



# Minutes

**Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday 8 November 2022**

**Council Chambers, 15 Adam Street, Nannup**

UNCONFIRMED COPY

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## Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda Tuesday 8 November 2022

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

The Presiding Member Councillor Brown declared the meeting open at 5:31pm.

The Presiding Member Councillor Brown acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land, the Wardandi and Bibbulmun people; paying respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

### 2. ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES:

#### 2.1 ATTENDANCE

Councillors	Staff
Cr Cheryle Brown (Presiding Member)	Kellie Jenkins – Manager Corporate Services/Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Cr Patricia Fraser (Deputy to Presiding Member)	Roz Edwards - Ranger

Members (Full Voting rights)
Robin Mellema – Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
John Patman – Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and Darradup Bush Fire Control Officer
Mark Scott – Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and Balingup Road Bush Fire Control Officer
Mike Vasey – North Nannup Bush Fire Control Officer
Peter Hastie – Carlotta Bush Fire Control Officer
Vic Lorkiewicz – East Nannup Bush Fire Control Officer
John Jonker – Peerabeelup Coast Proposed Bush Fire Control Officer

Other Attendees (Non-Voting rights)
Ed Hatherley - Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)
Stephen Mills – District Fire Coordinator Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)
Gregg Hodgson – Forest Products Commission
Hamish Robinson – Nannup Brook Capital
Glen Delbridge – Darradup Capital

## 2.2 APOLOGIES

Councillors	Staff
Nil	Leigh Fletcher – Community Emergency Services Officer

Members (Full Voting rights)
Brett Fowler – Peerabeelup Bush Fire Control Officer
Carey Curtis – Nannup Brook Bush Fire Control Officer
Gerald Brown – Cundinup Bush Fire Control Officer
Andrew McNab – Scott River/Lake Jasper Bush Fire Control Officer

Other Attendees (Non-Voting rights)
Peter Thomas – District Officer for Emergency Management - Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)
Helen Holzhuier – District Fire Coordinator Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)

## 3. PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS:

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Nil.

## 4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

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### 4.1 Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting – 9 August 2022

<b><i>MOVED MIKE VASEY</i></b>	<b><i>SECONDED JOHN PATMAN</i></b>
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***That the Minutes from the Bush Fire Advisory Committee held 9 August 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record (Attachment 4.1).***

***CARRIED***

## 5. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:

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Nil.

## 6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES:

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**6.1** Leigh Fletcher mentioned the conversation with Mark Scott regarding the Shires support in the acquisition of an additional Incident Control Vehicle – In progress.

**6.2** Overview of the proposed changes to the Fuel Hazard Reduction & Firebreak Notice with an emphasis placed on unmanaged land and variations to firebreaks with a trial of 125mm in fuel load height. BFAC motioned to Council that the Bushfire Risk Compliance Notice be published in the Government Gazette, local newspaper and distributed to ratepayers, motioned was moved and carried. - Closed

**6.3** Councillor Brown raised the recent time frame changes to BFAC meetings and suggested the circulation of a survey. The Majority mentioned that the earlier meetings would suit most. Robin Mellema mentioned other Stakeholders and their input. Robin Mellema suggested the survey include Staff, Volunteer and Visitors availability for days and times. – In progress

### 6.3.1 Motion

<b><i>MOVED COUNCILLOR CHERYLE BROWN</i></b>	<b><i>SECONDED JOHN PATMAN</i></b>
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<b><i>That the next meeting is held on Monday 6 February 2023 until a survey can be completed.</i></b>
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**CARRIED**

**6.4** Robin Mellema asked the outcome of the escaped burn under permit. Roz Edwards replied that the permit was unclear on fire break requirements. Outcome was that the landowner would carry out future burns in conjunction with permit requirements and the assistance of the local brigade. - Closed

**6.5** Nathan Hall (DFES LSW) presented the new AFDRS Australian Fire Danger Rating System model.

Nathan Hall mentioned the changes set for implementation on the 1 September 2022 and the improvements and impacts it will have on the way that Shire and DFES officers calculate fire risk, fire danger ratings, fire behaviour, fuel types and curing rates of vegetation and the ability to share the information with stakeholders and the community. How these changes affect the implementation of Harvest Vehicle Movement Bans (HVMB) and Total Fire Bans (TFB) by the Local Government. Training will be available to volunteers through DFES eAcademy training platform from September 1.- Closed

## 7. REPORTS OF MEMBERS:

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### **7.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer**

Attended a couple of incidents, one being an arson incident.

