



Minutes

Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting

Monday 6 February 2023

Council Chambers, 15 Adam Street, Nannup

Unconfirmed copy

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Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes Monday 6 February 2023

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

Welcome to country acknowledged by presiding member.

Thanks and appreciation to Robert Bootsma. With the recent passing of Robert Bootsma, the Committee would like to show its thanks and appreciation to his involvement in previous years with the LEMC during his role as CESM. The Committee extends its condolences to Rob's family during this difficult time.

Thanks and appreciation to Leigh Fletcher. The Committee would like to show its thanks and appreciation to Leigh Fletcher and his commitment during his tenure as the Shire of Nannup Community Emergency Services Manager. When Rob Bootsma became unwell, Leigh stepped up to the challenge to fill this role. The Committee wishes him all the best in his next career endeavours.

1 ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES:

1.1 Attendance

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

Members (Full Voting rights)
John Patman – Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and Darradup FCO
Mike Vasey – North Nannup FCO
Peter Hastie – Carlotta FCO
Vic Lorkiewicz – East Nannup FCO
John Jonker – Peerabeelup Coast FCO
Carey Curtis – Nannup Brook FCO
Gerald Brown – Cundinup FCO
Andrew McNab – Scott River/Lake Jasper FCO
Brett Fowler – Peerabeelup FCO

Other Attendees (Non-Voting rights)
Ed Hatherley - Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)
Andy Thompson – Area Officer - Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)
Gregg Hodgson – Forest Products Commission (FPC)
Craig McFarlane – Landowner 777 Brockman Highway
Scott Hedley – Landowner Brockman Highway

1.2 Apologies

Councillors	Staff
	Nil

Members (Full Voting rights)
Robin Mellema – Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Mark Scott – Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and Balingup Road FCO

Other Attendees (Non-Voting rights)
Peter Thomas – District Officer for Emergency Management - Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)

2 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS:

Nil.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

3.1 Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting – 8 November 2022

MOVED Peter Hastie	SECONDED Mike Vasey
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That the Minutes from the Bush Fire Advisory Committee held 8 November 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record (Attachment 4.1).

CARRIED

4 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:

Nil.

5 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Nil

6 REPORTS OF MEMBERS:

6.1 *Chief Bush Fire Control Officer*

No report

6.2 *Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer*

6.2.1 *John Patman*

No report

6.2.2 *Mark Scott*

7.2.2.1 Thanks to crews and private farmers for response at Mt Leeuwin Loop, Maidment, Carlotta fires. Issues include:

8.2.2.2 Landowners to be held accountable if they don't burn with a permit.

7.2.2.3 Workshop required by DFES for protocols and practises when Arson suspected.

7.2.2.4 No written advise on FBI or HDMB implementation, anomalies in read outs.

7.2.2.5 Supports LG involvement in contacting landowners in recent Maidment fire.

7.2.2.6 New members waiting for Introduction to Fire Fighting course (Mike Vasey to run)

7.2.2.7 LG will submit application to Lotterywest for IC vehicle.

7.2.2.8 Beacons (E flares) used in Maidment fire would be valuable for brigade vehicles. Brigades can order these through ESL. They come standard in all new vehicles.

6.3 *Bush Fire Control Officers (FCO's)*

6.3.1 *Balingup Road*

No report

6.3.2 *Carlotta*

7.3.2.1 Brigade has been busy, excellent for training opportunities.

7.2.2.2 150,000l of water stolen from tank at Hall. Recommend camlock locks and signage installed.

6.3.3 *Cundinup*

7.3.3.1 Cundinup has received new Light Tanker. Vehicle deployed in Donnybrook and Maidment fires. Vehicle was on display at the Family Fun Day.

7.3.3.2 Windspeed at the top of the ridge at the Maidment fire was 50kms per hour, spotting 700m ahead of the fire. DBCA crews monitoring fire daily. Impact Assessment has captured damages of properties and forwarded to the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup Recovery Coordinator. Gratitude and thanks extended to DBCA, DFES, out of region brigades, LG, FPC, local brigades and farmers for their attendance.

6.3.4 *Darradup*

7.3.4.1 Members have attended several fires, increasing training. Water stolen from tanks, signage being made up to deter further incidents of stealing water.

6.3.5 East Nannup

7.3.5.1 Members have attended several fires. Mt Leeuwin Loop fire started by an old burn re-ignited.

7.3.5.2 No catering at Maidment Fire for overnight crews. Camarri's provided sandwiches. Coffee, tea and refreshments would have been appreciated.

6.3.6 Nannup Brook

7.3.6.1 Members have attended four fires.

6.3.7 North Nannup

7.3.7.1 Members have attended local and regional fires, good opportunities for training.

6.3.8 Peerabeelup

7.3.8.1 No trained or qualified members that can respond to fires. High turnover of businesses and landownership. Brigade is connecting with new property owners.

6.3.9 Peerabeelup Coastal

No report.

6.3.10 Scott River/Lake Jasper

7.3.10.1 Members attended Donnybrook Fire

7 REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

7.1 Community Emergency Services Officer (CESO)

8.1.1 ICV vehicle: Lotterywest application ready to submit. Partnership between LG and Lotterywest. Waiting for quote and then Council budget decision.

