



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 Shire Chambers Mount Barker WA 6324
7:00pm Wednesday 5 May 2021

Cameron Woods
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Committee Members

Cr John Oldfield, Cr Len Handasyde; Cr Karen Woltering, (Resolution No 203/20), CBFCO Mr N Handasyde, Mr T Griffiths, Mr Craig Moore Ms Heather Wearmouth, Mr Ashton Hood, Mr Paul Spink, Mr R Wright, Mr C Norton, Mr D Trotter, Mr G Versluis, Mr Wayne Matthews, Mr I Higgins, Mr G Pyle, Mr Nathan Hunt, Mr J Stasev, Mr Mark Wallace, and Mr R Randall. (Resolution 162/20)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ITEM	SUBJECT	PAGE NO
1	DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS	1
2	RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / VISITORS / APOLOGIES	1
3	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	2
4	DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST	2
5	BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES	2
6	REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS	2
6.1	COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICES MANAGER REPORT	2
6.2	CHIEF BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICER REPORT	2
6.3	FIRE WEATHER OFFICER REPORT	2
6.4	BASE RADIO OPERATOR REPORT	2
6.5	DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT	3
6.6	DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION, BIODIVERSITY AND ATTRactions REPORT (DBCA)	3
6.7	PLANTATION COMPANY REPORT	4
7	GENERAL BUSINESS	4
7.1	REGIONAL OPERATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ROAC)	4
7.2	ANNUAL BUSH FIRE MITIGATION NOTICE CHANGES FOR 2020-2021 PUBLICATION	6
7.3	BUSHFIRE RISK PLANNING	7
7.4	PERMITS	7
7.5	FCO ID CARDS	8
7.6	PHONE COVERAGE - EMAIL FROM IAIN MACKIE	8
7.7	ROAD VERGE BURNING POLICY	8
7.8	OTHER	9
8	NEXT MEETING	10

	8.1 GENERAL MEETING/ WORKSHOP	10
9	MEETING CLOSURE	10
10	ATTACHMENT LIST	10
11	ACTION SHEET	11

Membership: Voting rights 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 1 West
Mr Bryce Skinner	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer 2 East
Mr Mark Wallace	Chief Fire Weather Officer
Mr Roger Randall	Base Radio (6TN Base)
Mr Tony Griffiths	Delegate Denbarker Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Craig Moore	Delegate Forest Hill Bush Fire Brigade
Ms Heather Wearmouth	Delegate Kendenup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Ashton Hood	Delegate Kojaneerup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Paul Spink	Delegate Middle Ward Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Robert Wright	Delegate Narpyn Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Chris Norton	Delegate Narrikup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Dean Trotter	Delegate Perillup Bush Fire Brigade
Ms Gerald Versluis	Delegate Porongurup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Wayne Matthews	Delegate Porongurup South Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Ian Higgins	Delegate Rocky Gully Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Graeme Pyle	Delegate South Stirlings Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Nathan Hunt	Delegate Woogenellup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Jason Stasev	Delegate Mount Barker Volunteer Fire & Rescue

Proxies: Voting rights only in the absence of the Delegate

Cr Karen Woltering	Deputy for Council Representatives
Mr Brent Wearmouth	Proxy Deputy Fire Weather Officer
Ms Val Randall	Proxy Base Radio (6TN Base)
Mr Simon Grylls	Proxy Denbarker Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Johan Theron	Proxy Forest Hill Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Maurice Draper	Proxy Kendenup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Ashton Hood	Proxy Kojaneerup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Greg Sounness	Proxy Middle Ward Bush Fire Brigade or
Mr Des Graham	Proxy Narrikup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Stuart Irwin	Proxy Perillup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Allan Rees	Proxy Porongurup South Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Murray Wills	Proxy Rocky Gully Bush Fire Brigade
Mr John Howard	Proxy South Stirlings Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Stephen Adams	Proxy Woogenellup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Trevor West	Proxy Mount Barker Volunteer Fire & Rescue

Non-voting committee

Mr David Lynch	Executive Manager Works and Services
Mr Mike Barnes	Executive Officer/Community Emergency Services Manager
Mr Steve Player	Senior Shire Ranger
Mr Ron Caudwell	Base Radio (6TN Base)
Ms Jacqui Burcham	Base Radio (6TN Base)

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

Meeting opened at 19:03

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / VISITORS / APOLOGIES**Bold denotes voting rights at the meeting**Present

Cr Jon Oldfield	Council Representative
Cr Len Handasyde	Council Representative
Mr Norm Handasyde	Delegate Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (CBFCO)
Mr Iain Mackie	Proxy Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer 1 West (DCBFCO 1)
Mr Bryce Skinner	Proxy Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer 2 East (DCBFCO 2)
Mr Mark Wallace	Chief Fire Weather Officer (CFWO)
Mr Brent Wearmouth	Proxy Deputy Fire Weather Officer
Mr Tony Griffiths	Delegate Denbarker Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Craig Moore	Delegate Forest Hill Bush Fire Brigade
Ms Heather Wearmouth	Delegate Kendenup
Mr Greg Sounness	Proxy Middle Ward Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Robert Wright	Delegate Narpyn Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Chris Norton	Delegate Narrikup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Gerald Versluis	Delegate Porongurup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Wayne Matthews	Delegate Porongurup South Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Allan Rees	Proxy Porongurup South Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Ian Higgins	Delegate Rocky Gully Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Murray Wills	Proxy Rocky Gully Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Graeme Pyle	Delegate South Stirlings Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Trevor West	Proxy Mount Barker Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service
Mr David Lynch	Executive Manager Works and Services (EMWS)
Mr Mike Barnes	Executive Officer/Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM)

Visitors

Mr Ray Drage	Mount Barker Volunteer Fire & Rescue
Reece Curwen	South Stirlings Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Vince Hilder	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (Albany)
Ms Mel Haymont	Bushfire Risk Planning for the Shire of Plantagenet, Albany and Denmark

Apologies

Cr Karen Woltering	Deputy Council Representative
Mr Roger Randall	Delegate Base Radio (6TN Base)
Ms Val Randall	Proxy Base Radio (6TN Base)
Mr Simon Grylls	Proxy Denbarker Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Johan Theron	Proxy Forest Hill Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Maurice Draper	Proxy Kendenup Bush Fire Brigade

Mr Ashton Hood	Delegate	Kojaneerup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Scott Smith	Proxy	Kojaneerup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Paul Spink	Delegate	Middle Ward Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Craig Williams	Proxy	Narpyn Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Des Graham	Proxy	Narrakup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Dean Trotter	Delegate	Perillup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Michael Workman	Proxy	Perillup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Scott Clements	Delegate	Porongurup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr John Howard	Proxy	South Stirlings Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Nathan Hunt	Delegate	Woogenellup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Stephen Adams	Proxy	Woogenellup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Jason Stasev	Delegate	Mount Barker Volunteer Fire & Rescue
Mr Steve Player		Senior Shire Ranger
Mr Ron Caudwell		Base Radio (6TN Base)
Ms Jacqui Burcham		Base Radio (6TN Base)
Mr Nikki Rouse		Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (Walpole)
Mr Wes Bailye		Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Mr Mal Parker		PF Olsen (Tree Plantation)

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Moved, Mr Wayne Mathews Seconded Mr Chris Norton;

That the Minutes of the General Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held on 4 June 2020 as circulated, be taken as read and adopted as a correct record.

CARRIED (15/0)

4 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Local Government Act 1955 Part 5 Division 6 - Disclosure of financial interests and gifts

5 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil

6 REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

6.1 COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICES MANAGER REPORT

Attachment One

6.2 CHIEF BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICER REPORT

Attachment Four

6.3 FIRE WEATHER OFFICER REPORT

Attachment Five

6.4 BASE RADIO OPERATOR REPORT

Attachment Six

Action

Advertise for a volunteer base radio operator.

The chair recognised all of the volunteers who have held a senior position over the last 12 months, their work ethic and assistance has been greatly appreciated.

6.5 DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT

Apology

6.6 DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION, BIODIVERSITY AND ATTRACTIONS REPORT (DBCA)

Relatively quiet in the Great Southern region.

Crews were deployed to the Perth area to assist with fires as Red Gully and Wooroloo.

Greg Mair is set to retire in the next few months. Greg is a level 3 Incident Controller and will be sorely missed within the region.

Assistance to shire with some prework around their Mitigation Activity Fund (MAF) applications.

Good burn at Stoney Creek in the Porongurup, with another one in the planning.

Bush fire working groups have been well attended

Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) will assist the Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) with prescription writing for the next prescribed burn.

The Department would like to recognise the effort and time that Jim Bailey (deceased) did for the Porongurup community over the last 13 years. Jim was a great achiever.

Question

Who is responsible for native title land when it comes to fuel mitigation?

Answer

Most of the Unallocated Crown Land (UCL) is managed by DBCA. The rest will be jointly managed by the traditional land owners and DBCA, but as yet we do not know what this will look like. Suppression will be as per the Bush fires Act 1954 with the owner responsible for extinguishing a fire which occurs upon their land with assistance from the Local Government, DBCA and DFES through the 000 system.

