



# BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

## Committee Brief

*To advise the Local Government regarding all matters relating to the preventing, controlling and extinguishing of bush fires, the planning of the layout of fire-breaks in the district, prosecutions for breaches of the Bush Fires Act 1954, the formation of bush fire brigades and the grouping thereof under group brigade officers and the ensuring of cooperation and coordination of bush fire brigades in their efforts and activities.*

General Meeting of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee  
Held at Frost Park, McDonald Avenue, Mount Barker WA 6324  
7:30pm Wednesday 30 October 2019

**Rob Stewart**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

## Committee Members

*Cr J Oldfield, Cr L Handasyde, (Resolution No 203/19), CBFCO Mr Norm Handasyde, Mr John Rodgers, Mr Craig Moore, Ms Heather Wearmouth, Mr Scott Smith, Mr Iain Mackie, Mr Robert Wright, Mr Chris Norton, Mr Dean Trotter, Ms Kathleen Thomas, Mr Wayne Matthews, Mr Murray Wills, Mr Graeme Pyle, Mr Nathan Hunt, Mr J Stasev, Mr Mark Wallace, and Mr R Randall. (Resolution 79/19)*

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Presiding Member: Cr J Oldfield

Deputy Presiding Member: Cr L Handasyde

Membership: Quorum (8)

Cr Jon Oldfield	Council Representative
Cr Len Handasyde	Council Representative
Mr Norm Handasyde	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Mr Iain Mackie	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Mr Bryce Skinner	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Mr Roger Randall	Base Radio (6TN Base)
Ms Val Randall	Base Radio (6TN Base)
Mr Ron Caudwell	Base Radio (6TN Base)
Ms Jacqui Burcham	Base Radio (6TN Base)
Mr Mark Wallace	Fire Weather Officer
Mr Brent Wearmouth	Deputy Fire Weather Officer
Mr John Rodgers	Denbarker Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Craig Moore	Forrest Hill Bush Fire Brigade
Ms Heather Wearmouth	Kendenup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Scott Smith	Kojaneerup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Robert Wright	Narpyn Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Chris Norton	Narrikup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Dean Trotter	Perillup Bush Fire Brigade
Ms Kathleen Thomas	Porongurup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Jim Baily	Porongurup South Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Murray Wills	Rocky Gully Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Graeme Pyle	South Stirlings Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Nathan Hunt	Woogenellup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Jason Stasev	Mount Barker Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service

#### Deputies

Cr Karen Woltering	Deputy for Council Representatives
Mr Simon Grylls	Denbarker Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Johan Theron	Forrest Hill Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Maurice Draper	Kendenup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Ashton Hood	Kojaneerup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Greg Sounness	Middle Ward Bush Fire Brigade or
Mr Paul Spink	Middle Ward Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Kevin Purnell	Narpyn Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Des Graham	Narrikup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Stuart Irwin	Perillup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Gerald (Gez) Versluis	Porongurup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Wayne Matthews	Porongurup South Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Ian Higgins	Rocky Gully Bush Fire Brigade
Mr John Howard	South Stirlings Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Stephen Adams	Woogenellup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Trevor West	Mount Barker Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service

**1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS**

At 7:33pm the Presiding Member declared the meeting open.

**2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES**

**Bold denotes voting rights at the meeting**

Present

**Cr Jon Oldfield**

Cr Karen Woltering

**Mr Norm Handasyde**

Mr David Lynch

Mr Mike Barnes

**Mr Craig Moore**

Mr Brent Wearmouth

**Ms Heather Wearmouth**

Mr Alan Winsor

Mr Chris Pavlovich

Mr Greg Sounness

**Mr Iain Mackie**

Mr Kevin Forbes AM

Mr Kim Stothard

Mr Paul Spink

**Mr Mark Wallace**

**Mr Robert Wright**

**Mr Gerald (Gez) Versluis**

**Mr Ron Caudwell**

Mr Steve Player

Mrs Deb Pyle

**Mr Graeme Pyle**

Mr John Howard

**Mr Jason Stasev**

Mr Trevor West

**Mr Nathan Hunt**

Mr Stephen Adams

Mr Bryce Skinner

**Council Representative**

Council Representative

**Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (CBFCO)**

Executive Manager Works and Services (EMWS)

Executive Officer/Community Emergency Services

Manager (CESM)

**Forrest Hill Bush Fire Brigade**

Kendenup Bush fire Brigade - Deputy Fire

Weather Officer (DFWO)

**Kendenup Bush Fire Brigade**

Middle Ward Bush Fire Brigade

Middle Ward Bush Fire Brigade

Middle Ward Bush Fire Brigade

**Middle Ward Bush Fire Brigade/Deputy Chief**

Bush Fire Control Officer (DCBFCO1)

