



Shire of
Nannup
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Shire of Nannup

Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting

Committee Meeting held
Monday 8th June 2020
at 7.00pm in Council Chambers
at the Nannup Shire Office

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS

(CS) declared BFAC meeting open at 7:00pm (1900hrs)

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES

Attendees

(CS) Catherine Stevenson (Chair) - Councillor
(RM) Robin Mellema – Chief Bush FCO
(AK) Ashley Kidd – Deputy Chief BFCO
(JP) John Patman - DCBFCO
(MS) Mark Scott – Balingup Road FCO
(IW) Ian Wishart – Carlotta FCO
(GB) Gerald Brown – Cundinup FCO
(VL) Vic Lorkiewicz – East Nannup FCO
(CC) Carey Curtis – Nannup Brook FCO
(PL) Paul Lamers – North Nannup FCO
(AMc) Andrew McNab – Scott River FCO
(PF) Patricia Fraser – Councillor
(AT) Andy Thompson – DFES District Officer Capes
(JJ) Jonathan Jones – Infrastructure Manager
(LF) Leigh Fletcher – Acting CESM
(GH) Greg Hodgson – FPC
(JG) John Gaunt – Peerabeelup FCO

Apologies

(PT) Peter Thomas – DFES
(RB) Rob Bootsma - CESM
(JG) John Gaunt – Peerabeelup FCO
(DT) David Taylor – CEO
(MV) Mike Vasey – North Nannup Deputy FCO
(HH) Helen Holzheuer – DBCA
(JB) Jeffrey Bennett – DBCA Donnelly
(EH) Ed Hatherley – DBCA Blackwood
(DS) Darrel Skey – North Nannup Logistics Officer

3. THANKS AND RECOGNITION

The chair personally thanked the acting CESM Leigh Fletcher for stepping up and offering to carry out the role Shire of Nannup CESM at such short notice.

The chair welcomes Peter Hastie (Carlotta Captain) to the meeting.

4. PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Deputy chief bush fire control officer (AK) formally announces through the chair his resignation as deputy. The chair accepted the DCBCO's resignation from the role.

This announcement initiated the nomination and voting of a new deputy chief bush fire control officer.

Motion

That Robin Mellema be nominated as Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Moved: John Patman

CARRIED

Seconded: Mark Scott

Motion

That Mark Scott be nominated as Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Moved: Gerald Brown

CARRIED

Seconded: Ashley Kidd

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(CS) requested confirmation that the previous meeting minutes were a true and correct record.

Motion

“The Minutes of the Bushfire Advisory Meeting of the Shire of Nannup held in the Council Chambers on 3rd February 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record”

Moved: Ian Wishart

CARRIED

Seconded: Ashley Kidd

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

6.1 (MS) “The shire investigates the possibility of charging property owners the costs associated with controlling a fire attended by shire brigades for cost recovery”

(Shire response) if the property owner's actions were deemed to be negligent, causing significant damage to property or physical harm. The shire has the option of enacting S28 (4) (5) of the Bush fires Act 1954 (please see attached) to seek cost recovery from the owner of lands.

- 6.2 (MS) That Council investigates the impact and feasibility of adopting “DBCA & FPC harvesting operator plantation guidelines in private plantation industry”.

(Shire response) In Progress: further discussions required between DFES, FIFWA and private plantation owners to encourage them to be proactive with their operations, offering points of contact, harvest plans and dates etc. MOU’s and Guidelines in private industry cannot be legally enforced only agreed upon by respective parties. Should one or more parties fail to abide by the terms of an MOU and agreement cannot be reached the MOU becomes null and void. The Shire can only encourage parties to agree and abide by any MOU developed and applied.

- 6.3 (MS) That Council revises the requirements for Woodchip waste sites as per the Plantation Fire Managers Agreement currently endorsed by Forest Industries Federation WA (FIFWA). This revision will be included within the Fire Break and Hazard Reduction Notice issued as at 1 July 2020.

(Shire response) Discussion’s with the respective parties will commence as soon as practicable with regard to the current MOU’s and Plantation Managers Agreement that are to be revised prior to 20th October 2020. Reference to MOU’s and Plantation Managers Agreement may be incorporated in future Fire Break and Fuel Hazard Reduction Notice.

- 6.4 The chair asked (MS) Balingup FCO if the Shire of Nannup had answered his questions (MS) answered that *“they answered most of my questions”*.

CESM received further SMS correspondence from MS outlining his thoughts in respect to management of trash heaps stating *“I personally do not support the shire providing any advice or assistance (even contractor lists) other than compliance to land holders. CESM responded “The Shires intent is to act in accordance with and pursuant to the Bush Fire Act however the shire is actively open to alternative options of mitigating the risk”*.

7. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

- 7.1 Deputy chief bush fire control officer (AK) formally announces through the chair his resignation as deputy. This announcement initiates the nomination and voting of a new deputy chief bush fire control officer.

- 7.2 Chief bush fire control officer election. (RB) nominated by (JP) seconded by (MS). Chair declares (RB) as CHIEF BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICER.
- 7.3 Deputy Chief bush fire control officer election. (MS) nominated by (GB) seconded by (AK) Chair declares (MS) as deputy BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICER.
- 7.4 FCO election item removed from this agenda as FCO positions are nominated and voted separately and endorsed by council.

8. REPORTS

8.1 Chief BFCO

- (RM) to provide report via email. At time of writing awaiting report.
- (RM) thanked FCO's for covid – 19 responses.
- (RM) advised that they opened the restricted burning period was shortened by 16 days.
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- Fire in the Folly from sources said it started at the Biomass area near Brockman Highway and east of the large dam in the creek line. A harvesting contractor called 000.
- (RM) thanked all volunteers and agencies with the response and managing to stop the fire spreading any further. The Blackwood Valley Zone Response BVZR plan worked very well with mobilising all 3 Local Government volunteers and appliances together with DFES, DBCA, Air Support, FPC, SES, other agencies and volunteers including Shire of Nannup employees and staff.

8.2 Deputy Chief BFCO

- (AK) advised of attendance at the ROAC meeting 27th February, and out of that meeting advised FCO's present of the Aurora fire calculator, the BVR response the availability to W.A of the large air tanker. The strategic aerial survey noise testing of light vehicles, the autumn timing of prescribed burns, and the Scott respirators no longer being manufactured.

8.3 Deputy Chief BFCO

- Nothing to report.

8.4 FCO Reports

8.4.1 Balingup Road (MS)

Advised would supply CESM with written notes.

Raised issue of unprofessional burns at Brushtail Road (Maidments Bridge).

8.4.2 Carlotta (IW)

- Nothing to report

8.4.3 Cundinup (GB)

Requested Cundinup BFB Shed progression update.
Advised of Cundinup light tanker response to the Cundinup fires.

8.4.4 Darradup (JP)

- Briefed those in attendance of the recent fire on private property in the Folly.

8.4.5 East Nannup (VL)

- Report on work at the BFB shed is progressing with quick fill availability in place.
- (VL) commented that when a fire is in a private plantation that DBCA should have been notified. North Nannup FCO (CC) advised that DBCA Had been notified.
- Regarding motions to Council can brigades get some feedback.
- (CS) informed (VL) and other members, all motions are generally accepted if motions are not members would be notified or provided by the minutes of Council.

8.4.6 Nannup Brook (CC)

- Nannup Brook FCO advised that commsen not contacted in respect to the tank 7 fire on Saturday 7th June but did advise DBCA notified, light tanker responded.

8.4.7 North Nannup (PL)

- Nothing to report

8.4.8 Peerabeelup – (JG)

No report

8.4.9 Scott River (AMc)

- Nothing to report

8.5 Councillor – No report

8.6 (AT) Refer DFES LSW Regional Report 8th June Attached

8.7 (GH) FPC commented on the Lewana/Ferndale fire management plan and the intent to rigorously review the plan

- (GH) Advised on the introduction of a specific plantation pine species that carry reduced fuel loads, areas for such are yet to be designated.
- (GH) Advised on the upgrade of FPC appliances, allocations to Harvey, Bunbury and Collie.
- (GH) Briefed on the overhaul/maintenance of 30 water tanks within the LSW region.
- (GH) Commented on training for FPC and Parks and Wildlife regarding introductory course for bush firefighting.

Motion

“The reports are accepted as read”

Moved: Mark Scott
Seconded: Ian Wishart

CARRIED

9. STANDING ITEMS

- 9.1 ESL YTD Finance report provided

10 GENERAL BUSINESS

- (CS) The chair advised that time frames for BFAC motions would need to be tracked via a resolution tracker format and is to be used in all future recording of questions and motion from BFAC members
- (MS) Commented on the letter from the previous minutes regarding the residents of Balingup Road and the requirement to review industry standards and practices.
- (AMc) Enquired on the implementation Group SMS (proposed opt in system) to provide up to date information with regard to HVMB i.e.; when the season opens. (AMc) referred to Other Shires adopted systems and the Nannup District High Schools current system. (LF) advised that the Shire will investigate options and report at the next BFAC meeting. (JP) advised the group that he was not in support of the SMS mail out system as the potential volume of SMS that would need to be sent.
- (CS) Advised that Total Fire Ban notifications are clearly a DFES issue and not aligned with local government chain of communications and concerns raised by the community. (CS) suggested placing additional information in the 20/21 Fuel reduction and Fire break notice re; DFES Changes to bush fire regulations 1954 relating to total fire ban activities, a guide for business, industry and public authorities, pg5.
- (MS) emailed the shire to be proactive in relation to the burning of trash piles on Zircon Road area and would love to see the Shire being proactive

in getting these burnt (LF) advised that I had made contact with the owner and intended to enforce the bush fires act and impose possible penalties and discussed options with the owner and suggested contractors and/or FCO's be engaged, FCO;s indicated that they would not support their involvement (MS) argued that the Shire take a regulatory stance only. Following this there was discussion suggested the implementation of cut off dates e.g.; Boyup Brook Shire was the 31st August (MS) suggested the 31st September due to differing weather zones. (AT) suggested that the shire of Nannup Stipulate a date to have heaps managed by. Shire officers to investigate and report at next BFAC meeting.

General discussion over circumstances and response surrounding the tank 7 fire on Saturday the 7th June.

Motion

That the Shire of Nannup officers present to the BFAC committee a fire break inspection plan outlining how the Shire intends to carry out and follow through with its fire break inspections prior to the 20/21 bush fire season. Shire officers to formulate a plan as requested and present at next BFAC meeting.

Moved: John Patman
Seconded: Mark Scott

CARRIED

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8. **DATE FOR NEXT MEETINGS PROPOSED**
Monday 3rd August 2020 at 7:00pm.
 9. **CLOSURE OF MEETING**
8:52pm (2052hrs)

CESO

From: MELLEMA Robin [Nannup District High School]
<Robin.Mellema@education.wa.edu.au>
Sent: Monday, 15 June 2020 8:54 AM
To: CESO
Subject: CBFCO report June 2020

Chief Bushfire Control Officer Report June 2020

Welcome to our deferred BFAC meeting.

We had to delay our meeting due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

The consequences of Covid 19 were:-

- Closure of permits throughout this period.

- No training throughout this period.

- No trucks used throughout this period.

There were a number fires throughout the Shire since our last BFAC meeting. These are reported in the FCO reports.

Our unrestricted season opened 16 days earlier due to a good break to the season. There was however, a Total Fire Band imposed over the weekend of the 22nd through to 25th May due to the severe weather conditions forecast at the time.

This did raise issues with regard to getting this information out into the community as not all of the public listen to ABC radio or look at the DFES website.

There have been suggestions of investigating an SMS system or even adding information to our fuel reduction notice. On our fuel reduction notice it has been suggested that we could add that any landowner wishing to carry out a burn should check the DFES website prior to lighting up. This would place some responsibility back on the landowner in order to minimise a lack of awareness in regards to any warnings issued by DFES.

The Shire has applied for four handheld radios plus accessories for the CBFCO, DCBFCO and a backup unit.

Ashley Kidd

From: Manjimup Reception [Manjimup.Reception@dfes.wa.gov.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 25 February 2020 11:05 AM
To: Adam Jasper; Alan Guthrie; Andrew Hunt; Ashley Kidd DCBFCO Nannup; Ben Anderson - BBK (brpc@dardanup.wa.gov.au); MOORE Blake; Brad Barton P & W; Brad Wren DCBFCO Manjimup; BRANDRETT Philip; Brett Trunfull DCBFCO AMR; Chris Payne DCBFCO CoBusselton; Chris Sousa - Bridgetown; cbfco; David Tooke DCBFCO Donnybrook; FEENEY Greg; HAMLIN Gregory; Greg Kennedy DCBFCO Bridgetown; HALL Nathan; HAMLIN Joy; Hugh Browne Zone Rep Bridgetown; Ian Ralph DCBFCO Donnybrook; Jess Cooper - Donnybrook; John Patman DCBFCO Nannup; Lyndon Pearce DCBFCO Bridgetown; Manjimup Reception; Max Walker CBFCO Donnybrook; Michael Campbell CBFCO Bridgetown; Oscar Negus DCBFCO CoBusselton; FORD Pam; POWIS Charlotte; Remo Pessotto CBFCO Manjimup; Rob Bootsma - Nannup; Robin Mellema CBFCO Nannup; Ron Bingham DCBFCO Boyup Brook; Rural Fire; Ryan Butler; RYAN Paul; Steve Pickering BY Fibre Plantations; THOMAS Peter; Todd Ridley - Manjimup; Tristan Mead CBFCO Boyup Brook; VIRGO Donna; WARD Steven
Subject: ROAC action item #7 (26/06/2019)