6.7 PLANTATION COMPANY REPORT

Apology

REPORTS ACCEPTANCE

Moved, Mr Len Handasyde Seconded Ms Heather Wearmouth;

CARRIED (15/0)

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 REGIONAL OPERATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ROAC)

Meeting held 21 April 2021 in Jerramungup;

Main Points

WATER

Water that is used at an incident from private dams can now be recouped via Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) if agreed to in advance of using the water. Records of how much is taken needs to be kept and the incident controller has to request costs to be recouped from DFES Regional Duty Coordinator (RDO) prior to using the water.

RADIOS

These are not be available as there is a move towards a Digital platform.

FRIDGE/FREEZERS

These are now removed from the ineligible list of the Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS) and will be approved on a case by case basis. This has not been updated in this year's LGGS manual.

DEPLOYMENTS

Discussions will be had with the chiefs and regional lists will be held only, no state list will be held.

NEW POSITIONS

Chair Darren Baum - Gnowangerup CBFCO

Deputy Chair Rob Lynn - City of Albany CBFCO elect.

Bushfire Operational Committee (BOC) Representative -
Rob Lynn - City of Albany CBFCO elect.

Volunteer Bushfire Training Advisory Committee (VBTAC) -
Les Baines CBFCO Denmark.

DEPARTMENT BIODIVERSITY, CONSERVATION AND ATTRACTIONS (DBCA) DAVE ATKINS ALBANY

Quite season, assisted its fires in Ravensthorpe, Denmark, Plantagenet.

New air strip in Ravensthorpe

New District manager Esperance

New Fire coordinator Karen Naylor.
Three vacant rangers' positions of the region
Mitigation going ahead.
Mitigation Activities Fund (MAF) retreatment spraying
Annual burn program to be endorsed

ASSOCIATION OF VOLUNTEER BUSHFIRE BRIGADES

Volunteers getting into mitigation
Convention and exhibition to be arranged for Bush fire fighters
Survey in challenges for women to volunteer
All fire acts to be brought together draft out soon
Money is available for volunteer week (May) for brigades who would like to host a sundowner or breakfast.

BUSHFIRE OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE (BOC)

Working on;

Fatigue
Feeding of volunteers
Travel to and from incidents is excessive in some incidents
Combining or amalgamate fire districts paper out for discussion
Fire Danger Ratings (FDRs) are looking at changing to four ratings to align with the rest of the country
Water tanks grants \$1.2m left over from the first round with \$2.2m applications
Western Power meeting changes have happened more communications with shires and bushfire brigades.
Issues around standard water fittings on tanks - check planning for bushfire guidelines
Gross vehicle weight issues - possibly want to change the licensing of the truck due to overweight. Option to change new trucks if not what is wanted.
Old vehicles are decommissioned through auction no choice due to government system legally. People can register with pickles auctions who will advise when these appliances become available.
Telstra towers – money for work is been spent to improve battery life on these towers from 3 hours to 12 hours. No personnel will be allowed to put generators onto their systems. Committee set up to spend the upgrade money.
The fire weather districts may be changing and now is the time to have our input into the proposed changes this is in the early stages.
Map of Proposed Fire Weather District changes – Attachment 7.
Proposed Fire Weather District Review Feedback Form – Attachment 8
WA Fire Weather District Review Approach – Attachment 9.
Fire Weather Districts Review Power Point available on request to the CESM. (large file)

Suggestions from the floor.

- Rocky Gully – Separate Plantagenet Shire for Gnowangerup Shire as the weather is vastly different from the east to the west
- DBCA agreed with shorten the area by including Plantagenet Shire in the Stirling Coastal instead of currently the Stirling Inland. The weather patterns are much more aligned.

Action

BFAC members are to respond to the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer by close of business Wednesday 26 May 2021 for consideration by the BFAC executive group to then make a formal submission.

7.2 ANNUAL BUSH FIRE MITIGATION NOTICE CHANGES FOR 2021-2022 PUBLICATION**Attachment Two****Changes**

Front Page -	Date <u>changed</u> Picture <u>changed</u>
Page 11	<u>Addition</u> Western and Eastern Zone word picture <u>Deletion</u> Western and Eastern Zone map
Page 12	Text box fill colour change.
Page 13	Text Box fill colour change.
Page 14	Updated Brigade Captains and Secretaries.
Page 15	Updated Brigade Captains and Secretaries.
Page 16	Text box fill colour change. Updated map to accurately match word picture.

Comment - there was a third weather zone, for Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans (HVMB), that was brought in sometime in 2010, 2011 or 2012, this is not shown in the Fire Mitigation notice.

ANNUAL BUSH FIRE MITIGATION NOTICE CHANGES FOR 2021-2022 PUBLICATION ACCEPTANCE

Moved, Mr Len Handasyde Seconded Mr Graeme Pyle;

CARRIED (15/0)

Action

Previous minutes to be checked for the area of the third weather zone for implementation in the next years notice.

7.3 BUSHFIRE RISK PLANNING

The Bushfire Risk in the Great Southern (BRIGS) project and Bushfire Risk Management Plan has been completed thus enabling the Shire to progress to request a grant for the Mitigation Activities Fund (MAF) and the associated treatments.

BRIGS highlighted that many homes were in the Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) of 40 (BAL40).

The MAF grant application has been submitted for the sum of \$365,000 for the identified treatments for land vested with the Shire of Plantagenet. Enabling works on UCL and UMR areas working alongside DBCA.

The Bushfire Risk Management Plan (BRMP) has been endorsed by the Office of Bushfire Risk Management (OBRM) further strengthening the Grant application for MAF monies.

Some of the treatments identified are;

- Firebreaks current, new and strategic.
- Evacuation Routes for communities where only one way in exists.
- Road reserve fuel load reduction.
- Access tracks maintained, upgraded and implemented.
- Culverts installed to assist in drainage to prevent access route washout.
- Mulching program.
- Slashing Program.
- Installation of fire access gates.
- Weed control.
- Formation of tracks, and
- Prescribed burning.

7.4 PERMITS

There have been almost 300 permits issued this season

There is work being done around a new fit for purpose permit to suit this shire. A prototype will be constructed and sent to the BFAC executive for further comment.

Once this is drafted then a copy will be supplied to the BFAC committee for comment.

The BFAC executive will then convene to finalise the new permit in time for next season.

Albany are trialling a web site where permits are recorded by the FCO and available to all FCOs at any time. A look at this system may prove to be the way forward. More information available as it comes to hand.

Action

A fit for purpose burning permit to be developed and submitted to the BFAC Executive for approval with consultation from the BFAC committee.

7.5 FCO ID CARDS

Photos of most of the FCOs have been acquired. Photos of new FCOs will need to be sent through asap for ID cards.

Action

All new Fire Control Officers to send through a head and shoulders likeness of themselves by close of business Monday 7 June 2021.

7.6 PHONE COVERAGE - EMAIL FROM IAIN MACKIE

Hello Michael

I would like to put on the agenda of the prefect meeting phone coverage during holiday times. There seems to be a consistent issue with degraded phone signal during critical holidays and I think it should be addressed through BEFAC and therefore the council to relay our concerns to Telstra considering we use the Telstra system for a lot of our emergency calling including 000 calls

Iain Mackie
0427511350
imackie6324@gmail.com

The Shire has been heavily working on this issue with the state government. As phones enter the towers range the signal is spread more and more between these devices.

A request of motion for the council to take this to the WA Zone meeting reads as follows;

Motion

Moved, Mr Iain Mackie

Seconded Mr Gerald Versluis

That;

The Shire of Plantagenet Bushfire Advisory Committee request the Shire of Plantagenet Council to further investigate the degradation of the mobile telephone service within the Shire of Plantagenet.

CARRIED (15/0)

7.7 ROAD VERGE BURNING POLICY

Attachment Three

Policy update accepted - recommendation for council to approve;

Moved, Mr Len Handasyde

Seconded Mr Chris Norton;

CARRIED (15/0)

7.8 OTHER

7.8.1 The burning of Bluegum slash

This was recently discussed at a BFAC executive meeting with some discussions points to be brought to this meeting.

- Should the burning of Bluegum slash be permitted all year round?
 - Pro – this will allow for more control around the burning of Bluegum slash
 - Con – this will put extra pressure on the fire control officers
- Should the burning of Bluegum slash not be burnt until the open season?
 - Pro – this will allow the grape industry more time to harvest without the prolonged smoke that Bluegum slash produces.
 - Con – there will be not control of when Bluegum slash is burnt allowing multiple fires to be lit all at once.
- Burning of Bluegum slash should be limited to 30-hectare parcels as per the maximum planting compartments?
 - Pro – more manageable sized burn with the assurance that one section if completed before the next one is stated
 - Con – this will take longer to complete.

Discussion took place with the following points raised

- Bluegum slash burning could have a basic prescribed plan developed prior to the burn taking place like the ones that P F Olsen produce when they burn Bluegum slash.

Decision of the meeting is to leave the process as it is and monitor future burns with the added condition that Bluegum slash is limited to the 30-hectare compartments for each permit.

A recommendation that fire control officer may request a burn plan prior to the issuing of a permit.

7.8.2 Kworncup Fire

Question

Has there been an infringement given out for the Kworncup fire and is this public knowledge.

Answer

The Shire has issued an infringement to the land owner for the Kworncup fire however this is not public knowledge as the land owner has a right to respond to the infringement.

7.8.3 6TN Base Operators

Narpyn brigade wanted it noted that;

A vote of thanks goes to the outgoing 6TN Base Operator Roger Randall for his dedicated service to the bushfire brigades and community over the past five years, Roger will continue his service with the Forest Hill bush fire brigade.

A vote of thanks also goes to deputy base operator Val Randall for her dedicated service to the bushfire brigades and community, covering the base radio operators position during extended periods while Roger Randell was unavailable over the last year. Val will continue in one of the deputy base radio operators position and will add administration duties to her taskings.

Action

Letter of thanks to be sent to Roger and Val Randall

8 NEXT MEETING**8.1 GENERAL MEETING/ WORKSHOP**

October 2021 exact date and venue to be advised

9 MEETING CLOSURE

Meeting closed 8.35pm

10 ATTACHMENT LIST**Attachment One**

Community Emergency Services Managers Report

Attachment Two

Annual Fire Mitigation Notice

Attachment Three

Road Verge Burning Policy

Attachment Four

Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Report

Attachment Five

Fire Weather Officer Report

Attachment Six

Base Radio Operator Report

Attachment 7

Map of Proposed Fire Weather District changes.

Attachment 8

Proposed Fire Weather District Review Feedback Form

Attachment 9

WA Fire Weather District Review Approach.

11 ACTION SHEET

Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting 3 May 2020

Item No.	Date	Subject	By Whom	Action	Date Complete	Initial
6.4	3 May 2021	Base radio operator report	CESM	Advertise for a volunteer base radio operator.		
7.1	3 May 2021	Proposed changes to fire weather districts	BFAC Committee	BFAC members to respond to the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer by close of business Wednesday 26 May 2021 for consideration by the BFAC executive group to then make a formal submission.		
7.2	3 May 2021	Annual Bush Fire Mitigation Notice changes for 2020-2021 publication	CESM	Previous minutes to be checked, 2010 onwards for the area of the third weather zone for implementation in the next years notice.		
7.4	3 May 2021	Fit for Purpose Permits	BFAC Executive	A fit for purpose burning permit to be developed and submitted to the BFAC Executive for approval with consultation from the BFAC committee.		
7.5	3 May 2021	Fire Control Officer ID Cards	All New FCO's Delegates responsibility	All new Fire Control Officers to send through a head and shoulders likeness of themselves by close of business Monday 7 June 2021.		
7.8.3	3 May 2021	Letter of Thanks	CESM	All new Fire Control Officers to send through a head and shoulders likeness of themselves by close of business Monday 7 June 2021.		

ATTACHMENTS**Attachment One**

Community Emergency Services Managers Report

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (LEMC)

Since the last BFAC meeting there have been two ordinary meetings of the Local Emergency Management Committee.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT SCHEME (LGGS)

DFES have offered \$157,710 for next year's budget, a countered offer of \$319,349 for the financial year 2021/2022. The agreed amount will not be known until the June 2021.

GRANTS

Funding has been applied for, for strategically located water tanks for firefighting purposes. Seven tanks have been requested, six of these are 100,000 litres doted around the shire and one at 150,000 litres for the Ag Grounds in Kendenup for shelter in place stranded persons.

PPC/PPE

Over \$12,000 has been spent on PPE & PPC fulfilling the requested orders from the brigades.

Around \$3000 has purchase COVID supplies of face masks, hand sanitiser and dispenser as well as hospital grade disinfectant wipes should a second wave happen here in WA.

TRAINING – this financial year the training courses completed are as follows;

- Machine Supervision
- Aurora Mapping
- Storm and Water Damage
- Ground Controller x 2
- First Aid
- Structure Fire Course
- Plantation Firefighting
- Machine Supervision
- Bush Fire x 3
- Intro to Bush Fire x 2
- Rural Urban Interface x 2
- DBCA Pre Season training day
- Fire Control Officer x 2
- Burn Smart Workshop
- Country Ops Pre-Season Workshop
- Water Bomber Training
- Protect your Assets x 3
- Farmer Response Awareness Prototype
- Bushfire Risk Management System
- Advanced Bushfire fighting
- Crew Leader

Future courses;

Training program is out, a copy has been handed to the brigades at their AGMs and on eAcademy.

Burns conducted

- O'Neil Tip x 2
- DBCA Stoney Creek/Surry Downs Road
- Langton Road – Mondurup Reserve

Exercises

- Plantagenet Bush Fire with DFES
- Rural Urban Interface Pardelup Prison
- Code Red – Plantagenet Hospital

INCIDENTS

There have been 61 primary and secondary call outs so far this year for the bush fire brigades.

- Denbarker x 2
- Forest Hill x 6
- Kendenup x 10
- Middle Ward x 7
- Narpyn x 6
- Narrikup x 7
- Perillup x 5
- Porongurup x 7
- Porongurup South x 3
- Rocky Gully x 5
- Woogenellup x 3
- Town Brigade x 39
- Shire Plantagenet x 36

It is really important that ComCen is made aware of any and all incidents that you attend and that the Officer in Charge completes an Incident Report including the members that attended.

A big thank you to all of the brigades and members that attended the Kwornicup fire in March. A great response effort over three and a half days. Resources used were (mainly on the Wednesday);

7 x Bushfire Brigade Appliances (Fast Attack, 2.4 & 4.4);

4 x DBCA Appliances with crew leader;

1 x Forestry Appliance;

8 x Farmer Response Vehicles (private), could have been more;

4 x Water Bombers;

1 x Ariel Attack Supervisor;

2 x Volunteer Fire & Rescue Appliances (Rural Urban Interface (RUI) defence);

1 x Dozer;

1 x Front End Loader;
1 x 30,000 Water Tanker;
2 x Incident Controllers (tag team) and
1x Ground Controller

VEHICLES

All Appliances have been serviced with only a couple of foam problems outstanding.

Forest Hill is due a new appliance of a 4.4B (Broadacre) Duel Cab this year. It is currently being built and will be finished midyear with the approvals to be ticked off and is expected to be delivered before the next fire season.

AVL

Don't forget to test these - it is for your safety. This will not take long if you are on station, pull out the vehicle and push the AVL button 4 times in 4 seconds, it will then flash green and red while testing and then go solid green once complete.

RADIOS

Albany Communications have serviced all of the radios and completed the movements.

There are a couple of movements that have come from the brigade AGMs.

If there is anyone is having issues please report it ASAP, same goes if your radio is damaged or gets broken during the off season please report so that a service call can be lodged to get it fixed.

CONTACTS

The directory will be out once all the Fire Control Officer (FCO) appointments have been confirmed by the shire council.

FCO Cards

New FCO cards will be printed and sent out to once received.

Mike Barnes – CESM

Attachment Two

Annual Fire Mitigation Notice

 Shire of Plantagenet

**ANNUAL BUSH FIRE
MITIGATION NOTICE
2021 / 2022**



All Shire of Plantagenet landowners and occupiers must prepare their property for the bush fire season.

This includes homeowners, tenants, absentee landowners, holiday homeowners and people living on rural properties.

PLAY YOUR PART IN KEEPING THE COMMUNITY SAFE FROM BUSH FIRES

Please read this notice carefully and store it for future reference. Do not discard.

FOR ALL BUSH FIRE EMERGENCIES DIAL 000

For current information relating to harvest and vehicle movement bans or restricted and prohibited burning times, phone 9892 1102.

DEFINITIONS

Fire Break - The fire break must be ploughed, cultivated, scarified, chemically sprayed, slashed or otherwise cleared of inflammable material to a maximum vegetation height of 50mm.

Total Fire Ban - The lighting of open-air fires or any other activity in the open air that is likely to cause a fire is banned. For more information go to:
www.dfes.wa.gov.au/totalfirebans/Pages/whatisatfb.aspx

Your Responsibilities

As a measure to assist in the control of a bush fire, or to prevent the spread of a bush fire, all owners and occupiers of land in the Shire of Plantagenet are required to take fire mitigation measures in accordance with this notice.

This includes requirements for vacant land, townsite lots, rural residential lots, broadacre farming and structures and buildings on all categories of land.

Fire protection measures are essential to help slow the rate of spreading fires and to allow safe access for fire fighters while fighting a fire. If your property is too dangerous to defend, fire fighters may not be able to assist you to save your property in a bush fire emergency.

To play your part in keeping the community safe please take care of the work yourself or engage a contractor to do the work on your behalf.

REMEMBER - this is YOUR responsibility

Please read this guide carefully for the correct standards that apply to your property.

Contact the Shire Ranger or Community Emergency Services Manager during office hours on 9892 1111 if you have any queries in relation to your obligations.

Heavy penalties apply to persons who fail to comply with the requirements of this Notice. This could be an infringement or prosecution. The Shire may engage a contractor to carry out the required work at the cost of the owner or occupier.

BUSH FIRE MITIGATION NOTICE

Pursuant to the powers contained in Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954,

you are hereby required to undertake the following bush fire mitigation measures by the dates prescribed in the 'Important Information and Dates' section commencing on page 11 of this notice.

Lots with a building, up to and including 1 hectare

You must create a Building Protection Zone (refer to page 10 for details) and slash or graze the grass over the whole lot to 100mm in height.

If 70% or more of your lot is covered by vegetation other than grass or managed garden beds, a firebreak is required around or within 10 metres of your property boundary. The firebreak must be cleared of inflammable material, be a minimum of 4 metres wide and have a minimum overhead clearance of 4 metres.

Bush areas are to be kept in a hazard reduced state. This can be achieved by parkland clearing, mulching or removing dead vegetation, bark, leaf litter etc.

Lots without a building (vacant land) up to, and including 1 hectare

You must slash or graze the grass over the whole lot to 100mm in height.

If 70% or more of your lot is covered by vegetation other than grass, a firebreak is required around or within 10 metres of your property boundary. The firebreak must be cleared of inflammable material, be a minimum of 4 metres wide and have a minimum overhead clearance of 4 metres.

Bush areas are to be kept in a hazard reduced state. This can be achieved by parkland clearing, mulching or removing dead vegetation, bark, leaf litter etc.



Bush maintained in a hazard reduced state



Non-compliant fire fuel load

BUSH FIRE MITIGATION NOTICE cont.

Note: refer to the 'Important Information and Dates' section commencing on page 11 of this notice for the deadlines for your mitigation measures to be installed.

All properties greater than 1 hectare and up to, and including 20 hectares

You must clear a Building Protection Zone (refer to page 10 for details) and slash or graze the grass to no greater than 100mm high in town sites, and harvest crops over the property to 200mm in height.

Driveways into the property must be cleared of inflammable material, be a minimum of 4 metres wide and have a minimum overhead clearance of 4 metres to allow safe passage for fire trucks.

If 70% or more of your lot is covered by vegetation other than grass, managed garden beds or a seed producing crop, a firebreak is required around or within 10 metres of your property boundary. The firebreak must be cleared of inflammable material, be a minimum of 4 metres wide and have a minimum overhead clearance of 4 metres.

Contiguous Leased Blocks

Where a landowner's primary or adjoining leased property is less than 20ha but the contiguous managed land parcel is greater than 20ha they will be regarded as being one land parcel for the purposes of this Notice. Proof of a formal lease may be required before this clause becomes operable.

If the lease expires or is otherwise cancelled, any affected properties less than 20ha will attract the requirements and restrictions for any block under 20ha stipulated elsewhere in this Notice.

BUSH FIRE MITIGATION NOTICE cont.**Sheds, abandoned buildings, haystacks and fuel storage on all properties greater than 1 hectare and up to, and including 20 hectares**

You must clear a firebreak no less than 20 metres and no more than 100 metres from the perimeter of sheds, hay stacks and fuel storage. This firebreak is to be cleared of inflammable material, be a minimum of 4 metres wide and have a minimum overhead clearance of 4 metres.

The area between the firebreak and sheds, hay stacks and fuel storage is to be kept in a hazard reduced state with grass and/or vegetation limited to 100mm in height.

Hay stored beyond 100 metres of buildings does not require a firebreak.

Abandoned Buildings

Abandoned Buildings must be clearly marked by a sign and shall be considered under the same requirements as a shed.

A compliant sign shall have the word '**ABANDONED BUILDING**' in red with lettering 150mm high on a white background placed in a clearly visible location.

Livestock on properties up to, and including 20 hectares

If your land is permanently and sufficiently stocked, there is no need to slash your property. Livestock must graze the grass down to no greater than 100mm high in town sites or 200mm high on properties up to 20 hectares.

Fire Management Plans

In addition to the requirements of this notice, where a Fire Management Plan has been implemented as part of a subdivision, property owners must ensure their property meets the requirements outlined in the Fire Management Plan. Such subdivisions include (but are not limited to) Mira Flores, Stoney Creek and Braidwood Heights.

You should seek clarification from the Shire of Plantagenet if you are unsure of your responsibilities contained in your Fire Management Plan and this Notice.

BUSH FIRE MITIGATION NOTICE cont

Note: refer to the 'Important Information and Dates' section commencing on page 11 of this notice for the deadlines for your mitigation measures to be installed.

All properties greater than 20 hectares

You must clear a Building Protection Zone (refer to page 10 for details).

Driveways into the property must be cleared of inflammable material, be a minimum of 4 metres wide and have a minimum overhead clearance of 4 metres to allow safe passage for fire trucks.

Sheds, haystacks and fuel storage on all properties greater than 20 hectares

You must clear a firebreak no less than 20 metres and no more than 100 metres from the perimeter of sheds, hay stacks and fuel storage. This firebreak is to be cleared of inflammable material, be a minimum of 4 metres wide and have a minimum overhead clearance of 4 metres.

The area between the firebreak and sheds, hay stacks and fuel storage is to be kept in a hazard reduced state with grass and/or vegetation limited to 100mm in height.

Hay stored beyond 100 metres of buildings does not require a firebreak.

Landowners or Managers of properties greater than 10,000 hectares

A 3.4 Heavy Duty Appliance (4x4 truck carrying 3,000 litres of water) must be located within the property boundary.

In addition to the requirements for your property there are requirements you must meet for rural operations during the Restricted and Prohibited Burning

BUSH FIRE MITIGATION NOTICE cont**Plantations / Tree Farms**

A plantation / tree farm is defined as an area exceeding 3 hectares within townsites or an area exceeding 10 hectares within rural areas, of trees planted or land under preparation for planting of trees for commercial purposes.

Plantation Fire Mitigation Requirements

Please refer to the 'Important Information and Dates' section commencing on page 11 of this notice for the deadlines for Plantation fire mitigation requirements to be installed.

Firebreaks

Plantation boundary firebreaks shall be constructed on the boundaries of all plantations, or such other location as agreed to by the Council.

Boundary firebreaks are to be 15 metres wide and free of inflammable material, with a trafficable surface of at least 6 metres. A vertical clearance is to be established to a height of 4 metres above ground level over the trafficable portion of the firebreak.

Planting compartments are also required, consisting of an area of approximately 30 hectares. These shall be surrounded by 6 metre wide firebreaks cleared of all inflammable material (with a 5 metre trafficable surface). A vertical clearance of all overhanging branches, at least 4 metres above ground level is required to allow unrestricted access for fire fighting equipment. This applies to all established and subsequent rotation (coppice) plantations.

Planting compartments for new or re-established plantations after 1 July 2012 shall consist of an individual area of approximately 30 hectares surrounded by firebreaks with an 8 metre tree to tree separation, a 6 metre horizontal clearance free of all inflammable material (with a 6 metre trafficable surface) and a vertical clearance of all overhanging branches to at least 4 metres above ground level to allow unrestricted access for fire fighting equipment.

7

BUSH FIRE MITIGATION NOTICE cont.**Plantations / Tree Farms**

All landowners or managers of plantation estates greater than 10,000 hectares in total require a 3.4 Heavy Duty Appliance (4x4 truck carrying 3,000 litres of water) located within the Shire.

A firebreak variation may be granted if barriers on the property prevent the installation of firebreaks. Please contact the Shire of Plantagenet for further information.

Remainder of the Property

All areas of the property which are not a plantation / tree farm must comply with the requirements detailed elsewhere in this Notice.

Harvesting

When harvesting is in progress, harvesters must maintain a 400 litre (minimum) mobile fire fighting unit in or adjacent to where harvesting is being carried out.

Harvested and Reversion Plantations

Plantation fire breaks shall remain in place until the removal of all stumps is completed. Boundary Firebreaks are to be 6 metres wide (with a 5 metre trafficable surface) and a vertical clearance of all overhanging branches at least 4 metres above ground level. All compartment firebreaks to be maintained to the same measurements.

Abandoned Plantations

Plantation fire breaks shall remain in place until the removal of all stumps is completed.

Fire Protection of Private Plantations

All plantations must comply with the *Guidelines for Plantation Fire Protection* unless approval to vary those conditions has been granted by the Shire.

A copy of the guidelines may be obtained from the Shire of Plantagenet or from www.plantagenet.wa.gov.au

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR RURAL LAND OPERATIONS DURING THE RESTRICTED AND PROHIBITED BURNING TIMES

Type of Operation	Requirements
Harvesting of seed Harvesting of timber Swathing (except canola) Slashing Baling straw / stubble Stone churning Operation of a portable sawmill	A mobile fire fighting unit with a minimum of 400 litres to be stationed in, or immediately adjacent to, the paddock or area where the operation takes place and within 1 kilometre of the operating machine.
Operation of welding equipment in the open air and power operated abrasive cutting discs	A mobile fire fighting unit with a minimum of 400 litres to be stationed in, or immediately adjacent to, the paddock or area where the operation takes place. A fire extinguisher to be provided at the place where the welding or cutting operation is carried out. Where a welding or cutting operation is carried out, an area around the equipment shall be cleared of all inflammable material to bare earth to a 5 metre radius. In addition, an observer shall be on hand to monitor the site at all times.
Operation of tractors, trucks and self propelled harvesters in standing crop or stubble paddocks	An operational fire extinguisher must be carried on the vehicles.

If these minimum requirements are not in place and a fire is started by one of these operations, the person responsible for starting the fire may be liable for the cost of fighting the fire.

WHAT IS A BUILDING PROTECTION ZONE?

The aim of a Building Protection Zone is to ensure there is no direct flame contact on a building from a fire and to increase the chance of a building surviving a bush fire. This is done by managing and reducing the amount of fire fuel for a minimum 20 metres around a building.

A Building Protection Zone is required around all buildings during the restricted and prohibited burning times.

The Building Protection Zone must extend a minimum of 20 metres from any external walls of the building/s (or up to your property boundary if this falls within the 20 metre zone) and must have:

- Only reticulated lawns, gardens and managed vegetation within the zone. Managed vegetation means removing dead plants, fallen branches, bark and deep leaf matter;
- All grass maintained to 50mm or less throughout the 20 metre zone;
- Trees trimmed so there are no branches overhanging the building;
- Lower branches of trees pruned so they are at least 2 metres off the ground;
- Firewood piles kept out of the zone; and
- Gutters kept free of leaves and branches.

To maximise the protection of your building, you may also like to consider:

- Ensuring there are no trees or shrubs more than 2 metres high within 2 metres of a building;
- Installing footpaths, driveways and other non-inflammable features close to the building;
- Increasing the Building Protection Zone on sloping ground. It is recommended that the zone be extended at least 1 metre for every 1 degree in slope;
- Planting / maintaining trees and shrubs to avoid clumping. Tree crowns should be kept a minimum of 10 metres apart;
- Ensuring the pressure relief valve on gas bottles points away from your building; and
- Keeping an operational fire fighting unit.

10

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND DATES

Zones

The Shire of Plantagenet is separated into Eastern and Western Zones. The boundary between these two bushfire control areas is described as follows;

The boundary line between zones starts at

- The northern end of Martagallup Road, along Martagallup Road to Boyup Road;
- South on Boyup Road to Sturdee Road;
- East along Sturdee Road to Craddock Road;
- South on Craddock Road to Wilson Road;
- East along Wilson Road to Albany Highway;
- South on Albany Highway to the northern boundary of the gazetted townsite of Mount Barker;
- Follow the gazetted boundary east, then south, then back west to Albany Highway;
- South along Albany highway to O'Neill Road;
- East along O'Neill Road to Woodlands Road;
- North along Woodlands Road to Loc 949;
- East along Loc 949 northern boundary and along the southern boundary of the Porongurup National Park (north of Mira Flores) to Chester Pass Road;
- North on Chester Pass Road to Takalarup Road; and
- East on Takalarup Road to the south east corner of the Shire boundary. (See map on the last page)

Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans

Harvest Ban: Any operation of machinery involved in harvesting seed crops / timber and / or any other produce MUST come to a complete stop in paddocks when a ban is in place. A harvest ban applies on Christmas Day.

Vehicle Movement Ban: No vehicles or internal combustion engines are to be driven or operated unless on a constructed road or the driveway into the property residence when a ban is in place. Hot work such as welding or grinding is not to be undertaken in the open air.

Broadcast of Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans

Shire of Plantagenet Harvest Ban Hotline - 9892 1102. A recorded message will advise what type of ban is active in the Shire and will also provide details on the Restricted and Burning Time dates.

SMS Messaging of Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans: A text message is sent to registered mobile telephones when a ban is set. Contact 9892 1111 if you would like your mobile phone number included on the distribution list.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND DATES

DATES TO REMEMBER IN THE EASTERN ZONE

Camping and Cooking Fires are prohibited from 3 October until 30 April

Mitigation measures required by this Notice must be in place by 15 November and remain cleared until 30 April

Property Compliance Inspections start 15 November and will continue through to 30 April

*(Seasonal conditions may vary the Restricted and Prohibited Burning Times.
Contact 9892 1102 for current information)*

DATES TO REMEMBER IN THE WESTERN ZONE

Camping and Cooking Fires are prohibited from 3 October until 30 April

Mitigation measures required by this Notice must be in place by 15 December and remain cleared until 30 April

Property Compliance Inspections start 15 December and will continue through to 30 April

*(Seasonal conditions may vary the Restricted and Prohibited Burning Times.
Contact 9892 1102 for current information)*

RESTRICTIONS ON BURNING

Restricted and Prohibited Burning Periods

Lighting fires on your property can be extremely dangerous. To help reduce the risk, PROHIBITED and RESTRICTED burning times are set. These dates indicate when you are required to seek a Burning Permit (Restricted Burning Time) and when lighting of fires is prohibited.

EASTERN ZONE

Restricted Burning Time - Permits required
3 October to 14 November

Prohibited Burning Time - No burning
15 November to 28 February and Good Friday

Restricted Burning Time - Permits required
1 March to 30 April

WESTERN ZONE

Restricted Burning Time - Permits required
2 November to 14 December

Prohibited Burning Time - No burning
15 December to 28 February and Good Friday

Restricted Burning Time - Permits required
1 March to 30 April

*These dates may vary due to
Seasonal conditions.*

Burning Permits must be obtained from your local Fire Control Officer before burning commences and any special conditions detailed on the permit must be adhered to. Contact details for the Fire Control Officers are available from www.plantagenet.wa.gov.au or contact 9892 1111.

Permits will not be issued when the risk of fire escape is considered to be unacceptably high. **Your permit is deemed null and void if a Total Fire Ban is set or a section 46 notice of the Bush Fire Act is imposed by the Shire of Plantagenet.**

It is illegal to approach more than one Fire Control Officer to obtain a Burning Permit.

Burning road verges is encouraged, however a permit must be obtained from the Shire of Plantagenet (year round) Contact 9892 1111 for more details.

BRIGADE CONTACT DETAILS**Denbarker****Captain**

Tony Griffiths 0427 715 063

Secretary

Jacqui Freeman 0437 345 377

Forest Hill**Captain**

Craig Moore 0409 424 766

Secretary

Kelly Templar 0409 950 644

Kendenup Captain

Heather Wearmouth 0409 881 865

Secretary

Matt Newham 0439 995 465

Middle Ward**Captain**

Paul Spink 0428 747 746

Secretary

Daniel Martin 0409 455 328

Narpyn**Captain**

Robert Wright 0409 611 534

Secretary

Vacant

Narrakup**Captain**

Chris Norton 0487 930 351

Secretary

Erika Henderson 0429 875 002

Perillup**Captain**

Dean Trotter 0428 188 862


Secretary

Keli Allison 0474 797 395

BRIGADE CONTACT DETAILS	
Porongurup	
Captain	
Gerald Versluis	0408 929 831
Secretary	
Rodney Scott	0439 844 316
Porongurup South	
Captain	
Wayne Mathews	0497 154 570
Secretary	
Cass Porter	0419 957 084
Rocky Gully	
Captain	
Ian Higgins	0417 122 017
Secretary	
Adele Putter	0433 385 798
Woogenellup	
Captain	
Steven Adams	0419 916 110
Secretary	
Martin Wiehl	0447 197 520
South Stirling	
Captain	
Graeme Pyle	0477 543 069
Secretary	
Pierre Bailey	0427 543 016
Kojaneerup	
Captain	
Scott Smith	0429 466 037
Secretary	
Craig Nelson	0428 477 026
Town Brigade (AGM to be held 8 June 2021)	
Captain	
Secretary	

Magnet - top of back page

Zone Map

<p>Western Zone Restricted Burning Time 2 November to 14 December</p> <p>Prohibited Burning Time 15 December to 28 February and Good Friday</p> <p>Restricted Burning Time 1 March to 30 April</p>	
<p>Eastern Zone Restricted Burning Time 3 October to 14 November</p> <p>Prohibited Burning Time 15 November to 28 February and Good Friday</p> <p>Restricted Burning Time 1 March to 30 April</p>	

Camping and Cooking Fires are prohibited from
3 October until 30 April

Attachment Three

Road Verge Burning Policy

Current Policy

OBJECTIVE

To provide clear guidelines to residents/landowners about conditions which must be met when making an application to burn a road verge within the Shire of Plantagenet.

POLICY

1. Scope

This policy applies to the burning of vegetative matter on any thoroughfare (road, street or way) under the care, control and management of the Shire of Plantagenet

2. Legislation

Bush Fires Act 1954

Land Administration Act 1997

Shire of Plantagenet Activities in Thoroughfares and Public Places Trading Local Law 2008

3. Application of Policy

The application must be authorised by the Council (under delegation to the Chief Executive Officer). Authorisation will be conditional upon the following conditions being met.

- a. Roadside burning should only be carried out if no other practical options for fire hazard management are available.
- b. Roadside burning is not permitted within the Prohibited Burning Period.
- c. Burning is permitted within the Restricted Burning Period and at other times of the year provided a permit is obtained from a Shire of Plantagenet Fire Control Officer.
- d. The fire must be attended at all times until the burn is completely safe and the fire is extinguished.
- e. All sites must be inspected by a Shire of Plantagenet Bush Fire Brigade Fire Control Officer (FCO) and, if necessary, any requirements detailed by the FCO (recorded on the application form) adhered to.
- f. The applicant ensures the protection of standing timber and complies with the Council's policy to protect and preserve natural vegetation on road reserves wherever possible. No burning of well-conserved or semi-conserved bush areas may occur without authorisation from the Council.
- g. Applications require Department of Parks and Wildlife authorisation to ensure burning road verge will not cause any direct or indirect damage to declared rare flora or fauna.
- h. No damage is caused to fences, roads, road furniture, drainage structures, public utilities or other property in the vicinity.
- i. Road verge burning may only occur on vegetation adjoining that resident/land owner's property.