Middle Ward Bush Fire Brigade

Middle Ward Bush Fire Brigade

Middle Ward Bush Fire Brigade

Narpyn Bush Fire Brigade/**Chief Fire Weather**

**Officer (FWO)**

**Narpyn Bush Fire Brigade**

for Kathleen Thomas - **Porongurup Bush Fire**

**Brigade**

Porongurup Bush Fire Brigade/**6TN Base**

Shire Ranger / Fire Control Officer

South Stirlings Bush Fire Brigade

**South Stirlings Bush Fire Brigade**

South Stirlings Bush Fire Brigade

**Mount Barker Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service**

Mount Barker Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service

**Woogenellup Bush Fire Brigade**

Woogenellup Bush Fire Brigade

Woogenellup Bush Fire Brigade/Deputy Chief

Bush Fire Control Officer (DCBFCO2)

Visitors

Mr Vince Hilder

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (Albany)

Mr Tristan Farmer

Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (Walpole)

Ms Mel Haymont

Bushfire Risk Planning for the Shire of Plantagenet, Albany and Denmark

Mr Mal Parker

PF Olsen (Tree Plantation)

Apologies

Cr Len Handasyde	Council Representative
Mr John Rodgers	Denbarker Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Simon Grylls	Denbarker Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Neville Lindberg	Denbarker Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Johan Theron	Forrest Hill Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Maurice Draper	Kendenup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Scott Smith	Kojaneerup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Ashton Hood	Kojaneerup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Kevin Purnell	Narpyn Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Chris Norton	Narrakup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Des Graham	Narrakup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Dean Trotter	Perillup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Stuart Irwin	Perillup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Brad Cluett	Porongurup Bush Fire Brigade
Ms Kathleen Thomas	Porongurup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Wayne Matthews	Porongurup South Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Jim Baily	Porongurup South Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Murray Wills	Rocky Gully Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Ian Higgins	Rocky Gully Bush Fire Brigade
Mr John Howard	South Stirlings Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Andy Buchanan	Mount Barker Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service
Mr Roger Randall	Base Radio (6TN Base)
Ms Val Randall	Forrest Hill Bush Fire Brigade/Base Radio Operator
Mr Wes Bailye	Department of Fire and Emergency Services

**3 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON / DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON**

Mr Lynch called for nominations for the position of Presiding Member.

Mr N Handasyde nominated Cr Oldfield.

As there were no other nominations Cr Oldfield was declared Presiding Member.

Cr Oldfield called for nominations for the position of Deputy Presiding Member.

Cr Oldfield nominated Cr L Handasyde.

As there were no other nominations Cr L Handasyde was declared Deputy Presiding Member.

**4 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Part 5, Division 6, Local Government Act 1995

Nil

**5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Moved Mr Iain Mackie, Seconded Mr Robert Wright;

That the Minutes of the General Meeting of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee, held on 1 May 2019 as circulated, be taken as read and adopted as a correct record, subject to Mr Brian Appleby being removed from the membership list on the front page and on page 3 due to his resignation before 1 May 2019.

**CARRIED (12/0)**

**6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES****5.1 FIRE APPLIANCE HOSE FITTINGS AND DELUGE SYSTEM FILTER SEAL – ITEM 5.3 BFAC MEETING 1 MAY 2019**Background

The CBFCO advised that these systems were serviced annually.

Discussion took place about tank fittings and the inability of water tankers to connect to the water tanks on Braidwood Hill.

The EMWS advised this was an operational matter and would be attended to by the new CESM.

Update

A number of options were suggested but are not limited to the following:

- a) Have a variety of fittings on a wire at each tank;
- b) Fit out all of the bush fire appliances with adaptor fittings;
- c) Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) already have 50mm (two inch) cam-lock bush fire fittings so change the tanks to these;
- d) Change to 75mm (three inch) cam-locks on all tanks and fit all trucks with 50mm (two inch) to 75mm (three inch) adaptors; and
- e) Encase 50mm (two inch) and 75mm (three inch) adaptors into a heavy concrete block and permanently fix the block to the tanks.

Action

Mr Mike Barnes to investigate the best possible solution for workability and cost effectiveness on ALL strategically placed water tanks and/or fire appliances by the next meeting.

**5.2 TRUCKS' FOAM SYSTEM NOT WORKING – ITEM 5.5 BFAC MEETING 1 MAY 2019**Background

Members present discussed the difficulties they have with the foam system in fire trucks. It was suggested that Mr Wes Bailye (DFES) could look into the problem and advise if there are any alternative systems for foam input.

### Action

Mr Wes Bailye – to update the committee of the alternative systems for foam input at the next meeting.

### Update

The Committee discussed the issues that were occurring. Mr N Handasyde CBFCO advised that a contractor has serviced the appliances. The Y filters have been replaced which need to be cleaned separately from the flushing of the system. He also advised that he had spoken with the Regional Operational Advisory Committee (ROAC) and the Albany CBFCO and had been informed that some of their appliances were having the same issue.

Ron Caudwell reported that the Porongurup Appliance has been having the same issue and the brigade looked into purchasing stainless steel ones at a cost of \$68.00. It would be cheaper just to replace the existing Y filters periodically.

