# Shire of Nannup

# Minutes

## Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held Monday 11 November 2024

### Nannup SES, Sexton Way, Nannup

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# Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes Monday 11 November 2024

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

The Presiding Member Cheryle Brown declared the Meeting 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)	David Taylor – Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
	Kim Dolzaldelli – Executive Manager Corporate
	Services
Cr Patricia Fraser (Deputy to Presiding	Nathan Manning – Community Emergency
Member)	Services Manager (CESM)
	Lisa Atkinson – Executive Support Officer

Members (Full Voting rights)
John Patman – Darradup FCO/Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Mark Scott– Balingup Road FCO/Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Mike Vasey, North Nannup FCO/Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Gerald Brown – Cundinup FCO
Victor Lorkiewicz – East Nannup FCO
Nathan Manning - Nannup Townsite FCO/ CESM
Leigh Fletcher– Nannup Brook FCO

# Other Attendees (Non-Voting rights)Greg Hodgson – Forest Products Commission (FPC)Peter Thomas –District Officer – Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)

#### 2.2 Apologies

Members (Full Voting rights	:s)
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Peter Hastie, Carlotta FCO

John Jonker - Peerabeelup Coastal FCO

Brett Fowler – Peerabeelup FCO

Andre McNab – Scott River/Lake Jasper FCO

#### **Other Attendees (Non-Voting rights)**

Helen Holzheuer – Parks and Wildlife, Blackwood District (DBCA)

Ed Hatherley –Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)

Bryce Edwards – Forest Products Commission (FPC)

#### 3. PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS:

Nil.

#### 4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

#### 4.1 Bush Fire Advisory Committee Annual General meeting – 5 August 2024

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

#### \*Minutes are noted\*

# \*The minutes from the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Annual General meeting will be confirmed at the Annual General meeting in 2025\*

#### 4.2 Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting – 5 August 2024

That the Minutes from the Bush Fire Advisory Committee held 5 August 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record (Attachment 4.2).

MOVED Gerald Brown	SECONDED Mark Scott	
		CARRIED

#### 5. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:

Nil.

#### 6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES:

This item has moved to agenda item 10.2.

#### 7. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

#### 7.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

John Patman (CBFCO) reported a busy start to the season. In August 2024, there were two fires, a vehicle fire on the Brockman Highway and a caravan fire, where support was provided with water and area protection.

The Scott River fire is still ongoing. A call-out was also made for a tree fire in Jalbaragup after a resident conducted a hazard reduction burn. Nathan Manning also received a call around 1:30am on Monday, 3 November 2024.

Additionally, there was another fire on Brockman Highway at the Bridgetown Hill, which may still be burning. This type of fire occurs regularly every 1-3 years.

#### 7.2 Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Nil.

#### 7.3 Bush Fire Control Officer

#### 7.3.1 Balingup Road Bush Fire Control Officer

Mark Scott (Balingup Road FCO) announced that the Balingup Road Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Thursday 14 November 2024. It was noted that its not expected to be any changes.

#### 7.3.2 Carlotta Bush Fire Control Officer

Peter Hastie (Carlotta FCO) is an apology. Nathan Manning reported that Carlotta Bush held its AGM a few weeks ago and there were no changes.

#### 7.3.3 Cundinup Bush Fire Control Officer

Nil.

#### 7.3.4 Darradup Bush Fire Control Officer

John Patman (Darradup FCO) reported that there was a tree fire in Jalbaragup, a fire on Brockman Highway a fire on the Bridgetown hill and hazard reduction burns for some community members. There was a training exercise on 3 November 2024 attended by sixteen members. There was maintenance conducted on the Fire shed and some roof repairs.

#### 7.3.5 East Nannup Bush Fire Control Officer

Victor Lorkiewicz (East Nannup FCO) reported he attended the fire on the Bridgetown Hill. The East Nannup AGM will be held Friday 15 November 2024, its not expected there will be any changes.