- j. For environmental considerations a maximum two kilometres, be burnt per rateable property annually.
- k. The applicant installs the appropriate traffic warning devices to indicate potential smoke hazard.
- l. No obstruction of roadways or drainage channels by fallen trees or other debris results.'

Proposed Policy

OBJECTIVE:

To provide clear guidelines to residents/landowners about conditions which must be met when making an application to burn a road verge within the Shire of Plantagenet.

POLICY:

1. Scope

This policy applies to the burning of vegetative matter on any thoroughfare (road, street or way) under the care, control and management of the Shire of Plantagenet

2. Legislation

Bush Fires Act 1954

Land Administration Act 1997

Shire of Plantagenet Activities in Thoroughfares and Public Places Trading Local Law 2008

3. Application of Policy

The application must be authorised by the Council (under delegation to the Chief Executive Officer, Authorisation will be conditional upon the following conditions being met.

a.3.1 Roadside burning should only be carried out if no other practical options for fire hazard management are available.

b.3.2 Roadside burning is not permitted within the Prohibited Burning Period.

c.3.3 Burning is permitted within the Restricted Burning Period AND at other times of the year provided a permit is obtained from a Shire of Plantagenet Fire Control Officer.

d.3.4 The fire must be attended to at all times until the burn is completely safe and the fire is extinguished.

e.3.5 All sites of verge that are planned to be burnt must be inspected by a Shire of Plantagenet ~~Bush Fire Brigade~~ Fire Control Officer (FCO). ~~and, if necessary, any requirements detailed by the FCO (recorded on the application form) adhered to.~~

3.6 Permits are to detail all of the conditions for the verge to be burnt and all conditions are to be adhered to.

f.3.7 The applicant ensures the protection of standing timber and complies with the Council's policy to protect and preserve natural vegetation on road reserves wherever possible. No burning of well-conserved or semi-conserved bush areas may occur without authorisation from the Council.

g.3.8 Applications require Department of ~~Parks and Wildlife~~ Biodiversity Conservations and Attractions or the Shire of Plantagenet Environmental Officers authorisation to ensure burning road verge will not cause any direct or indirect damage to declared rare flora or fauna.

h.3.9 No damage is caused to fences, roads, road furniture, drainage structures, public utilities or other property in the vicinity.

-
- i.3.10 Road verge burning may only occur on vegetation adjoining that resident/land owner's property.
- 3.11 Bushfire Brigades may be in attendance with warning devices activated (Red and Blue Lights).
- j.3.12 For environmental considerations a maximum two kilometres, be burnt per rateable property annually.
- k.3.13 ~~The applicant installs the appropriate traffic warning devices to indicate potential smoke hazard.~~ Appropriate signage is to be installed at each end of the planned verge burn detailing the possible smoke and fallen tree hazards, prior to any lighting.
- 3.14 Verge burns are to be recorded by the Shire of Plantagenet on a specific register and verges will not be authorised to be burnt more often than seven years.
- l.3.15 No obstruction of roadways or drainage channels by fallen trees or other debris results. The Shire must be notified immediately if this occurs. Every effort shall be made, by the permit holder, to remove the obstruction as early as possible.
- 3.16 Actions on escape or out of control will be in accordance with section 18, sub-section 11 of the Bushfires Act 1954.

Attachment Four

Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Report

**Shire of Plantagenet
Chief Bushfire Control Officer – Norm Handasyde
Report
BFAC Meeting 5-05-2021**

This season to date has given us Approximately 50 call outs.

With volunteer hours I believe to be at least 2,500 as most hours are not recorded.

Workshop October 2020 Items covered below

- 1/ Burn Smart program
- 2/ Access to Fire Sheds
- 3/ Training and what is required
- 4/ LGGS – Considerations for next year's budget.
- 5/ Appliances – MW submission for a lite attack unit
- 6/ New Sheds – Nil
- 7/ High Season Fleet – Lite attack for MW
- 8/ Planned Burns – Notification needs to be stepped up – and make sure all Chief's and Radio personal are notified.
- 9/ Permits – currently coming through to Mike 5 ways.
- 10/ Phone numbers for SMS – Collecting
- 11/ WhatsApp – BFB Groups
- 12/ Directories – one for each truck plus three / PDF copies available for other use
- 13/ Section 46 – Understanding
- 14/ Bushfire Resilience in the Great Southern
- 15/ Mitigation Activity Funding
- 16/ Bushfire Preparedness – Community presentations
- 17/ Info to Comcen – keeping them up to date
- 18/ ID Cards upgraded

Regional Operational Advisory Committee –

Fire weather districts review – NEED direction from this meeting.

New Chair – Darren Baum (Gnowangerup)

New BOC (Bushfire Operations Committee) Rob Lynn – Bushfires Volunteers Rep

Fines in the Bushfires act are in the process for upgrading, waiting for Govt approval/sign

Fridge for Fire Trucks are soon to be added to the LGGS funding on a case by case.

Handhelds once again are rejected for funding, DFES will not approve.

Events coming up

Fire fighter Training

Workshop - October

Other Training available – See Mike or DFES Online Portal for locations / up coming

Thanks to everyone for your input into this volunteer organisation.

Deputy Chiefs, Weather Officers, Base Radio operators, Brigade Captains, FCO's

Norm Handasyde - Chief Bushfire Control Officer - Shire of Plantagenet – 5/05/2021

FIRE INCIDENTS 2020-21 FOR SHIRE OF PLANTAGNET**42 to 50 incidents – Callouts to fires (a number of Lighting callouts during the night not recorded)**

- 6/7/2020 379 Crockerup Rd Mt Barker
- 6/9/2020 Millinup Rd x Chester Pass Rd
- 9/9/2020 Chesterpass Rd – Hay Fire
- 13/9/2020 826 Porongurup Rd
- 25/9/2020 Pennifold St x Seventh Ave Kendenup
- 18/10/2020 Stoney Creek / Surrey Downs Roads PORONGURUP - DCBA controlled burn
- 18/10/2020 Lake Matilda Rd Kendenup – Rubbish Fire
- 25/10/2020 Arbour St Rocky Gully – Scrub
- 26/10/2020 Surrey Downs Rd / Stoney Creek Rd PORONGURUP - DCBA controlled burn
- 6/11/2020 Porongurup Rd x Knight Rd – Vehicle Fire
- 7/11/2020 Kendenup – Permit burn Weekend 7-8th Nov 2020 (communication issues in Brigade)
- NOTE:** WhatsApp – 3 Base radio personal do not use this and don't plan too, however it is a very good communication tool for brigades in there area (but be mindfully that your VHF Base Radio people are not tuned into this) and keep them in the loop with VHF network.
- 17/11/2020 Muir Highway x Whitworth Road Forrest Hill – Grader Fire
- 22/11/2020 Braidwood Rd X Mokare Rise Mt Barker
- 7/12/2020 Albany Highway X Halsey Rd (Wrights property)
- 24/12/2020 Moorilup Rd Kendenup
- 27/12/2020 Harwood Rd x Fisher Rd Kendenup
- 30/12/2020 Webb Rd Kendenup
- Lighting Events – Numerous to Mention**
- 31/12/2020 Rocky Gully - Lighting
- 31/12/2020 Sidcup Rd Perillup – Lighting
- 31/12/2020 Harvey Rd x Muir Hwy – Lighting
- 6/1/2021 Amarilup Rd Perillup – Denbarker – Grinder
- 8/1/2021 JIM BAILY – Funeral – Porongurup South BFB
- 9/1/2021 Albany Hwy Narrikup

19/1/2021	Scott Rd x Woogenellup Rd
20/1/2021	Albany Hwy x Martagallup Rd
20/1/2021	Caldwell Rd x Rocky Gully Rd – Lighting at Blue Gum Dept of Water
21/1/2021	Clear Hills Rd Perillup – Lighting
22/1/2021	Boyup Rd Forest Hill – Lighting
25/1/2021	Martagallup Rd x Mallawillup Rd Kendenup
20/02/2021	Ferry Rd x Nindiup Rd Mt Barker – Rubbish Fire
8/3/2021	Albany Hwy x Pugh Rd – Vehicle Fire
13/3/2021	Chester Pass Rd x Yellanup Rd Sth Porongurups – Traffic Crash
14/3/2021	Rocky Gully – Car dumped fire
16/3/2021	Kwornicup Lake, Forest Hill – Slades Permit escape
17/3/2021	Kwornicup Lake, Forest Hill – Slades Permit escape
20/3/2021	Carr Rd x Wilson Rd, Narpyn
21/3/2021	Jackson Rd Narrikup – Power Line Fire – Wind Gust
5/4/2021	Albany Hwy x Beverley Rd, Kendenup
7/4/2021	Settlement Rd Narrikup – Fletchers fire
20/4/2021	Albany Hwy x James Rd Mt Barker – Vehicle Fire
24/4/2021	33940 Albany Hwy
29/4/2021	Pavlovich Rd Forest Hill – Permit Burn Escape

Attachment Five

Fire Weather Officer Report

BFAC Weather Chief Report 2020/21

As the 2020/2021 fire season draws to a close, this year's report is a bit briefer than normal.

It has been an unusually quiet fire weather reporting season with only five weather checks, resulting in one Harvest and vehicle movement ban.

The milder temperatures and persistent easterly winds were a prominent feature of this year's summer pattern. Added to this a series of early rain events, have reduced the fire risk. The unusual occurrence of two cyclones interacting off the WA coast resulted in a welcomed 60mls of rain across the Shire. The early break and increased rainfall is certainly a nice change from previous years, but may result in increased fuel loads later on in the season.

I would again like to thank all the weather officers for their time and effort during the season, especially Brent Wearmouth for filling in whilst I was away.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognise and thank Roger and Val for their hard work and dedication as base radio operator for the past several years. I wish them all the best.

Attachment Six**Base Radio Operator Report****4.4 Base Radio Operator Report****05/05/2020**

To: Bush Fire Advisory Committee
Item: 4.4 Base Radio Operator Report
Team: Roger Randall, Base Radio Operator
 Val Randall, Deputy Base Operator
 Ron Caudwell, Deputy Base Operator
 Jacqui Burcham, Deputy Base Operator
 Becky Barnes, Deputy Base Operator

Note: This report does not cover the day to day minor challenges or achievements.

Thank You

- Deputy Base Operators Ron Caudwell and Jacqui Burcham for their input, assistance and support over the 2020/21 period and the time I was working Central Queensland .
- Val Randall for holding the fort while I was working in Central Queensland.
- Mike Barnes for his assistance over the 2020/2021 season.
- To all those participating in the skeds.

Year 2020/21

- Late in the 20/21 season we welcomed Becky Barnes to the team of Deputy Base radio Operators. Becky has had experience in similar roles and is doing a great job.
- **Reminder:** When a deputy base radio operator is on duty they will use the call sign "6TN Base" as opposed to "6TN Deputy Base". This saves some confusion and time when making or receiving calls.
 When calling Deputy Base when not on duty use the following call signs:
 Ron Caudwell "Porongurup 9"
 Jacqui Burcham "Kendenup 10",
 Becky Barnes "Porongurup 20".
- **Reminder:** Anyone calling 6TN Base should allow 30 seconds or so before recalling. This will give them time to get to the radio if not on hand.
- Throughout 20/21 (including during the off season) we have continued to monitor the radio, take notes and provide assistance where possible when there is a fire. We have remained "on air" until the last person has left the fire ground and/or the last fire truck is either stood down on site or is back in the shed, this is an onerous task and perhaps should be the responsibility of the Incident Controller.
- There are currently 74 names (71 names 19/20) on the sked listing, we generally call 69 (67, 19/20) of these on a daily basis. There is a worrying trend across the brigades of more radio calls (skeds) going unanswered or where no one from a brigade answers at all. If this trend continues, perhaps these radios need to be reallocated to someone that will use them. This is not a seasonal farm issue.

Contact: Roger 0438883018

1

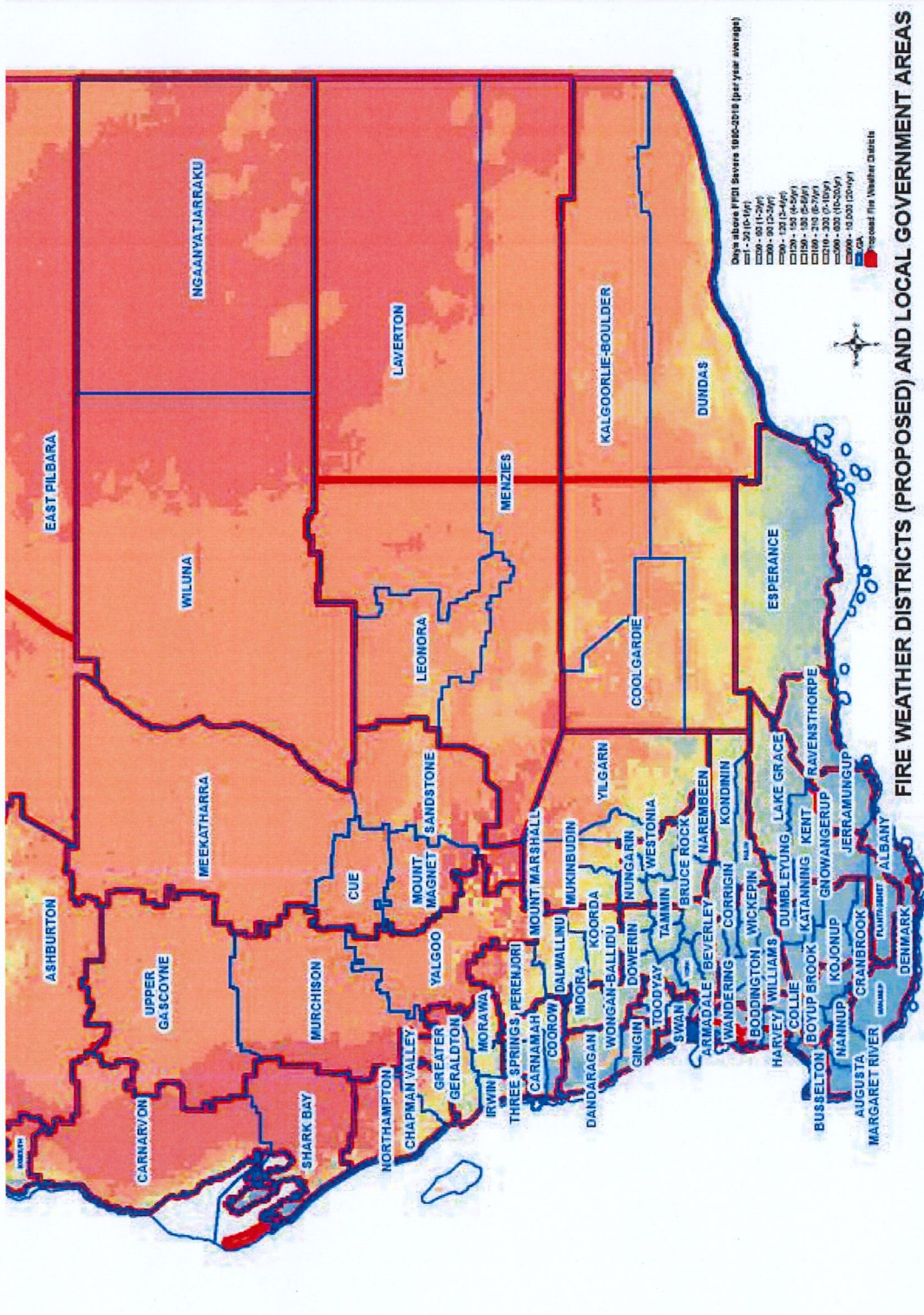
- **Reminder:** If you are going away for more than a day or two for any reason, please let TN Base or Deputy Base know (text or phone). Continually not answering the sked call may inadvertently let unsavoury individuals know that you are away. We will skip you for the period you are away or only call occasionally (and expecting no response).
- **Reminder:** There are still gaps relating to names of individuals attending fires i.e. Who is on the fire ground, when they arrived and when they departed. This information should be communicated by Text SMS messages or on the phone directly to TN Base. This is better than announcing the names over the radio for obvious security reasons.
We have not pushed this, however it is ultimately the responsibility of the Incident Controller to record who is attending fire and in what vehicle (private vehicle/fire truck).
- **Reminder:** Identifying the Incident Controller can sometimes be an issue. We try to keep meticulous notes on fire incidents throughout the year and are sometimes left wondering who is in charge. Hopefully this will further improve this coming year 21/22.
- **Reminder:** Fire trucks mostly continue to be reporting their departure from their shed and when departing the fire ground and again when arriving back at their sheds. This was great, thanks. We don't like calling Fire Captains late at night to confirm their trucks are back in the shed!

Year 2021/22

- 1: After being Base Radio operator for the past five (5) seasons, I will not be re-nominating for the position of Base Radio operator for Year 21/22 and I will not accept any nominations. I have been fighting the "black dog" for some time and need a break. Val and I will however go onto the Sunday roster for checking the Forest Hill Fire Truck. Val and I will retain "Forest Hill 12" call sign.
- 2: We will also be losing Val Randall as a Deputy Base radio Operator, who over the last 5 seasons has supported me and worked alongside me taking notes and standing in from time to time. Thank you.
- 3: **Reminder:** Again, I suggest we advertise in the Plantagenet News for expressions of interest for VBFB base radio operators. This is to see what hidden talent is around. Eventually we will need to find replacements and being able to train them over a period of time is important.