### Further Action

Mr Mike Barnes to follow up the issue of the foam system in fire trucks with Mr Bailye and the service mechanic, then report back to the next Committee Meeting.

## **7 GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **7.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT SCHEME (LGGS)**

Mr Barnes discussed the LGGS and highlighted the difference between the Operational Grant and the Capital Grant that is administered by DFES.

- a) The Operating Grant is for the day to day running of brigades which covers;
  - Purchase of plant and equipment (less than \$1,500 per item);
  - Maintenance of plant and equipment;
  - Maintenance of vehicles, trailers and boats;
  - Maintenance of land and buildings;
  - Clothing and Accessories;
  - Utilities, rates and taxes;
  - Other goods and services;
  - Insurances; and
  - Purchase of plant and equipment (from \$1,500.00 to \$5,000.00 per item).
- b) The Capital Grant, which covers but is not limited to;
  - The acquisition of vehicles;
  - The acquisition of Bush Fire Sheds; and
  - The acquisition of strategically placed water tanks.

## 7.2 REGIONAL OPERATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE - REGIONAL RESOURCE TO RISK

### Introduction

Each year local governments are able to submit Resource to Risk (R2R) applications for a **Capital Grant** consideration from DFES. These grants relate to significant capital works initiatives, including the acquisition of facilities, appliances, vehicles and major items of equipment.

This proposal is **not** related to the operational grant each local government (LG) receives to manage the day to day running of brigades.

### Background

There are limited applications that are successful and each LG is competing for the allocation of funds for these capital grants.

At a recent Great Southern ROAC meeting, a recommendation was made in support of a need for change in the R2R process to have a collaborative and more strategic approach in how the region prioritises these applications.

It was agreed that ROAC is an appropriate working group to prioritise the collective submissions from each LG and submit a more strategic group of R2R applications that have been endorsed by all CCFCOs of this committee in consultation with LGs.

### Discussion Points

- If agreed by LGs a model or concept plan would be initiated by a working group. This concept would not likely to start until 2021.
- If agreed, there will need to be a shift in timings of applications to allow for alignment of ROAC meetings and BFAC meetings.
- One option is that each LG wishing to apply for the R2R grant should submit a short (150-300) overview of the proposed application for consideration by CBFCOs before a ROAC meeting.
- At the meeting each LG CBFCO presents to the committee on their application to give members the opportunity to discuss each application.
- The CBFCOs would rank the submissions into priority order for the region and vote to accept these nominations.
- It would then be up to those who had submitted the highest priority applications to provide a more comprehensive document to be signed off with support from all contributing LGs.

## OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That it be a recommendation to the Council:

That the Plantagenet Bush Fire Advisory Committee vote to accept a more collaborative approach to the Resource to Risk applications from local governments within the Great Southern Regional Operational Advisory Committee.



**COMMITTEE DECISION**

**Moved Mr Norm Handasyde, Seconded Mr Kim Stothard;**

**That the Plantagenet Bush Fire Advisory Committee vote to accept a more collaborative approach to the Resource to Risk applications from local government within the Great Southern Regional Operational Advisory Committee.**

**CARRIED (12/0)**

Action

Mr Mike Barnes to put forward to the Shire of Plantagenet Council the committee decision of;

That the Plantagenet Bush Fire Advisory Committee vote to accept a more collaborative approach to the Resource to Risk applications from local government within the Great Southern Regional Operational Advisory Committee.

**8 NEXT MEETING**

General Meeting at 7:00pm on Wednesday 4 March 2020.

Annual General Meeting at 7:00pm Wednesday 6 May 2020.

**9 MEETING CLOSURE**

At 7:57pm the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed.

**CONFIRMED: CHAIRPERSON \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_**

**10 ACTION LIST**

5.1 Fire Appliance Hose fittings and deluge system filter seal – Item 5.3 BFAC Meeting 1 May 2019

**Action - Mr Mike Barnes** - to investigate the best possible solution for workability and cost effectiveness on ALL strategically placed water tanks and/or fire appliances by the next meeting.

**March 2020 Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting**

5.2 Trucks' foam system not working – Item 5.5 BFAC Meeting 1 May 2019

**Action Mr Wes Bailye** – to update the committee of the alternative systems for foam input at the next meeting by September 2019 Carried forward to

**March 2020 Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Action Mr Mike Barnes** - to follow up the issue of the foam system in fire trucks with Mr Bailye and the service mechanic, then report back to the next Committee Meeting.

**March 2020 Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting**

7.2 Regional Operational Advisory Committee - Regional Resource to Risk

**Action Mr Mike Barnes** - to put forward to the Shire of Plantagenet Council the committee decision of;

That the Plantagenet Bush Fire Advisory Committee vote to accept a more collaborative approach to the Resource to Risk applications from local government within the Great Southern Regional Operational Advisory Committee.

**December 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting**