



MINUTES

Bushfire Advisory Committee Annual General Meeting Minutes

Held on

Thursday, 20 April 2017

Commencing at 7.31 pm

In the Seniors Room

Cnr Bentley and Emerald Streets, Donnybrook WA 6239

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BGR" followed by a flourish.

Benjamin (Ben) Rose
Chief Executive Officer

13 April 2017

Disclaimer

The advice and information contained herein is given by and to the Council without liability or responsibility for its accuracy. Before placing any reliance on this advice or information, a written inquiry should be made to the Council giving entire reasons for seeking the advice or information and how it is proposed to be used.



BUSHFIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS	3
2	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	4
3	DECLARATION OF FINANCIAL/IMPARTIALITY INTEREST	4
4	PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS	4
5	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING	4
6	CORRESPONDENCE	5
7	REPORTS OF OFFICERS	5
	7.1 Manager Development and Environmental Services	5
	7.1.1 SUBJECT: FIRE BREAK ORDER	5
8	REPORTS	9
	8.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	9
	8.2 Fire Report – Senior Ranger/ Training Coordinator	9
	8.3 Department of Fire and Emergency Services	9
	8.4 Department of Parks and Wildlife	9
	8.5 Fire Control Officers	9
9	OTHER BUSINESS	10
10	CLOSURE OF MEETING	10

SHIRE OF DONNYBROOK BALINGUP

BUSHFIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Held in the Seniors Room, Donnybrook Community Library
on Thursday, 20th April 2017, commencing at 7.31pm

MEMBERS PRESENT

FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS	BRIGADE	GUESTS	STAFF/ COUNCIL
N Gubler	Mullalyup	P Thomas DFES	Cr Bailey
M Walker	Ferndale	W Hutchison (VFRS)	Cr Logiudice
M Anderson	Lowden	B Anderson (VFRS)	L Guthridge - MDES
N Clifford	Thomson Brook	D Peachey (DPaW)	P Robins - Senior Ranger
D Tooke	Donnybrook	M Moore (DPAW)	J Cooper - Ranger
B Dix	Upper Capel	M Webb (Delta Charlie Base)	
B Hearman	Beelerup		
G Foan	Thomson Brook		
C Wringe	Kirup/Brazier		

PUBLIC GALLERY

D Wedderburton

S Rowe

M Zwart

APOLOGIES

N Thompson	Mumballup
M Aldridge	Munro
I Ralph	Argyle/ Irishtown

1 ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Office	Nomination	Moved	Seconded
Chairperson	B Dix	D Tooke	M Anderson
Chief Bushfire Control Officer	M Walker	D Tooke	N Gubler
Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer	D Tooke	M Walker	G Foan

Office	Nomination	Moved	Seconded
Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer	I Ralph	B Dix	J Bailey
Communications Officer	M Webb	B Dix	G Foan
Training Co-ordinator	P Robins	B Dix	N Gubler
Fire Weather Officer	J Fry	C Wringe	D Tooke
Deputy Fire Weather Officer	M Webb	B Dix	G Foan
Strategic Planning Committee (6 members required – including the Chief and Deputy Bushfire Control Officers)	M Walker I Ralph D Tooke C Wringe M Anderson B Dix	G Foan	N Clifford

Carried 10/0

2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

3 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.

Nil

4 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

Nil

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Moved: B Dix

Seconded: Cr Bailey

That the Minutes of the Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting held on 20 October 2016 be confirmed.

Carried 10/0

6 CORRESPONDENCE

Nil

7 REPORTS OF OFFICERS

7.1 Manager Development and Environmental Services

7.1.1	SUBJECT:	FIREBREAK ORDER
	Location:	Shire Donnybrook Balingup
	Applicants:	Shire Donnybrook Balingup
	Zone:	N/A
	File Ref:	FRC 04/2 FIRE BREAK ORDER
	Author:	Leigh Guthridge – Manager Development and Environmental Services (<i>Paul Robins – Senior Ranger</i>)
	Report Date:	1 April 2017
	Attachment:	7.1.1(1) – Draft 2017/2018 Firebreak Order 7.1.1(2) - DFES – Firebreak Order Recommendations

Background

A review of the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup’s (The Shire) Firebreak Order is undertaken annually. A copy of the draft 2017/2018 Firebreak Order (inclusive of modifications) is attached for consideration.

Mr Greg Hamlyn – Bushfire Risk Management Officer from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) is assisting the Shire to develop its Bushfire Risk Management Plan.

As part of this process Mr Hamlyn has identified several improvements to the Shire’s Firebreak Order and provided recommendations to make the Firebreak Order a more effective tool for the Shire to require land owners to better prepare their land to allow safer access for fire-fighters for fire suppression when defending properties.

Comment

Several of the recommendations that DFES have recommended are supported and Council is advised to implement these via its firebreak order for the 2017/18 fire season. The recommended modifications (**Bold** = additional text; ~~striketrough~~ = removed text) relate to the standard of fire breaks as follows:

1. To clarify that fire breaks need to be of a mineral earth standard and free of any flammable material.
2. Section 1 - Rural Land to be modified as follows:

RURAL LAND – (LAND ZONED GENERAL AGRICULTURE OR PRIORITY AGRICULTURE – LPS NO 7)

- (a) On land which is divided by or abuts a formed or partly formed road or railway reserve, a firebreak not less than ~~two~~ **three (3)** metres wide shall be provided within 60 metres of the boundary of the road or railway reserve. Breaks ARE NOT permitted on road reserves without Shire approval.
- (b) **Where rural land (whether bushland or pastured) abuts a residential zone boundary a 3 metre firebreak shall be constructed along the common boundary of the residential area.**
- (c) A firebreak ~~two~~ **six (6)** metres wide shall be provided immediately surrounding and within twenty metres of the perimeter of all buildings, hay sheds and fuel storage areas situated on the land.

3. Section 3 (b) – Townsites Land to be modified as follows:

TOWNSITES LAND: (INCLUDES RESIDENTIAL, SPECIAL RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL LAND)

- (b) Where the land exceeds 2024m² (approx ½ acre) clear firebreaks not less than ~~two~~ **three (3)** metres wide, unless otherwise specified in the ~~Town~~ **Local** Planning Scheme, immediately inside all external boundaries of the land, and also immediately surrounding all buildings situated on the land. Grass on the remaining area of the land must be either grazed, cut for fodder, or totally removed from the land.

4. Section 4 - Rural Residential Land to be modified as follows:

RURAL RESIDENTIAL, SPECIAL USE AND CRAFT COMMERCIAL LAND

The owners of all land zoned as " Rural Residential", "~~Special Use~~", or "~~Craft Commercial~~", under ~~Town~~ **Local** Planning Scheme No. ~~4-7~~ shall maintain a firebreak not less than ~~two~~ **three (3)** metres wide, immediately inside all external boundaries of the land, free of overhanging branches to a height of four metres. The Shire on the recommendation of a Bush Fire Control Officer, may vary these conditions in certain circumstances. A low fuel zone of twenty metres wide shall be provided immediately surrounding all buildings situated on the land. Grass on the remaining area of the land must be either grazed (within conventional practice), cut for fodder or completely removed from the land.

The purpose of the recommendations to improving the standard of firebreaks is to:

- Provide a suitable firebreak with sufficient width to allow appliances using the firebreak for access (2 metres considered too narrow) where a firebreak is required; and
- Improve fire defending opportunity for fire response teams between the 'rural' and 'rural residential' land interface where the potential for loss of assets from fire increase significantly in a higher density subdivision areas.

Other modifications include date changes, updating changes to fire control officer details, updating correct land zoning terminology to reflect that of the Shire's local planning scheme No 7 and rectifying grammar or errors.

There are several other modifications to the Firebreak Order that DFES are recommending that are not to be considered at this time. It is proposed that these recommendations, along with other contemporary fire control measures be considered at a future review of the Firebreak Order which is proposed to be undertaken by the Bushfire Strategic Planning Committee at a future date to be confirmed.

Policy/Statutory/Voting Implications

Policy

N/A

Statutory

Section 33 of the Bush Fire Act 1954-79 provides Council with the controls to adopt a Firebreak Order to ensure that land owners maintain their properties to protect the district from fire risk.

Voting

Simple majority

Financial Implications

N/A

Strategic Implications

Outcome 2.7 - Improving fire prevention and hazard reduction activities.

