

Shire of Denmark Minutes



BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE WAS HELD IN COUNCIL'S RECEPTION ROOM, 953 SOUTH COAST HIGHWAY, DENMARK, THURSDAY, 4th JUNE 2015, COMMENCING 6.55PM.

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Council Committee Meeting

4 June 2015

DISCLAIMER

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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Presiding Person opened the meeting at 6.55 pm.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCEMEMBERS: (Voting)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Graeme Thallon	C.B.F.C.O
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Ross McDougall	D.C.B.F.C.O
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Adrian Kranendonk	F.W.O
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cr Roger Seeney	Council Representative / Chairman
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Lez Baines	Carmarthen FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ms Sam Blythe	Owingup FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Bruce Pringle	Kordabup FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Peter Mildwaters	Mt Shadforth FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Jean-Marc Merat	Nornalup FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Joe Baker	Ocean Beach FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Sid Marshall	Scotsdale FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Brian Vigus	Tingledale FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ms Joan Merrifield	William Bay FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Don Atkinson	Town FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Gary Stanway	VFRS Captain
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Malcolm Hick	Mt Lindesay FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Alex Williams	Hazelvale FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Mike Hills	Harewood FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Ivars Sulcs	Peaceful Bay FCO

MEMBERS: (Non-Voting)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Wes Bailye	DPaW Fire Coordinator
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr John Tonkin	DFES Area Officer

STAFF: (Non-Voting)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Gregg Harwood	Director of Community & Regulatory Services
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ms Charmaine Shelley	Ranger
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Marcus Owen	Community Emergency Services Manager

ATTENDEES: (Non-Voting)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Paul Ashton	Elders Forestry
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr David Keels	Owingup BFB
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Graham Parker	

APOLOGIES:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Colin Tindale	Mehniup FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ms Ann Howard	Parryville proxy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Callum Baxter	Somerset Hill FCO

ABSENT:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Chris Hoare	East Denmark FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Kevin Hard	Parryville FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ms Bronwyn Wallace	East Denmark Proxy

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Nil.

Name	Item No	Interest	Nature

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING

The Chairman, Cr Roger Seeney said he would like to continue with the 'round table' approach in General Business however any business that arises from the discussion should be investigated further and brought back to a future BFAC with an officer report.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil questions.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**5.1 Committee Meeting Minutes**

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION & COMMITTEE DECISION	ITEM 5.1
Moved: Bruce Pringle	Seconded: Alex Williams
That the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held on the 5 th March 2015, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.	
Carried 19/0	

5.2 Matters Arising From Minutes**5.2.1 Bush Fire Service Command and Support Vehicle**

No further comments.

5.2.2 District Operational Advisory Committee (DOAC)

The minutes of the DOAC meeting held on Thursday 26th March at Jerramungup were circulated to members of the BFAC prior to the meeting.

There were no questions forth coming from the minutes.

5.2.3 Volunteer Vehicle and Equipment Advisory Committee (VVEAC)

The minutes of the VVEAC held on Saturday 14th March were circulated to members of the BFAC prior to the meeting.

Owingup FCO Sam Blythe referred to item 1114-05: Crew Protection Curtains

- The curtains in the Owingup light tanker are rolled and have resulted in injuries to brigade members; rolled curtains prevent the sun visor from being stored out of the way leading to obscured vision and injury to the driver and passenger.
- All other light tankers, in the Shire, have been fitted with folded curtains – folded curtains allow the sun visor to be stored in the same position as if no curtains were fitted.
- Sam asked Ross McDougall (BFS Great Southern Region Rep) to raise this issue at the next VVEAC meeting.

5.2.4 Re-vegetation of Windfarm Fire Tracks

Joe Baker and the CESM met with Donna Sampey on Friday 6 March.

Meeting summary:

No more tracks are being closed in this area.

The re-opening of the currently closed track heading west from the back beach car park will not be reopened

Discussions to be held in regard to mitigation work required if a fire was to approach from the south.

The track as it is would be a death trap in the event of a fast moving fire.

The CESM is currently looking to write a prescription for the coastal strip between Ocean Beach and Lights Beach in order to burn 'cells' within the area over a period of time to create a fire break.

5.2.5 Mount Shadforth UHF1 Repeater

Committee Service Outcome: (March 2015)

CESM to research the history and Council resolutions in regard to the Mt Shadforth UHF1 repeater.

The findings included;

- 1. November 2003 – Council moved a motion to not object to the erection of a second communication mast (Res: 407/03), following a request from Mt Barker Comms to relocate the mast from private property to the Telstra site.*
- 2. Following numerous communications between the interested parties, the Shire, Denmark Repeater Group, Denmark Technical Services and Telstra to name a few; the UHF 1 repeater was resurrected in March 2006 on Mt Shadforth.
Denmark Repeater Group made a financial contribution of \$4,822.*
- 3. March 2015 – Nurrunga Comms visited the repeater site and discovered that some of the equipment had been destroyed, beyond repair, by lightning.*

Nurrunga Comms have provided a quote of \$12,500 to reinstate the repeater. As a sign of good will Nurrunga would do the initial install free of charge.

The WAERN radio network functions on VHF and so UHF radios are largely redundant from an emergency service perspective. This said many earth moving contractors, 4wds, amateur and professional boats use UHF radios. This means that there are advantages to emergency service responders in being able to communicate with these users and hopefully less emergency service call outs would occur because these people can often plan or organise their way out of trouble if they can communicate.

The existence of a strong UHF repeater would also make it easier for rural land users to communicate in mobile phone blackspot areas and be of convenience to travellers that are towing vans.

It is the officer's opinion that BFAC should determine to make a recommendation to Council that a \$13000 allocation be made in the 2015 - 2016 budget to install a replacement UHF repeater that will become the property of the Shire of Denmark.

If this budget proposal is successful staff will need to get competitive quotes due to the size of the project.

Discussions at BFAC also highlighted the following;

- *Could be used by emergency services as a back channel to the WAERN in the event the WAERN went down.*

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION & COMMITTEE DECISION		ITEM 5.2.5
Moved: Don Atkinson	Seconded: Adrian Kranendonk	
That BFAC recommends to Council that a \$13,000 allocation be made in the 2015 - 2016 budget to install a replacement UHF repeater that will become the property of the Shire of Denmark.		
Carried 18/1		

6. TABLED ITEMS

6.1 DFES Safety Circular 01/2015

Since the distribution Safety Circular 01, Safety Circular 04 - Removal Of Jerry Cans From Light Tankers During Bushfire Incidents and Operational Circular 22 - Update On Fuel Can Safety have been published.

The BFAC SOP subcommittee has been requested to write a SOP that mirrors these circulars and to present it to a future BFAC for adoption.

6.2 Letter of Thanks from Department of Parks & Wildlife

A letter thanking all volunteers groups within the Shire of Denmark who contributed to bushfire suppression activities in the Warren Region was received from DP&W.

This letter has been circulated to all brigades

6.3 Certificate of Appreciation – Shire of Boddington

A Certificate of Appreciation was received from the communities of Boddington and Quindanning for the role the Shire of Denmark played at the Lower Hotham Bushfire.

A copy of the certificate has been circulated to all brigades.

The original certificate to be displayed in the Shire office.

6.4 Regional Telecommunications Project – Shire of Denmark

The Shire received a letter from the Department of Commerce notifying them that a new mobile phone tower was to be erected at Peaceful Bay, funded through Royalties for Regions. The letter stated the site would be in service during the first quarter of the 2015/16 financial year (July – September).

7. OFFICER REPORTS

7.1 Department of Fire and Emergency Services

DFES Area Officer John Tonkin provided a report to the Committee.

Report attached.

7.2 Department of Parks and Wildlife

DPaW Fire Coordinator Wes Bailye provided a report to the Committee.
Verbal report given.

Wes advised 14 prescribed burns had been started, 7 have been completed.