Dear ROAC Members,

Below is the link to the Aurora Fire Behaviour Calculator that was an Action Item from 26 June 2019 (Busselton).

The Fire Behaviour Calculator can be accessed from the following web address:

<https://aurora.landgate.wa.gov.au/fbc/#/>

Regards,
Rebecca

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Lower South West Regional Office and Operations Centre

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FOR A SAFER STATE



Shire of Nannup BFAC Meeting

DFES LSW Region Report – 8th June 2020

- **DFES LSW Incidents & Arrangements**

The state had its first decent storm impact our region from the 5th to the 6th of May. This created some wide spread damage to both homes, businesses, infrastructure and caused the blockage of several roads from fallen trees.

DFES LSW had staff and volunteers on standby to assist in both incident management and running of the Regional Operation Centre in Manjimup.

Local SES crews received 52 Requests for Assistance (RFA). 35 were completed by SES teams, 17 cancelled / referred / rejected for various reasons.

Most calls were for roof damage or fallen trees, ranging from replacing the water tank inspection hatch for an elderly caller, to making safe and tarping an entire farm house near Donnybrook.

There has also been an increase in structure fires around the Busselton area with a total of 12 for this calendar year.

- **Training**

The Region has had to cancel some of its courses due to Covid19, a plan was put into place to reinstate training and investigate possible alternative training options like utilising web-based platforms to deliver courses.

Several volunteers were required to complete their annual Breathing Apparatus refresher. Due to the restrictions with Covid19 this made it a challenge, so a trial web-based session has been conducted with great success.

An initiative in sending out training themes to volunteers with articles to read and videos to watch has also been implemented. This allowed volunteers stuck at home to still be involved in brigade training and maintain enthusiasm.

- **DFES Regional Staff**

Regional staff had split into two teams, this was initiated to restrict the potential of an outbreak in the LSW which could have affected DFES operational capability. The teams were rostered 2 days in the office and 2 days at home, minimising contact between members however still maintaining service delivery.

Since the easing of restrictions, we have now returned to our normal working arrangements.

Manjimup District has had a change in titles for the fire managers,

DO Manjimup is now known as DO Nelson
AO South is now known as AO Warren/Blackwood



Chris Sousa was successful in obtaining the position of AO Warren Blackwood. Bridgetown Shire is currently identifying a temporary replacement for Chris old job as the CSM for Bridgetown.

- **Blackwood Valley Zone Response**

DO Nelson (Steve Ward) is currently reviewing the Blackwood Valley zone response with some minor changes that will be communicated to all prior to next season.

- **Burn Smart Campaign**

The Burn SMART campaign was created after an Office of Bushfire Risk Management investigation into escaped private planned burns in the South West and Great Southern Regions in May 2018.

The campaign is not about discouraging people from conducting planned burns. Instead it aims to improve people's perceived personal risk and sense of accountability when lighting a fire.

It recognises that it is essential for private property landholders to take responsibility to reduce fuel on their property.

The Burn SMART campaign material includes regional radio and social media and online advertising. It is accompanied by educational resources developed by the Bushfire Centre of Excellence to guide landholders in undertaking planned burns. This information is available on the DFES Website and the Volunteer Hub.

- **Volunteers**

To keep our volunteers up to date we have been conducting weekly teleconferences to supply the latest Covid19 news and any changes in our operating procedures. These have proved to be very successful with a nearly 100% attendance by Brigades from both the VFRS and SES.

During the main stages of the Covid19 restrictions brigades had limited the activities on stations to essential checks and incident response only. Training and other meetings had been cancelled. Cleaning and social distancing measures were adopted with an audit of all PPE conducted. In the last few weeks we have been able to retract some of these conditions allowing brigades to resume training and other activities, if they meet the social distancing guidelines.

Andy Thompson

A/District Officer Capes - LSW