



# Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting

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Held on

Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019

**Commencing at 7.00pm**

In the Council Chambers

Cnr Bentley and Collins Streets, Donnybrook WA 6239

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**Steve Potter**  
**Acting Chief Executive Officer**

**4 December 2019**

## **Disclaimer**

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## BUSHFIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

17<sup>th</sup> October 2019

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# SHIRE OF DONNYBROOK BALINGUP

## BUSHFIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

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Held in the Council Chambers on Thursday, 17 October 2019

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The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 19:30hrs, welcomed the public gallery and advised them of the meeting procedures.

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### 1. MEMBERS PRESENT

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FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS	BRIGADE	GUESTS	STAFF
B Dix (Chair)	Upper Capel	C Beswick (DFES)	J Cooper (CESM)
R Pankhurst	Mullalyup	G Hodgson (FPC)	S Barlow (Ranger)
M Walker	Ferndale	B Anderson (VFRS & BRPC)	
I Ralph	Donnybrook	D Peachey (DBCA)	
T McNab	Brookhampton	D Gossage (VBFB Assoc & ARC Infrastructure)	
T Thamo	Munro	M Fogarty (WAPOL)	
C Wringe	Kirup/Brazier		
M Anderson	Lowden		
S Rowe	Argyle Irishtown		
P Davis	Balingup		
S Simmonds	Beelerup		
D Tooke	Donnybrook		
Cr L Wringe	Shire of Donnybrook Balingup		

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### 1. PUBLIC GALLERY

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A Rhohrbach	J Pow	L Hollis	B Franke
M Webb			

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### 2. APOLOGIES

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D Goldfinch	Cr B Piesse	G Foan
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### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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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.

- C Wringe advised the committee that he has a business interest in vehicle maintenance
  - L Wringe advised the committee that she has a business interest in vehicle maintenance
  - M Anderson advised the committee that he is an employee at the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup
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- P Davis advised the committee that he is an employee at the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup
- S Rowe advised that he has a business interest in electrical maintenance

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#### **4. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

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**That the Minutes of the Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting held on ..... April 2019 be confirmed.**

**Moved:** T McNab

**Seconded:** I Ralph

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#### **5. CORRESPONDENCE**

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C Wringe distributed updated vehicle checklists obtained from DFES and requested that they be returned to CESM upon completion by brigades.

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#### **6. REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

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##### **Chief Bush Fire Control Officer – M Walker**

- Welcomed all to the meeting and thanked all brigades for their ongoing support.
- Advised that 30 incidents have been reported since May.
- Restricted Burning Period commences Friday 1 November.
- Sched Calls to commence Monday 4 November.

##### **Community Emergency Services Manager – J Cooper**

###### **Training Coordinator Report**

- Courses coordinated since last meeting: x2 plantation Firefighting, x1 Structural Firefighting, x1 Introduction to Firefighting, x1 Bushfire Firefighting.
- Shire of Donnybrook Balingup volunteers have also successfully completed the following courses: Fire Control Officer, On Road Driving, AIIMS 2017, Mental Health First Aid, Trainer Assessor, Local Trainer Assessors have also achieved TRKs in Pump Operations and Advanced Bushfire Fighting.
- Shire Training Calendar to be produced for 2020 to complement Lower South West Training Calendar.
- Recognised Mick Zwart for his ongoing work and support with training local volunteers.

###### **CESM Report**

- '000' campaign – now included on Firebreak Order cover, sought further suggestions from BFAC.
- WAERN Channels – Linking of 106 and 144. Issue was escalated to ROAC; Stakeholder Engagement Paper was sent to local governments with multiple channels. Further action to be advised.
- Bush fire Brigade Local Laws – templates have been investigated through WALGA and consultation with nearly local governments. Suggested that new local laws be drafted after the consolidation of 3 existing emergency services legislation. Provided Committee with a draft copy of Shire of Donnybrook Balingup Bush Fire Brigade Operational Procedures for consideration at next meeting.

- Fire Danger Rating Signs - Shire has Obtained quote from Bartco. Electronic signs are approximately \$18,000 each. Obtained quote from Jason Signs. Manual signs are approximately \$615 each. Committee agreed that a variable message board style sign would be more appropriate. CESM to investigate.
- Provided summary of funding obtained through Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGGS)
- Introduced Shire's new Ranger, Shannon Barlow.

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## **7. REPORTS**

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### **Department of Fire and Emergency Services – C Beswick**

- Introduced self and outlined position at DFES, provided staffing update within Lower South West Region.
- Legislation update, merging of emergency services acts – report to be provided to CESM for distribution.
- Provided outline of Enhanced Bushfire Response Zone in Argyle Irishtown area and draft Blackwood Valley Response Zone.
- Provided summary of WAFES Conference.
- Provided summary of Volunteer Hub and advised launch date – 31 October 2019.
- Bushfire Ready Facilitator workshops recently held in Yallingup, currently more than 115 groups.
- Advised that 72 incidents in total have been reported in the Shire of Donnybrook Balingup since May 2019.
- Balingup Tavern Fire – thanked attending crews, Fire investigation Report to be forwarded to CESM upon completion.