### **7.2 Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer**

Thanked all for Balingup road attendance.

### **7.3 Bush Fire Control Officer**

#### **7.3.1 Balingup Road Bush Fire Control Officer**

AGM held last night and all officers remain in the same positions.

#### **7.3.2 Carlotta Bush Fire Control Officer**

AGM has been held since last meeting and all officers remain in the same positions. Attended a couple of exercises.

#### **7.3.3 Cundinup Bush Fire Control Officer**

Nil

#### **7.3.4 Darradup Bush Fire Control Officer**

Has attended a couple of training burns. Issued 10 permits.

#### **7.3.5 East Nannup Bush Fire Control Officer**

AGM meeting has been held and all officers remain in the same positions.

Donnelly river chalets do not have a FCO so they are coming to East Nannup for permits.

Gold Gully Road is dangerous and neither Shire nor DBCA will address the road condition. This will add 30mins plus if called out. Willow springs to East Nannup can we get a grader to smooth road. Ed Hatherley (Blackwood DBCA) - suggested the committee write to DBCA as an issue because it is their responsibility.

<b>MOVED MARK SCOTT</b>	<b>SECONDED ROBIN MELLAMA</b>
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<b><i>That the BFAC committee write to DBCA to request an update on the status of Gold Gully Road.</i></b>
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**CARRIED**

### **7.3.6 Nannup Brook Bush Fire Control Officer**

Nil

**7.3.7 North Nannup Bush Fire Control Officer**

Has issued a couple of permits. Held of memorial for Mick on Sunday evening

**7.3.8 Peerabeelup Fire Control Officer**

Nil

**7.3.9 Peerabeelup Coastal Fire Control Officer**

Attended DBCA fire. They don't issue permits because the region is managed through DBCA. Stephen Hill confirmed DBCA management.

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

Nil

**8. REPORTS OF OFFICERS:**

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**8.1 Community Emergency Services Officer**

Nil

**9. REPORTS OF OTHER ATTENDEES:**

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**9.1 Department of Fire and Emergency Services**

Nil

**9.2 Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions**DBCA Donnelly Stephen Mills

A couple of burns in Andrew are prepared and ready to go. Season has been put back due to weather. 12 new seasonal so lacking experience to man the trucks. Blackwood have 9 or 10 pilots now based in Manjimup, next meeting on Friday in relation to training, processes etc. FCO requesting water bombers go through the duty officers.

DBCA Blackwood Ed Hatherly

Burning planned for Cundinup road – Rosa Glen. Robin asked if they can Clean up tree signs etc .

**9.3 Forest Products Commission**

Align operation directions with the new AFR. Plantation guidelines produced by DFES for freehold land (green booklet) being reviewed – how to manage Debrey heaps after plantations. Plantations DFES training module is being review using knowledge to produce a



comprehensive training document. Mostly focused on bluegums and pine. Well received from Boyup Brook who assisted with refining the training material. Has been distributed to DFES regions for brigades to undertake the training.

Push forward with the government transitions and what it means for FPC staff. Undertaking some trials to see if commercial.

Increase in Land acquisition following the roll out of \$350m transition expansion – properties (previously had plantations) wanting to sell to hand over the plantations.

Attending integration exercise.

Question from Vik in relation to the blocks returning to plantations – will this create a fire hazard? Response from Gregg - comes down to the fire mitigation processes ie firebreaks.

Question from Roz in relation to the FPC standards being different to Shire Notice – will they come with Bush Fire Management Plan? Response from Greg - they do have a Bush Fire Management Plan.

Greg asked why the Shire plantations notices don't align with the industry standards (DFES). No response.