Officer's Recommended Resolution

Moved: Cr Bailey

Seconded: (Not Obtained)

That Council undertake the following modifications to its 2017/18 Fire Break Order:

- 1. Update the annual date changes and current Fire Control Officers details;**
- 2. Subsections (a-c) of 'Rural Land' to read as follows:**

Rural Land – (Land zoned General Agriculture or Priority Agriculture – LPS No 7)

- (a) On land which is divided by or abuts a formed or partly formed road or railway reserve, a firebreak not less than three (3) metres wide shall be provided within 60 metres of the boundary of the road or railway reserve. Breaks ARE NOT permitted on road reserves without Shire approval.***
- (b) Where rural land (whether bushland or pastured) abuts a residential zone boundary a 3 metre firebreak shall be constructed along the common boundary of the residential area.***

(c) ***A firebreak six (6) metres wide shall be provided immediately surrounding and within twenty metres of the perimeter of all buildings, hay sheds and fuel storage areas situated on the land.***

3. Subsection b of 'Townsite Land' to read as follows:

(b) ***Where the land exceeds 2024m² (approximately ½ acre) clear firebreaks not less than three (3) metres wide, unless otherwise specified in the Local Planning Scheme, immediately inside all external boundaries of the land, and also immediately surrounding all buildings situated on the land. Grass on the remaining area of the land must be either grazed, cut for fodder, or totally removed from the land.***

4. Rural Residential Land to read as follows:

Rural Residential Land

The owners of all land zoned as "Rural Residential" under Local Planning Scheme No. 7 shall maintain a firebreak not less than three (3) metres wide, immediately inside all external boundaries of the land, free of overhanging branches to a height of four metres. The Shire on the recommendation of a Bush Fire Control Officer, may vary these conditions in certain circumstances. A low fuel zone of twenty metres wide shall be provided immediately surrounding all buildings situated on the land. Grass on the remaining area of the land must be either grazed (within conventional practice), cut for fodder or completely removed from the land.

5. That the Bushfire Strategic Planning Committee undertake a review of the Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup Fire Break Order and recommendations for modifications to the Fire Break Order to be presented at a future meeting of Council.

(Motion Lapsed)

Committee's Recommended Resolution

Moved: D Tooke

Seconded: Cr Bailey

That the following statement be Inserted into the Firebreak Order:

"That firebreaks are to be of a mineral earth standard and free of flammable material and be maintained throughout the fire season."

Carried 10/0

Committee's Recommended Resolution

Moved: M Walker

Seconded: D Tooke

That the dates for the restricted burning period on the Firebreak Order to be from 1 April to 26 April 2018.

Carried 10/0

8 REPORTS

8.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

- Attachment 8.1 provided.
- Reaffirmed that a Fire Fighter must not attend a fire in an appliance on their own.
- All Fire Fighters must notify the Chief Bushfire Control Officer when turning out to a fire.

8.2 Fire Report – Senior Ranger/ Training Coordinator

- Attachment 8.2 provided.

8.3 Department of Fire and Emergency Services

- Peter Thomas confirmed that he is leaving the role of Lower South West Area Officer and moving into the area of Emergency Management.
- Provided information about Crew Protection and ongoing training.
- Presented information about Pager Systems (Text Message) and Group Call Systems (Phone) and provided application forms to the Brigades.

8.4 Department of Parks and Wildlife

- Attachment 8.4 provided.

8.5 Fire Control Officers

- Cr Bailey expressed his thanks to Max Walker for his efforts as Chief Bushfire Control Officer for the 2016/17 Season.

9 OTHER BUSINESS

Paul Robins – Senior Ranger

- Discussion about how to manage future repairs and/or replacement of Shire owned non WAERN radios

Committee’s Recommended Resolution

Moved: C Wringe

Seconded: B Dix

That Council instruct the Chief Executive Officer to send a letter to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) to request that DFES fund an additional two high band radios (VHF) for each brigade within the Donnybrook Balingup Shire.

Carried 10/0

John Bailey – FCO Balingup Bushfire Brigade

- Opportunities to licensing private vehicles to attend fires
- High Season Truck – Keep at Balingup Bushfire Station
- Make-up of the Bushfire Advisory Committee – Captains of Brigades to have voting rights
- Automated call out response system for the Shire

10 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The date for the next Bushfire Advisory Committee meeting will be advised

The Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 9.27pm.

These Minutes were confirmed as a true and accurate record at the Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting held on _____	
Shire President	Presiding Member