8.1.2 Appreciation to all respondents to recent fires.

8.1.3 LG has supported installation of off grid solution at Cundinup Fire Shed.

8.1.4 Water has been stolen from Brigade water storage tanks. Manager Infrastructure has investigated road Contractor actions. Lockable camlocks are being investigated and signage ordered.

8.1.5 Training calendar released. Mike Vasey and Donna Virgo points of contact.

8.1.6 Chris Doherty (MAFS) will submit MAF application. Mike Vasey potentially point of contact for local brigades and supporting MAF coordinator over summer period.

8.1.7 LG grants outstanding for SES building and North Nannup shed relocation.

8.1.8 Appreciation to members of BFAC for support to CESO in his role.

8 REPORTS OF OTHER ATTENDEES:

8.1 Department of Fire and Emergency Services

9.1.1 Acknowledged the work of Leigh Fletcher in role of CESO.

9.1.2 New Area Officer, Patrick Dowling commenced in Lower South West.

- 9.1.3 Acknowledge the discrepancies in FBI rating. AFDR being applied to individual sites rather than district wide calculations.
- 9.1.4 Reminder to utilise LG EM plans at incidents.
- 9.1.5 Reminder to monitor radio channels. Try and keep main channel free, particularly when multiple incidents underway.
- 9.1.6 Acknowledged the work of Rob Bootsma.
- 9.1.7 Rosa Brook and Wallcliffe brigades transitioned to DFES managed, not LG managed. 3-4 year process to implement.
- 9.1.8 Two new vehicles received to the region this season. Hand held WAERN radios to be received.
- 9.1.9 Further discussion about stolen water. Comment that termites can cause damage to tank liners. No evidence of erosion around tanks.
- 9.1.10 Andy Thomson talked about the incidence of Arson related fires. Any information is critical (number plates, vehicle details, persons on scene etc), along with the protection of the ignition site. Reporting is essential, and all reports need to be passed through to the Authorities. Queried if standard report template is available. Requested a 1 hour briefing on Arson to be delivered separate to BFAC to include Captains and interested members.

8.2 Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions – Report Attached

- 9.2.1 Ellis Creek prescribed burn map distributed. Still an active fire that is monitored daily. 34 year old fuel load. Map showing the fuel age with an overlay of the 2017 Tanjanerup fire scar.
- 9.2.2 Map of Maidment fire tabled, showing context of fire in landscape. Some photos displayed.
- 9.2.3 Thanks extended to crews, DFES, LG and BFAC for support in responding. Commented that desktop exercise cemented communication and teamwork.
- 9.2.4 Comment that Nannup DBCA crews will increase into the future.
- 9.2.5 Gold Gully road has been graded.
- 9.2.6 Steve Fischwick report - despatched crews to Ravensthorpe. Local fires had quick response and control (fuel loads 20-35 year old vegetation loads), prescribed Autumn burning planned around Coronation and Dixon Roads.

8.3 Forest Products Commission

- 9.3.1 Thanks to all crews who have attended local fires.
- 9.3.2 Two new staff into Nannup office being appointed in the near future.
- 9.3.3 Feedback invited on new plantation locations in Nannup. Queried if BFAC will have comment prior to purchase.

9 STANDING ITEMS:

9.1 Emergency Services Levy (ESL)

2022/23 Expenditure – LGGs Submission is due 26 March 2023

2022/23 Expenditure – current budget \$170,959.

9.2 Resolution Tracker

Operational and updated - Attached

9.3 Mitigation Activity Fund (MAF)

2021/2022 Mitigation Program – Acquitted BRMO to Schedule 22/23 Treatments

10 GENERAL BUSINESS:

11.1 Roz Edwards discussed changes to the Bush Fire Risk Compliance Notice Variation Form – Attachment 11.1.1. More detail in maps required.

11.2 Leigh Fletcher waiting on a quote then will be able to submitting a Lottery West Grant Application for the acquisition of an additional Incident Control Vehicle (ICV) for the Shire. Local Government supports the application.

11.3 Two brigades in the Shire of Augusta Margaret River have moved under the control of DFES, not Local Government. It is not known if this will be encouraged throughout the region.

11.4 Permit books to be re-formatted. Need to include property owner responsibilities, legalities and accountability. An online permit system being investigated. Currently a work in progress. Compliance with permits required, particularly to those who blatantly do the wrong thing. Query on travel/permits. The responsibility is that the landowner is to travel to pick up the permit from the FCO.

11.5 Cundinup Fire Debrief- no date set. Date to be confirmed.

11.6 Request that FCO's talk to members who have activated in other regions. Check for safety issues and mental health.

11.7 Training calendar. New courses to be included into program.

11 PROPOSED DATE FOR NEXT MEETING:

Monday 1 May 2023 commencing at 5.30pm

12 CLOSURE OF MEETING:

Closed 6.58pm

Action List

Number	Action	Resolution
7.3.2.2	Camlock locks to be offered to brigades	
9.1.10	Andy Thomas to deliver Arson briefing	
10.1	ESL application to be submitted	
11.5	Cundinup Fire Briefing to be held	