60,000ha is planned to be burnt during the 2015/2016 season.

On behalf of the DP&W Walpole office, Wes thanked the bush fire brigades of the Shire of Denmark for their assistance and support throughout the season.

7.3 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Graeme Thallon provided a report to the Committee.

Report attached

7.4 Community Emergency Services Manager

Community Emergency Services Manager Marcus Owen provided a report to the Committee.

Report attached

Unauthorised burning was referred to in the report leading to some discussion.

There have been some cases this past season where unauthorised burns have been undertaken; if you are aware of this happening please contact the Chief, the Rangers or myself as soon as possible so that action can be taken straight away, either investigation or issue of an infringement notice. The longer it is left the harder it will be to enforce.

Committee Service Outcome

CESM to report back to BFAC with compliance regimes, with particular focus on repeat offenders.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 Full Face Respirators

Full face respirators are now available to volunteer bush fire brigade fire fighters in addition to the P2 particle mask and the half face respirator with A1P2 filters.

Given that these masks may not be suitable for all volunteers the CESM recommends that a specific number of respirators be purchased and distributed amongst the brigades to give volunteers the opportunity to try them out.

The respirator is an eligible item on the ESL purchasing list.

Discussions generated the following points;

- Cost - Initial purchase approximately \$150/unit and ongoing costs for replacement filter cartridges are expensive.
- Respirator servicing – cleaning between each user/use and subsequent recording of wear duration (total working duration of 8hrs/set of filters)
- If conditions are so smoky, do you need to be there?

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION	ITEM 8.1
Moved:	Seconded:
That the CESM make an initial purchase of 30 full faced respirators to be trialled by brigade members with a view to purchasing more should they be required	
Carried /	

The committee decided not to move the officer recommendation preferring to have a look at the respirator and to defer the decision until the next meeting.

COMMITTEE DECISION	ITEM 8.1
Moved: Alex Williams	Seconded: Sam Blythe
That the committee evaluate the full face respirator and defer the decision to purchase until the next BFAC meeting.	
Carried 19/0	

8.2 Repeat Offenders – Burning Without Permits

The CESM has been approached by Nornalup FCO Jean-Marc Merat asking if a personal letter could be written to repeat offenders in regard to burning without a permit with the letter to be written and delivered to coincide with delivery of the Shire of Denmark Fire Regulation Notice.

This is not supported by staff as it is Council's standard practice to fine individuals and companies that light fires without permits as is the case in most council's across the state.

The subject of this item was discussed and covered in Item 7.4

8.3 Denmark Bushfire Brigades Gymkhana 2015

The Chairman thanked Peter Mildwaters and the Scotsdale/Shadforth Brigades for organising and running the gymkhana. It was a great fun-filled event and hoped it could be continued next year.

8.4 Thank You Bonfire at Bronnie's

As a Feast Not Fire event has not been organised this year Bev Seeney and Bronnie Wallace have organise a Thank you Bonfire for all volunteer firefighters and to celebrate the end of the 2015 fire season; this will also be an opportunity to acknowledge and thank Graeme Thallon for his dedication and efforts as Chief FCO.

The invitation has been circulated to all bushfire brigades.

8.5 Fire Regulation Notice

The DCRS informed the committee that no significant changes to the Fire Regulation Notice for the 2015/16 fire season are required however reference to land owned/managed by utilities needs mention.

The draft Fire Regulation Notice is to be circulated to FCOs for comment prior to going to print.

9. NEXT MEETING

It is recommended that the next meeting of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee be held at 6.30pm on Thursday 3rd September 2015 at the Denmark Shire Reception Room.

10. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business to discuss the Presiding Person closed the meeting at 9.40pm.

The Chief Executive Officer recommends the endorsement of these minutes at the next meeting.

Signed: _____
Dale Stewart – Chief Executive Officer

Date: 10 June 2015

These minutes were confirmed at the meeting of the

Signed: _____

(Presiding Person at the meeting at which the minutes were confirmed.)