Roger Randall
DFES ID 174693
Plantagenet Shire Base Radio Operator 2020/2021

Attachment 7
Map of Proposed Fire Weather District Changes



Attachment 8

Proposed Fire Weather District Review Feedback Form –

Fire Weather Districts Review – Feedback Form

REGIONAL CONTACT DETAILS

Region / District / Local Government	
Contact Person (<i>name and position</i>)	
Contact Details (<i>phone, email</i>)	
Contributors to review (<i>i.e. regional staff, local Government etc</i>)	

PROPOSED FIRE WEATHER DISTRICT (FWD) FEEDBACK

Proposed Change 1

Proposed FWD name	
Do you support this FWD boundary change	Y N
Justification for supporting / not supporting boundary change?	
Suggested amendment to proposed FWD (<i>mark on map if required</i>)	

Proposed Change 2

Proposed FWD name	
Do you support this FWD boundary change	Y N
Justification for supporting / not supporting boundary change?	
Suggested amendment to proposed FWD (<i>mark on map if required</i>)	
Proposed FWD name	
Do you support this FWD boundary change	Y N
Justification for supporting / not supporting boundary change?	
Suggested amendment to proposed FWD (<i>mark on map if required</i>)	

Proposed Change 3

Proposed FWD name	
Do you support this FWD boundary change	Y N
Justification for supporting / not supporting boundary change?	
Suggested amendment to proposed FWD (mark on map if required)	

(include additional 'Proposed Change Tables' as required)

Other Comments:	
-----------------	--

Endorsement

Regional Superintendent / District Manager / Local Government Representative	
Signature	
Date	

Please return feedback by 4th June 2021 to AFDRS@dfes.wa.gov.au

Attachment 9

WA Fire Weather District Review Approach



Fire Weather Districts Review Approach April 2021

- The whole or portions of coastal subdistricts for the districts of Gascoyne, Pilbara and Kimberley were delineated based on 50 km distance from the coast (2004).
- Southeast Coastal District and Goldfields District aligned to the Esperance Shire boundary (2010)
- Implementation of the Geographic Forecast Editor (GFE) in October 2012 led to changes to boundaries in the north and SW. To correspond with coastal forecast boundaries, local and inland water districts were included as void areas.
- In December 2016, there was a slight boundary change between North Kimberley Coast and Kimberley Inland (Kununurra).

Since the last change in 2016 there have been a number of formal and informal requests made to change FWDs. In December 2017 a request was made from the Goldfields Midlands Region to change FWDs in the Goldfields, Eucla and South Interior to support Total Fire Ban implementation within the region. These requests were considered as part of the development of the initial proposed changes.

4. Agreement to Review FWDs

At the AFDRS IBOC Subcommittee held in 19 Nov 2020, it was discussed and agreed that the new AFDRS presented an appropriate opportunity to review and update the current FWDs. Following a presentation from Director Bushfire Technical Services (DFES) and Severe Weather Services Manager (BoM), the group discussed a number of proposed changes and agreed there was a need to review the current FWDs as part of the AFDRS Implementation Project. However, the group suggested further consultation was required at a regional level to ensure appropriate engagement with key stakeholders (DFES, DBCA, LG etc) in the review process. Initial changes were reviewed by the Fire Weather Sub Committee on 16th December 2020 who have indicated they are supportive of the review approach.

While it would be beneficial for system testing to incorporate the updated Fire Weather Districts, given system training and testing for the Northern Fire Season is scheduled to commence from May 2021, it is unlikely that this will allow adequate time for effective consultation. The changes do need to be finalised prior to September to allow for BOM AFDRS testing.

5. Review Assumptions

As part of the review process a number of assumptions have been made in relation to expected data and systems and access requirements associated with the new AFDRS. These include but are not limited to:

- The introduction of the AFDRS will result in the use of more detailed vegetation data inputs and systems that respond more accurately to spatial and temporal changes in fuel type and state.
- Fire Danger Rating calculations will be based on the use of the appropriate fire behaviour model (rather than only applying a grassland or forest model)



WA Fire Weather District Review Approach

The Fire Weather District Review forms part of the Fire Danger Rating Communication work package that contributes to the outcome: 'Community aware of specific daily forecast FDR impacting them'.

1. Background

Fire Weather Districts (FWD) are areas that are used to communicate Fire Danger Ratings (FDRs) and fire weather warnings to communities. They are owned by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), with DFES as a key stakeholder. There are currently 37 FWDs in WA. The implementation of the Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) presents an opportunity to review and address feedback and limitations associated with the current FWD boundaries.

Fire Weather Districts and subdistricts were created from boundaries from a number of existing datasets, including:

- Bureau of Meteorology Public Weather Districts (2007);
- Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Local Government (LGA) Boundaries (2010);
- Geoscience Australia GEODATA Coast 100K (2004).

2. Challenges with Current FWDs

FDRs are currently presented to the public as a forecast maximum daily FDR value across a broad Fire Weather District. As ratings are calculated as the highest FDR value that covers at least 10% of the area, the rating level may not be representative of the whole FWD. This can create over warning and result in confusion for the public, significantly impact industries and agencies subject to regulations that are linked to FDR thresholds. For example, a Total Fire Ban Exemption does not apply when a Catastrophic FDR has been forecast across a Fire Weather District. The broader the FWD the less relevant the FDR may be for the whole area, occasionally contributing to the over or under warning of the community.

FWDs do not necessarily take into account boundaries of fuel types, terrain or weather influence which can significantly impact fire behaviour. In addition, the FWD boundaries do not necessarily align with local government boundaries, which can result in confusion for the community, agricultural sector and industry.

3. Previous changes to FWDs

Over the years a number of changes have been made the Fire Weather Districts, with the most recent being:



resulting in more accurate fire behaviour predictions (reducing potential for non-representative FDRs).

- The introduction of BOMs Gridded Forecast Editor (GFE) in October 2012 removed the need for the default 50km Coastal FWD.
- FDRs will be issued at a local government scale.

6. Review Principles

The following review principles have been drafted as considerations used to support FWD boundary changes:

- Where possible to avoid confusion retain alignment between RWD and Public Forecast Boundaries;
- Combine areas of similar climate;
- Combine areas of similar land use and vegetation;
- Reduce area of the broadest FWDs;
- Use LG boundaries where possible;
- Use climate, vegetation, land use and infrastructure (HWY's) as boundaries where possible.
- Consideration of activity restrictions impacting Industry and Agriculture
- Limiting the number of FWDs (i.e. BOM have suggested a maximum of 40, due to practicality of issuing daily forecasts);

7. Measuring Success

The work will be considered successful if:

- DFES, DBCA and local governments have been consulted and their requirements considered in final FWDs;
- The review principles have been consistently applied, or and deviations have been documented for the record;
- The total number of Fire Weather Districts is considered manageable by BoM; and
- The FWDs as endorsed are implemented in the AFDRS systems (Fuel State Editor and Fire Danger Viewer).

8. Consultation and Communication

The review process will be facilitated by DFES in consultation with BOM. It will be undertaken with key stakeholders including DFES, DBCA and local governments. The consultation approach will be to provide initial presentations through existing committees, and networks to outline the consultation intent and approach. To assist in capturing regionally specific issues and suggestions, consultation will be facilitated at a regional level engaging DFES, DBCA and local government personnel.



Fire Weather Districts Review Approach April 2021

Local governments will also be engaged through presentations at each of the ROACs and DOACs scheduled throughout the consultation period. DBCA will also be consulted through the DBCA Regional Fire Operations Group. Other opportunities to engage multiple stakeholders will be provided through the Fire Weather Subcommittee, Bushfire Operations Committee and AFDRS IBOC Sub Committee. The below table lists committees and groups that have / will be presented to in relation to the FWD review.

A consultation pack will be provided to each of these groups and through other relevant networks to provide opportunities for review and provision of feedback to inform the review.

Item	Date
IBOC AFDRS Subcommittee – initial presentation	19/11/20
Fire Weather Subcommittee	16/12/20
AFDRS WA Operational Response Working Group	18/01/21
DFES Country Superintendents Meeting	16/02/21
DFES Metro Superintendents Meeting	17/02/21
IBOC AFDRS Subcommittee – consultation approach	25/02/21
DBCA Regional Fire Operations Group	26/02/21
Pilbara DOAC	03/03/21
Midwest DOAC	10/03/21
Lower South West ROAC	10/03/21
Great Eastern DOAC	15/03/21
Northam DOAC	16/03/21
Kimberley Fire Forum	25/03/21
Upper Great Southern ROAC	25/03/21
South West ROAC	25/03/21
Bushfire Operations Committee (BOC)	26/03/21
Metro ROAC	20/04/21
Great Southern ROAC	28/04/21

9. Approval Timelines

The below table outlines the process to obtain approval of reviewed FWD boundaries for use within the AFDRS system.

Item	Date
Supported by Fire Weather IBOC Subcommittee	14 July 2021



Fire Weather Districts Review Approach April 2021

Item	Date
Endorsement by AFDRS WA Implementation IBOC Subcommittee	August 2021
Boundaries Updated by BOM for use in AFDRS Testing	Sept 2021
Boundaries updated for use in AFDRS (when operational)	June 2022

10. Review Products

A number of products will be developed and used to support this review process. These will include:

- PowerPoint presentation developed for initial presentations
- Fire Weather Districts Review Approach (background document)
- A slide pack containing detailed information to provide context to the review, outline the approach and provide details to support decision making. Providing in a slide pack will allow for the detail to be presented as a PowerPoint presentation.
- Map products scaled to Northern WA, Southern WA and South West Corner with separate maps detailing the following 3 boundaries / layers:
 - Current (black) and proposed (red) FWD boundaries with proposed FWD labels
 - Proposed FWD boundaries (red) and LG boundaries (blue) with LG labels
 - Current FWD boundaries (red) and LG boundaries (blue) against fire behaviour model map.
 - Current FWD boundaries (red) against FFDI Severe and above frequency map (1990 – 2019)
- Feedback form for capturing and communicating feedback in relation to relevant proposed FWD changes.