### **Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions – D Peachey**

- Reported 10 suspicious fires across Blackwood region recently, Munro, Wilga, Hester and Greenbushes areas
- Provided outline of Spring Burn Program, 14,000 Ha planned across the district, 6,000 Ha currently completed.
- Thanked Bush Fire Brigades for assistance with DBCA fires.

### **Forest Products Commission – G Hodgson**

- Post Lewana 350 Ha pine plantation have been recovered, 5 crews will be working in the area over summer.
- Numerous operational reviews ongoing (both internal and external).
- Encouraged Bush Fire Brigades to participate in Plantation Firefighting. Course is also being updated.
- FPC Fire Management Plans are currently undergoing reviews, updates and development with external consultant.
- Reviewed replanting strategies – trees have been planted in Shires of Boyup Brook and West Arthur.
- Reported that FPC now have 3 fire units with approximately 55 trained staff based in Manjimup and Nannup.
- FPC vehicles will be installed with AVL in the coming weeks.

### **WA Police - M Fogarty**

- Advised that Donnybrook Police now have x2 WAERNS and a handheld radio in both vehicles.
- Advised correct reporting process of suspicious fires and provided outline of legal requirements – scene attendance essential. Also requested that suspicious vehicles and people be reported ASAP.
- Advised that Donnybrook Station now has 7-day coverage.

#### **Association of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades – D Gossage**

- Advised of circular released advising that defibrillators are now eligible under LGGS.
- AVBFB currently part of the ESL Working Group, working with WALGA and SES Association. LGGS manual is being reviewed.
- Fit for purpose vehicles currently under review – 4.4 tender process has commenced
- Advised group that Pathways Training has been replaced by Modules.
- Advised following courses are currently under review: Sector Commander, Plantation Firefighting, Fire Control Officer, Leadership, Advanced Bushfire Firefighting.

#### **ARC Infrastructure – D Gossage**

- Advised that ARC Infrastructure are planning to carry out mitigation burns in rail corridors, advised intent to work with local brigades to conduct planned works.

#### **Donnybrook Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service – B Anderson**

- Brigade has attended 25 incidents since last meeting. Provided a brief summary.
- Advised at 2.4U appliance has been replaced with 3.4U.
- Advised that VFRS will be participating in Enhanced Bushfire Response Zone Agreement MOU again – appears to be working well.
- Provided summary of recent and upcoming mitigation burns.

#### **Bush Fire Risk Planning Coordinator – B Anderson**

- Provided summary treatments completed using Mitigation Activity Fund.
- Next round of Mitigation Activity Funding has been applied for – seeking \$187,620 across 28 treatments.

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### **8. GENERAL BUSINESS**

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#### **Argyle Irishtown FCO – S Rowe**

- Queried responsibility of maintenance of Scaffidi PI fire access track. CESM Advised responsibility rests with Shire.
- Argyle Irishtown BFB have developed internal training calendar.
- Bushfire Ready group are planning a resident walk and RUI Information session.

#### **Balingup FCO – P Davis**

- Advised that a WhatsApp group has now been created for Captains & FCOs so that information about upcoming training and mitigation burns can be more easily shared.
- Requested that the Shire approach DFES to enquire whether the outgoing Ferndale 2.4 and Lowden LT can be retained as mitigation vehicles.
- Advised that a brigade member had been dismissed from Balingup Bush Fire Brigade, following a recommendation from the Shire's CEO. Also advised that the Shire's Bush Fire Brigades Local Laws are flawed and outdated, making the disciplinary process very difficult. M Walker requested that a letter be drafted to the Shire addressing this

issue as it is unfair for a brigade committee to be entirely responsible for disciplinary action in the first instance.

- Moved following motion:

*“That Fire Control Policy 8.3 Road Verge Burning of Shire Controlled Roads, section f) point 5,6,7 and 8 be amended to allow 500 metres of verge can be burned per roadside within any 3kms.”*

**Moved:** P Davis

**Seconded:** I Ralph

**Motion Carried 13/0**

#### **Beelerup FCO – S Simmonds**

- Raised concerns regarding the number of escaped burns on private property. Suggested extending Restricted Burning Period and making contact with absentee land owners advising of responsibilities of burning.
- Provided progress update of the construction of Beelerup Fire Station.

#### **Lowden FCO – M Anderson**

- Also raised concerns regarding number of escaped burns on private property.

#### **Munro FCO – T Thamo**

- Requested more accurate and updated Brigade Area Maps – CESM to provide.

#### **Ferndale FCO – M Walker**

- Queried whether FCOs or Shire Rangers should conduct Firebreak Inspections. It was agreed that Shire Rangers should be responsible.
- Requested that FCOs ensure permit holders contact DFES Commcen and DBCA Kirup prior to ignition. Also clarified correct DFES Commcen number.
- Advised that Linga Longa Bike Park are planning another 3-day event over New Years - provided summary of the event.

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## **10 CLOSURE OF MEETING**

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The Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 20:47 and advised that the next meeting to be advised.

