



Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting

To be held on

Thursday, 30 October 2014

Commencing at 7.30pm

In Council Chambers

Cnr Bentley and Collins Streets, Donnybrook WA 6239

JR Attwood
Chief Executive Officer

21 October 2014

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BUSHFIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

30 October 2014

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SHIRE OF DONNYBROOK-BALINGUP

BUSHFIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

To be held in Council Chambers on Thursday, 30 October 2014

The Chairperson to declare the meeting open at _____, welcome the public gallery and advised them of the meeting procedures.

MEMBERS PRESENT

FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS	BRIGADE	GUESTS	STAFF
N Gubler (Chair)	Mullalyup	Pete Thomas DFES	Leigh Guthridge (MDES)
M Walker	Ferndale	Deb Peachie (DPaW)	R Jeffreys (Ranger)
D Tooke	Argyle		R Jones (FRS)
N Clifford	Thomson Brook		
R Roach	Upper Balingup		
J Fry	Upper Capel		
P Davis	Balingup		
B Hearman	Beelerup		
T Radford	Kirup/Brazier		
G Foan	Thomson Brook		
G Chester	Donnybrook		
N Clifford	Thomson Brook		
B Anderson	Lowden		

PUBLIC GALLERY

APOLOGIES

Cr Steve Dilley

1 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

2 DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL/IMPARTIALITY INTEREST

Division 6: Sub-Division 1 of the *Local Government Act 1995*. Care should be taken by all Committee members to ensure that a financial/impartiality interest is declared and that they refrain from voting on any matter, which is considered to come within the ambit of the Act.

3 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Moved:

Seconded:

That the Minutes of the Bushfire Advisory Committee Annual General Meeting held on 24 April 2014 be confirmed.

5 CORRESPONDENCE

6 REPORTS OF OFFICERS

6.1 Manager Development and Environmental Services

6.1.1 SUBJECT: APPLICATION FOR UPPER BALINGUP BUSH FIRE BRIGADE FORMATION

Location: Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup

Applicants: Balingup Bush Fire Brigade

Zone: N/A

File Ref: FRC 01

Author: L. Guthridge - Manager Development & Environmental Services

Report Date: 28 September 2014

Attachments: Balingup Fire Incident Report

Background

Application has been made to the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup by the Balingup Bush Fire Brigade (BBFB) to split into two separate brigades, being the Balingup Town Bush Fire Brigade and the Upper Balingup Bush Fire Brigade.

In 2006 Council approved an amalgamation of the then Upper Balingup Bush Fire Brigade (UBBFB) and the Balingup Town Bush Fire Brigade following an application by both brigades to:

- Reduce administrative burden for the brigades;
- Allow flexibility in the use of Emergency Services Levy (ESL) funds; and
- Benefit from the perceived advantages in resource sharing.

As part of the amalgamation the UBBFB retained a Fire Control Officer (FCO), fire response vehicle and storage shed located at Prowse Road in Upper Balingup which operates under the auspices of the BBFB. This arrangement is currently in place.

Comment

The justification by the BBFB in their application for the creation of the new brigade area is summarised as follows:

- There is an increase in new residents in the Upper Balingup area to form and manage the UBBFB;
- ESL funding is now administered by local government and not at brigade level;
- The UBBFB has always retained its identity and equipment and continues to be a functional unit; and
- The formation of a new brigade will allow the upgrade of equipment and procurement of a second firefighting appliance more suited to the forest environment.

As part of consideration of this application Shire staff referred the proposal to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) for comment, given that the ongoing distribution of ESL funds by local governments requires DFES approval. This is now called the Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS).

In summary DFES has advised that:

- DFES is reviewing its State-wide Resources Replacement Program in how it will distribute the LGGS funding to local governments, based on the principles of standardising assets and reviewing suitability of assets commensurate with the level of risk faced by the community;
- If additional appliances or resources are requested by the Shire there will be a requirement for the application to comply with the risk to resources process. Issues that will need to be considered and addressed in putting forward a business case include known risks in the area, number of incidents and response times from existing resources; and
- DFES note that the BBFB has a new three bay facility and 3.4 Urban Tanker that can service the Upper Balingup area, along with appliances from other brigades within the Shire located in close proximity.

The Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup Bush Fire Response Plan (Plan) is reviewed annually through the Bushfire Advisory Committee and Council. Section 2.6 of the Plan states:

“Amalgamations and Rationalisation

The recent amalgamation of some Brigades has reduced the number of Brigades from 16 to 11. It is imperative that Council continually reviews Brigade structure and that future amalgamations be kept under consideration.”

The Plan supports amalgamations of brigades when there is an opportunity to more efficiently manage the number of brigades in terms of administrative effort and resources procurement, whilst still maintaining service levels.

Should the BBFB wish to improve the quality and number of fire response vehicles and improve facilities at the Prowse Road location in the Upper Balingup area, it can do this

through the LGGs application process for the BBFB as per the practice since amalgamation of the two brigades in 2006.

Based on the information in this report, it is recommended that the formation of the UBBFB not be supported by the Shire.

However it is recommended that the requested additional needs of the BBFB for the Upper Balingup Prowse Road facilities be listed in the ten year replacement program of the Shire's Bush Fire Response Plan. Application can be made through the LGGs process where risk to resource justification and a business case will need to be provided as per DFES requirements. This will be included in the recommendation of the report elsewhere in the meeting agenda regarding the Plan.

Consultation

Shire staff referred the proposal to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services for comment.

Policy/Statutory/Voting Implications

Policy

N/A

Statutory

Part 2, Division 1, Section 2.1 of the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup *Bush Fire Brigades Local Law 2000* states:

- (1) The local government may establish a bush fire brigade for the purpose of carrying out normal brigade activities.
- (2) A bush fire brigade is established on the date of the local government's decision under subclause (1).

Voting

Simple Majority.

Risk Assessment (Optional)

Not undertaken.

Financial Implications

Management of an additional brigade has financial implications for the Shire in terms of administrative functions, including the Local Government Grant Scheme.

Strategic Implications

Outcome 2.7 of the Shire's *Strategic Community Plan* "Improving Fire Prevention and Hazard Reduction facilities".

Officer's Recommended Resolution

Moved: Cr

Seconded: Cr

That Council not support the formation of the Upper Balingup Bush Fire Brigade as the proposal does not comply with the direction of the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup Bush Fire Response Plan where further amalgamation of existing brigades should be considered.

7 REPORTS

DPaW
Chief Ranger

8 OTHER BUSINESS

9 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The Chairperson to advise that the next Bushfire Advisory Committee AGM be held on _____ commencing at 7.30pm at the Shire of Donnybrook–Balingup Council Chambers.

The Chairperson to declare the meeting closed at _____.