#### 7.3.6 Nannup Brook Bush Fire Control Officer

Leigh Fletcher (Nannup Brook FCO) reported attending the fire on Brockman Highway. There will be some activities in the Nannup townsite before the restrictions are enforced. Mitigation works are being carried out. Some brigade members have completed training in forestry plantations and road driving courses. There has also been training on radio communication to improve skills. Contract work on the Nannup Brook Fire Shed has recently been completed.

#### 7.3.7 North Nannup Bush Fire Control Officer

Mike Vasey (North Nannup FCO) reported that the brigade has responded to several fires, including a caravan fire on the Brockman Highway, a log fire at the Nannup Waste Facility, a fire at Scott River, and a fire on Bridgetown Hill. They also conducted two controlled burns. The appliance is due for a general service but doesn't need any major repairs. All weigh-ins have been serviced in the last two weeks.

#### 7.3.8 Peerabeelup Fire Control Officer

Nil.

#### 7.3.9 Peerabeelup Coastal Fire Control Officer

Nil.

#### 7.3.10 Scott River/Lake Jasper Bush Fire Control Officer

Nil.

#### 8. REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

#### 8.1 Community Emergency Services Manager

Spoke to report as attached in Attachment 8.1

Nathan Manning (CESM) reported that the Bush Fire Awareness safety courses are finished. He also completed a Fire Fighting Skills course with a good turnout, mostly from Busselton. Additionally, a plantation fire fighting course was held in Nannup with FPC and Donna Virgo from the lower South West region, which also had a strong turnout.

Vehicle servicing has been busy recently. Carlotta 24 was sent for refurbishment, the Scott River light tanker was repaired after some issues, and the Cundinup light tanker is out of service due to a fault in its deluge system and wiring problems in the central console. All brigades that have crew protection systems in place, should check that the vehicle's deluge systems are working before the high-threat period. If there are any vehicle concerns or repairs, contact Nathan Manning. For urgent issues, the vehicle may need to be sent away during fire season; non-urgent can wait until after the season if it's not a safety issue.

There have been a couple of vehicle fires. A prescribed burn on private property near Scott River East escaped onto Department of Biosecurity Conservations and Attractions (DBCA) land. DBCA has provided a report with photos and slides, that are attached to the agenda. The Shire has worked closely with DBCA, and the fire is now contained and under control. Another infrared flight will be conducted to check for any remaining hotspots. The property owner has been advised to maintain fire breaks around any hotspots, which they have already done.

It's the start of the restricted burn period everyone should have up to date permit books, if not inform Nathan Manning and he can provide one.

Nathan reported that the Barrabup Road mitigation is complete on the road sides, including fire break access behind the Nannup SES building and the Shire waste facility. Chemical spraying is currently being finished. The Balingup-Nannup Road work was scheduled but has been delayed due to contractor issues. It's expected to happen within the next few months, though further delays are possible.

The State arial Fire Fighting dates have been published, Bunbury and Manjimup still have to be announced.

The Shire received a poster from Water Corp about accessing the town water supply for firefighting in case of an emergency. If needed, just call their emergency number. The poster was circulated to the FCO group. Contact Nathan if you have any questions.

John Patman (CBFCO) asked Nathan Manning (CESM) if the Cundinup vehicle has been returned? Nathan Manning (CESM) responded not yet. John Patman (CBFCO) asked when that might be? Nathan Manning (CESM) responded hopefully this week.

Leigh Fletcher (Nannup Brook FCO) asked Nathan Manning (CESM) if anyone has inspected the town's hydrants. Nathan Manning (CESM) replied that he wasn't sure if the town brigade or Water Corp had inspected them, he further added the gazetted fire district area states that the town brigade is responsible for the fire hydrants in town, while bush fire brigades are responsible for hydrants outside of the gazetted fire district. The hydrant outside Nannup Brook's Fire shed is working, and there aren't many underground hydrants outside of town. The Shire's hydrants are all working.

David Taylor (CEO), reported that an ISG meeting was held on 11 November2024 to discuss the Scott River Fire and that it was possible it could last through the summer. The meeting minutes will be shared with the Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC) once available.

Mark Scott (DBFCO) thanked Nathan Manning (CESM) and David Taylor (CEO) for organising the ISG meeting today. It was great to see that there a current template with all the current people that are involved.

#### 9. REPORTS OF OTHER ATTENDEES:

#### 9.1 Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)

Peter Thomas (DFES) thanked Nahan Manning (CESM) for organising the ISG meeting. It was good to get all the agencies together and a great effort

The dates for the aircraft arriving is 15 December 2024, 2 Helitax, 1 December 2024 large Airtanker. The date of the sea fixed wings in Manjimup and Bunbury has not been released yet, that will be advised once DBCA bring that on-line. There will also be two additional Black Hawks brought in and they will be based in the metropolitan areas.

DFES have prepared for the season by conducting an exercise in Margaret River to test the ICC at the SES. DFES will catch up Western Australian Police and DBCA in December 2024 to ensure everyone is aligned before the season begins.

To add further to Nathan Manning (CESM) point on the deluge, it's important to note that it's not just the deluge system that needs to be focused on. Everyone should be familiar with the burn-over procedure, fire safety protocols, pump operation, and water drafting techniques. Everyone should also ensure their up to date on available water supplies, as well as radios and communication plans. It's vital to understand the Blackwood Valley zone response, as it will be activated when we enter a the high-threat season. If FCOs require further information or assistance, they can reach out to Nathan Manning (CESM) or Peter Thomas (DFES).

### 9.2 Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) Report wad provided.

#### 9.3 Forest Products Commission (FPC)

Greg Hodgson (FPC) circulated a report to BFAC members in response to David Taylor (CEO) question about FPC's operations in the Shire of Nannup during Harvest season. The report outlines that there are currently nine operations in the Blackwood Valley, all of which are drought salvage operations. Some of these operations will cease in high-risk sites when the high threat period begins. There will still be some activity in the lower-risk areas throughout the three Shires. FPC will keep Nathan Manning (CESM) updated with the operations.

South Hampton, Milward, Maidment, Ellis, Thompson Brook and Ferndale plantations all have drought issues. All FPC operations will have mobile water tanks will be either a shipping container or a 20,000-litre portable poly tank. These are currently being located and filled with water.

FPC will use DBCA crews to commence mitigation work in and around the plantations during summer to upgrade water sources, road signage and support an effective response should a fire develop.

The tank on top of the Folloy has been serviced with a new lid and two new valves. FPC plan to overhaul about 14 tanks between Nannup and Balingup, in collaboration with DBCA.

All FPC's active operations appear on the DBCA Spatial Support platform with contact details for effective communications in the event of a bushfire.

FPC circulated its Fire Duty Office Roster for this summer to assist DBCA and local governments with potential incidents within the Shire this summer.

FPC will base its Fire Truck and 5 Operational Fire Staff (400L/Units) across the Blackwood valley area this summer to supervise operations and support bushfire response. Additional support is based in FPC work centres in Manjimup and Bunbury. FPC will also be registering 47 staff to participate on operational fire support roles with local governments, Forest Industries Fire Co Op and DBCA.

FPC's draft Plantation Fire Management Plan for the Nannup Shire is now close to completion for sharing with the CBFCO, CESM, DFES and DBCA. This document will capture all FPC's managed estate and the standing orders for a fire response based on the land tenure. It will align with DBCA's Regional Fire Preparedness and Response plans where FPC and DBCA share responsibilities. It will also identify and align with Shire BFRMP's for those new freehold plantations where FPC and the local shire share responsibilities for a bushfire response.

FPC are in the final stage of preparing individual *Fire Operations maps* for each plantation to share with FCO's Neighbours and other fire management stakeholders. FPC will be making these maps available on its external website via each local government for the public to access early in 2025. FPC will also be looking to add QR codes to the gate signs to access the maps with digital devices where there is adequate phone coverage.

At this stage FPC is looking to advertise the next round of community fire grants early in the new year. We are looking to improve the process to list those items that FPC has endorsed in previous years to help FCO'S / CESM'S complete the applications.