Attachment 9.3.1

## **10. STANDING ITEMS:**

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### **10.1 *Emergency Services Levy (ESL)***

2021/22 Expenditure – Acquittal submitted

2022/23 Expenditure – current budget \$188,186.

### **10.2 *Resolution Tracker***

Operational and updated - Noted

### **10.3 *Mitigation Activity Fund (MAF)***

2021/2022 Mitigation Program – Mechanical works completed 4 treatments.

Jon mentioned - Darradup work was really good up to 20 meters into the forrest.

## **11. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

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- 11.1 Peter Hastie requests clarification on how do references to the old Bush Fire Danger ratings in the Bush Fires Act, under which FCOs must operate, notably in relation to permits and there relation to the new Bush Fire Ratings. The background on this is the ACT forbids a Permit Holder from lighting a fire when, under the old system the rating was Very High or Extreme. The new rating is Moderate, High, Extreme, and

Catastrophic. Which rating is now the point which a permit holder cannot commence a burn?

Roz confirmed that on permits under other conditions - when rating hits high all permits are cancelled and fire to be extinguished. HVMB will be called when rating high. And TFB if extreme.

<b>MOVED MARK SCOTT</b>	<b>SECONDED JOHN PATMAN</b>
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<b><i>Seeking clarification on the application on HVMB under the new fire danger-rating scheme. How it effects the wording on the fire permits.</i></b>
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**CARRIED**

Action: Shire (CESM) to look into issuing new permit booklets.

Action: Shire (CESM) to distribution clarification on HVMB to be distributed to FCO's.

- 11.2 Mike Vasey recently received a query from a brigade member about an ABC Report dated 21/09/22. The report is in regard to a court case surrounding a Queensland firefighter be assaulted by a landowner after having responded to a 000 callout during their prohibited season, the assault resulted in the Fire Fighter being seriously injured. At present, the courts have deemed the volunteer not to be a public servant. A query presented itself as to how volunteers stand in WA. (Attachment 11.2.1 and 11.2.2).

Action: FCOs to circulate to brigades as FYI.

- 11.3 Amendments to the Burning of Garden Refuse and Camp Fires for the Purposes of Cooking following the changes to the National AFDRS as the rating of Very High in no longer categorised. (Attachment 11.3.1).

Mike Vasey requested Shire let Caravan Park know of the new regulations. Roz confirmed Shire will send to caravan and accommodation places.

- 11.4 Lower South West 2022/23 High Season Fleet allocation, Cundinup LT from early November to the 15 May, Nannup Brook 2.4 or 3.4 from 31st December to the 15 April.
- 11.5 Motion

<b>MOVED MARK SCOTT</b>	<b>SECONDED MIKE VASEY</b>
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<b><i>BFAC recommendation that Council endorsed the following until revoked or no</i></b>
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***longer hold their positions:***

- 1. Bush fire Control Officer Brett Fowler for the Peerabeelup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade.***
- 2. Coastal Bush Fire Control Officer John Jonker for the Peerabeelup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade.***

***CARRIED***

11.6 – Mark asked if private response stickers can be issued before the fire season.

Action: Shire (CESM) to issue stickers

11.7 – Mike Vasey mentioned he and Leigh have been conducting Bush fire safety and awareness training. No training currently planned but can be arranged with interest – forward participant’s names to Mike Vasey or Leigh Fletcher. The training is held over 2 weekends back to back

11.8 - Peter Hastie asked Ed (DBCA) if pilots report smoke. Ed confirmed they do report smoke to the Duty Officer and then administration cross check with database.

DBCA should now be Blackwood Busselton or Donnelly Pemberton not Kirup –

Action: Shire (Ranger) will re-send information out.

11.9 - John Patman enquired to the chief and deputy chief receiving honorarium. This was passed at BFAC 2 – 3 years ago - \$750 (Deputy) and \$1500 (Chief).

Action: Shire (CESM) to follow up honorarium.

John will be on holidays till 5 December – all permits referred to the Shire.

11.10 – DBCA in transition to have a permanent crew located in Nannup - 2 trucks and 6 personnel.

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

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Monday 6 February 2023 commencing at 5.30pm

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

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Closed 6.53pm