) added that you can flag properties of concern with COM CEN so it will automatically trigger a call to the police. This can be requested through Nathan Manning and Peter Thomas. Peter Thomas also advised that you should leave the immediate vicinity and continue to monitor the situation from a safe location until the Police arrive. Dale Putland added that the Shire of Nannup utilises the same process with the Ranger so police will attend with them.

Cr Cheryle Brown (Presiding Member) welcomed Brent Pope to the meeting with apologies for not doing so at the start of the meeting.

9 REPORTS OF OTHER ATTENDEES:

9.1 *Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Peter Thomas*

Spoke to report tabled.

Appreciation was extended to everyone who came out of the region to help with incidents. Peter Thomas stated that it had been a very challenging season and agreed with earlier comments regarding not becoming complacent. Two aircraft are based in Bunbury. They were scheduled to leave Wednesday 8 May but are now staying until Friday 10 May due to the weather forecast.

9.2 *Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, Helen Holzheuer (Attachment 9.2)*

Spoke to report (Attachment 9.2) adding that the Soil Drying Index (SDI) has dropped with the recent rains so prescribed burns are being considered for next week after Friday's rain. Vegetation stress is being taken into consideration and prescribed burns will not be in any areas showing significant stress. With regards to the SDI, the top layer is damp but underneath the soil is still quite dry so caution will be taken with areas that are targeted for burning.

Cr Patricia Fraser (Deputy to Presiding Member) questioned whether the trees will come back with the rain. Helen Holzheuer stated that it is hard to know and that studies are being done with varying opinions.

Robin Mellema (CBFCO) questioned if there are some areas on the map for prescribed burning that are not stressed. Helen Holzheuer answered that there are obvious areas that are very green. She stated that she went around McCorkhill, just off Jalbarragup Road, an area that has had a significant amount of rain. Digging into the soil found that the water had penetrated to about 300mm down so that will probably be one of the areas targeted next week.

9.3 *Forest Products Commission*

Nathan Manning (CESM) read from an email from Greg Hodgson (FPC) stating that they are proposing to do burns of a couple of piles in Old Folly/Folly. They are just waiting for some more rainfall to see how things go before they commit to the burns. If there is sufficient rainfall, they will look at burning in the next couple of weeks.

Cr Cheryle Brown (Presiding Member) asked if FPC will notify Nathan Manning of when the burns will be occurring and whether that information will be passed on to the FCOs.

Nathan Manning (CESM) stated that he would be notified and the information will be passed on to the FCOs.

Victor Lorkiewicz (East Nannup FCO) asked why 000 was not called with a recent fire up there. Nathan Manning (CESM) replied stating FPC contacted DBCA thinking the MOU is for private land as well. The duty officer at DBCA at the time said to FPC that it needed to go through DFES. DFES RDC was notified which notified Nathan Manning who then notified Mark Scott who then notified Victor Lorkiewicz. At this stage, Nathan Manning was made aware that the dozer had tracked around the fire and contained it, FPC had two slip ons and DBCA had a truck on the way. Nathan Manning liaised with Mark Scott and decided that further resources were not required for that fire. Further email correspondence has since occurred between departments regarding mobilisation processes. If FPC has a fire on their private plantation land it does need to go through 000 and DFES COM CEN.

Helen Holzheuer (DBCA) added that in the past, FPC had pines on DBCA land but now with FPC expanding their estate and planting on private property, as well as purchasing their own, the arrangements are not as clear anymore. Just because they are pines does not mean that DBCA will automatically respond. It depends on what tenure it is. Nathan Manning (CESM) added that private property responsibility is with the Local Government.

Helen Holzheuer (DBCA) added that it also depends how close it is to the DBCA estate. She also added that, as part of the Blackwood Valley Zone response, DBCA still has a responsibility to respond, but ultimately who is in charge will depend on the tenure.

Peter Thomas (District Officer, DFES) stated that going through 000 will trigger the Blackwood Valley Zone response and that is the best option unless intel says otherwise.

Robin Mellema (CBFCO) made sure to note that issues relating to Helen Holzheuer (DBCA) comments are being addressed through email correspondence. He also made sure to note information about the Blackwood Valley Zone Response be utilised as there is no point in having that plan and not implementing it.

10 STANDING ITEMS:

10.1 *Emergency Services Levy (ESL)*

Nathan Manning (CESM) reported that the last of the funding is still being spent on items such as PPE and respirators. Nathan Manning stated that if there are any faults on appliances to let him know.

11 GENERAL BUSINESS:

11.1 Mark Scott (Balingup Road FCO) stated that there is an expectation in the community that the memorandum of understanding (MOU) with DBCA will cross all tenures. Mark Scott believes the BFAC committee needs to bring this up with the two organisations. He expanded that the Blackwood Valley Zone Response normally finishes on the 1 April so if DBCA are not going to turn out to private property, but it is in FPC pines, he believes there will be reluctance from volunteers to turn out and help put the fire out.

Cr Cheryle Brown (Presiding Member) asked Dale Putland (Acting CEO) what the best way forward is for BFAC to bring this issue up with FPC and DBCA.

Dale Putland responded that it is a commercial agreement between FPC and DBCA. Now FPC are going into private property and planting their own plantations, it has extended into a commercial operation, the same as any other plantation owner. The agreement with DBCA is stated in FPC's Plantation Applications along with stating where their appliances are. The Shire of Nannup can write to the Minister and both heads of departments and question whether FPC is a private landowner, supplying their own equipment, or a government agency with a firm agreement to expand the DBCA fleet and personnel.

Mark Scott (Balingup Road FCO) added that there have been quite a few applications for planning permissions in the last eighteen months in Nannup for pines and he cannot remember if they stated they would have equipment. Mark Scott believes it was a mistake not to stipulate those organisations require their own equipment. Dale Putland added that they do say they have appliances, but they are located in other areas.

Cr Cheryle Brown (Presiding Member) and Dale Putland (Acting CEO) clarified that for BFAC to action this through the Shire a motion is required to clarify exactly what FPC supplies and whether the agreement with DBCA means that DBCA will turn up to any fire on FPC property.

Helen Holzheuer (DBCA) added that in the interim there is the Blackwood Valley Zone Response with most incidents occurring during the peak period the agreement is in. DBCA will respond with everyone else.

Peter Thomas (District Officer, DFES) asked if much of the plantation land is outside the Blackwood Valley Zone Response. Mark Scott responded that not much is. Peter Thomas indicated that meant a response was covered by the Blackwood Valley Zone Response with initial response from all departments.

Victor Lorkiewicz (East Nannup FCO) questioned whether the motion included plantations outside the Blackwood Valley Zone Response. Mark Scott clarified that it was asking about everything.

Motion

That the Shire of Nannup ask FPC and DBCA to clarify who is responsible for fires on privately owned FPC land and whether the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between FPC and DBCA is going to change to include private free hold title land.

<i>MOVED</i> Mark Scott	<i>SECONDED</i> Robin Mellema
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CARRIED

12 PROPOSED DATE FOR NEXT MEETING and AGM:

Monday 5 August 2024 starting at 7pm at the Nannup SES.

13 CLOSURE OF MEETING:

Meeting closed at 7:47pm.