Bryce Edwardes (FPC) can now support DFES Trainers with delivery of Plantation Fire Fighting courses and other modules to help DFES meet training requests across the South West Regions.

Cr Brown (presiding member) asked Greg Hudson (FPC) when its expected that the map project to be complete. Greg Hudson (FPC) responded, the maps should be ready by the end of summer, Nannup is a priority the management plan will be completed and the maps will go with it.

#### **10. STANDING ITEMS:**

#### 10.1 Emergency Services Levy (ESL)

Nathan Manning (CESM) reported no change to the Emergency Service Levy. There are no new applications at this time. Spending is mainly on vehicle servicing, similar to last year. As the fire season nears its end, spending will focus on secondary items, following LGGS guidelines for brigades.

#### 10.2 Actions from previous meeting

David Taylor, CEO, provided an update on action item 7.2 regarding local police assistance. The police are unlikely to change their current stance on providing assistance and the situation may worsen going forward. The Shire will continue lobbying for change. Nathan Manning (CESM) added that the local police are part of a hub program. They share an on-call roster with two other Shires, Donnybrook and Capel. If a request meets certain criteria, a police car will be available 24/7, but it must go through their vetting and prioritisation process. Nathan Manning (CESM) added at the last meeting that if there is a threat to life, call 000 or contact Nathan Manning (CESM), the RDC, or COMCEN for police attendance. For non-urgent matters, police attendance may be delayed. If FCO's are aware of a problem at a property or there are crew safety issues, contact the police as soon as possible. If there's a history of aggression at a property, make sure to inform the authorities, evidence of past incidents will be required.

Mike Vasey (DCFO) asked Nathan Manning (CESM) if the golf course pump is working a to some level and what about the adaptors? Nathan Manning (CESM) responded that he has asked the Shire works depot to organise adaptors. It's been reported there are some flow issues, the pump may work but it's not certain if it will work for the fire trucks, drafting hoses could be used.

#### **11. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

**11.1** David Taylor, (CEO) spoke about FPC's plantation on the hill, noting they did a good job preparing the area and spraying it. It was noted next year, the Water Corp block at the centre of Tank 7 needs attention. Wild oats as tall as a door frame are growing, and since there are irrigation lines, it can't be burned or slashed, only sprayed. The roads around Tank 7, all the way to East Nannup Road, also need attention. The Shire faces similar issues, and it's a matter of timing as the weeds grew very quickly. He thanked FPC for their good preparation on the Folly.

Greg Hudson (FPC) responded to David Taylor (CEO) he advised he visited the site and agreed it looks good. He noted the concerns and explained FPC tried to get graders out, but the ground was too wet. In the east, sheep are used to control weeds once plantations reach 5 feet, but that's not possible in WA. Fire risk is a concern early on, it becomes less of an issue as the trees grow. After three years, the cycle of dry needles and fuels will start over.

David Taylor, CEO responded to Greg Hudson (FPC) were drones used for the spraying of the Folly. Greg Hudson (FPC) responded to David Taylor (CEO) the drones worked well, though he noticed some areas were missed.

**11.2** John Patman (CBFCO) asked David Taylor (CEO) Is the Shire currently considering the need for a Fire Inspector or Ranger to help identify hazards in the area and develop a plan to manage and reduce these risks?

Kim Dolzadelli (Shire of Nannup) introduced himself to the committee and responded to John Patman (CBFCO) The Ranger's role reports to me. Currently, fire break inspections are being handled by an existing staff member who will dedicate 3-4 days per week to the task. This person has not done inspections before but will be joining me and Nathan Manning (CESM) for training over the next two weeks to understand what is compliant and what is not. Initially, the focus will be on Nannup town site, which is not a major risk but will be quick to cover. After that, the focus will shift to North Nannup, then Jalbaragup, and other areas with concentrations of population, before moving out to larger areas.

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From the Shire's perspective, and personally, the work of the brigades is invaluable. If any FCO or brigade member is qualified to do inspections, the Shire will pay for those inspections. Nannup Shire has reached out to other Shires and the South West region are facing the same Ranger ,fire break issues. Another issue the Shire has not having s Ranger is dangerous dogs; but its hoped that will resolved soon. The Shire investigated using contractors, but the cost is \$150 per hour, plus travel and possible accommodation, which is not viable.

If FCOs or brigade members are aware of any non-compliant properties, contact Kim Dolzadelli on 0409 597 033 or advise if anyone is willing to take on paid work for fire break inspections.

John Patman (CBFCO) responded about a previous ranger's visit. They were driving to an incident where a tree had come down on some tracks. The Ranger had an overview map of the area with all the properties, and as they drove to the incident, 13 properties were pointed out along Johnston Road that were none compliant with fire breaks. Those properties were marked with a red cross on the map. That was provided to the Ranger for inspections. Kim Dolzadelli (Shire of Nannup) responded mapping assistance could be provided by the Shire.

John Patman (CBFCO) clarified that not every property needs to be visited—some noncompliant properties can be easily identified while driving down the road. Photos and other evidence will still be needed to send to the property owner. Kim Dolzadelli (Shire of Nannup) added that the Shire will handle all administrative processes, including issuing notices and following up on compliance. If any FCOs are interested, they just need to carry out the inspections, and the Shire will take care of the rest. Interested FCOs can contact the Shire office for more information

- 11.3 Vic Lorkiewicz (East Nannup FCO) raised concerns about the wild oats growing along East Nannup Road. He advised the Shire used to spray them but that did not happen this year. He also highlighted that the road from Gold Gully to Donnelly Village is nearly impassable due to deep holes and corrugation. This issue was raised three years ago and the Shire or DPIRD had the road graded. Kim Dolzaldelli (Shire of Nannup) asked if that was near the Donnolly River huts. David Taylor (CEO) clarified the road is called Stellar Road. Vic Lorkiewicz (East Nannup FCO) responded Gold Gully Road and Stellar Road are both in poor condition. He added if there was a fire at one of the buildings, it would take about 45 minutes to get there, but if the road were graded, the travel time could be reduced to half. Kim Dolzadelli (Shire of Nannup) responded the Shire of Nannup will follow up on the issue. David Taylor (CEO) noted that DBCA is responsible for that part of the road.
  - 11.4 Mark Scott (DBFCO) asked Nathan Manning (CESM) if the Shire would be receiving any highseason vehicles. Nathan Manning (CESM) responded that one vehicle has been allocated to Nannup Brook as it can be stored in their fire shed. He further added he spoke with Nathan Hall about an additional appliance, a secondary vehicle will be a priority 2 or 3, and there may be an additional light tanker at some point we will have to wait for the official list.

Mark Scott (DBFCO) asked Nathan Manning (CESM) about the new Fire Behaviour Index, which replaced last year's Fire Danger Index for harvests. He added it seems more complicated and requested clearer guidance. Nathan Manning (CESM) responded he thought it might be similar to last year. Mark Scott (DBFCO) requested that for an email to be circulated to FCOs with the current details, so everyone is informed.

Mark Scott (DBFCO) also asked Nathan Manning (CESM) if daily weather forecasts from DFES would be available. Peter Thomas (DFES) responded that these stopped not last season but the season before, due to low interest and several challenges. He added there are other ways to access weather information but the weather can vary significantly across the Shire.

Greg Hudson (FPC) responded advising of an operation north of Perth and that they're in talks with the local CESM in Vicplains Shire about a private weather system called Wildeye. Wildeye connects to other weather stations and provides detailed, live intel, mainly for farmers. It has a great dashboard but requires a subscription to access the service.

#### **12. PROPOSED DATE FOR NEXT MEETING:**

Monday 3 February 2025 starting at 7pm at the Nannup SES.

#### **13. CLOSURE OF MEETING:**

Meeting closed at 7.55pm

#### Attachments

Attachments	Title
4.1	Minutes from the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Annual General Meeting held 5 August 2024
4.2	Minutes from the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held 5 August 2024
10.2	Actions from previous meeting 5 August 2024