

Shire of Denmark Minutes



BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD IN COUNCIL'S RECEPTION ROOM, 953 SOUTH COAST HIGHWAY, DENMARK, THURSDAY, 5th JUNE 2014, COMMENCING 7.30PM.

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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Presiding Person opened the meeting at 7.25 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"/>	Mr Lez Baines	Carmarthen FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ms Bronwyn Wallace	East Denmark Proxy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Albert Dierkes	Harewood Proxy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Bruce Pringle	Kordabup FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ms Sam Blythe	Owingup FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Colin Tindale	Mehniup Proxy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Jean-Marc Merat	Nornalup FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Joe Baker	Ocean Beach FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Kevin Hard	Parryville FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Lee Shelley	Mt Shadforth 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 Roger Seeney	Council Representative (Presiding Person)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Wes Bailey	DPaW Fire Coordinator
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Daniel Austin	DFES Superintendent

STAFF: (Non Voting)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Nathan Hall	CESM / Secretary
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Gregg Harwood	Director of Community & Regulatory Services

ATTENDEES: (Non Voting)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Paul Ashton	Elders Forestry
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APOLOGIES:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Alex Williams	Hazelvale FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Chris Hoare	East Denmark FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Mike Hills	Harewood FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Dave Guthrie	Mehniup FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Malcolm Hick	Mt Lindesay FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Ivars Sulcs	Peaceful Bay FCO

ABSENT:

Nil

VISITORS:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Ms Ann Howard	Parryville
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Peter Mildwaters	Mt Shadforth

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Nil

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING

The Chairman, Cr Roger Seeney would like to remind all Committee members and proxies that they have the ability to cast a vote and if they are in attendance at a Committee meeting then it is mandatory to do so.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES****5.1 Committee Meeting Minutes**

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION AND COMMITTEE DECISION	ITEM 5.1
Moved: Don Atkinson	Seconded: Joe Baker
That the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held on the 27 th February 2014, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.	
Carried 21/0	

5.2 Matters Arising From Minutes**5.2.1 Council Reports**

Following on from the September 2013 and February 2014 Bush Fire Advisory Committee meetings the following reports will be tabled at the May 27th 2014 Council meeting;

- Improved Hazard Reduction by Facilitating Prescribed Burning, and
- Live Drive Pumps on Fire Appliances.

A brief overview of the outcomes of these reports will be provided during the meeting.

At the March 25th 2014 Council meeting, Council discussed the report on Fire Regulation Provisions and the following motion was resolved;

That with respect to the recommendation of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee proposing significant variation to Council's Annual Fire Regulation with respect to Hazard Separation Zones Council;

1. Not further consider it until the Committee has received and assessed the revised Planning for Bush Fire Protection Guidelines currently being undertaken by the Department of Planning and Department of Fires and Emergency Services. In this manner the Council will not be faced with potentially significant and unnecessary resource implications with respect to community education and enforcement and the residents and ratepayers will not be faced with complying with an approach which may need to significantly change and be performed again the following year depending upon the Guidelines Review.

2. Advocate to the Departments overseeing the review of the Planning for Bushfire Guidelines that the Guidelines should make it clearer whether the Guidelines are intended to be utilised by Local Governments in assessing retrospective development applications on existing subdivisions and suggest that the review should provide clear guidance to local governments on how to manage and provide adequate protection to houses and persons on existing developments with high fire risks utilising section 33 of the Bush Fires Act (the Annual Fire Regulation Notice).

The Community Emergency Services Manager will liaise with the Director of Planning and Sustainability in providing feedback to the review of the Planning for Bush Fire Protection Guidelines.

Ross McDougall, who is also the Great Southern BFS representative on the DFES Volunteer Vehicle and Equipment Advisory Committee, advised that on 22 March he spoke with Mr Graham Bidos (Manager DFES Vehicle Workshops) and was informed that beyond appliances in the current build program there would be no further live drive appliances supplied to the BFS. On 3 June Ross again spoke to Mr Bidos who confirmed that other than appliances currently being built there would be no more live drive appliances provided to the BFS.

Daniel Austin advised that DFES currently has some twenty nine appliance types available to the BFS and this arrangement is not sustainable. DFES will be reducing the number of appliance types while ensuring that they are fit for purpose.

6. TABLED ITEMS

7. OFFICER REPORTS

7.1 Department of Fire and Emergency Services

DFES Superintendent Daniel Austin provided a report to the Committee. (Report Attached)

7.2 Department of Parks and Wildlife

DPaW Fire Coordinator Wes Bailey provided a verbal report to the Committee.

Wes explained that DPaW are now working to a new electronic prescribed burn process. Long term DPaW officer Ray Flannigan has recently resigned and in the near future a number of other experienced officers will be retiring.

Wes explained that DPaW was taking advantage of the current fine weather to forge ahead with their prescribed burn program and was intending to burn Quarram and Harewood and areas near Walpole and Mt Barker over the next few days.

7.3 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Graeme Thallon provided a written report to the Committee. No discussion ensued.

7.4 Community Emergency Services Manager

Community Emergency Services Manager Nathan Hall provided a written report to the Committee. No clarification or discussion was raised in relation to the report.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 Review of the Emergency Services Acts - Concept Paper

On the 16th April 2014 the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) released a Concept Paper which is the latest stage in the process of the review and amalgamation of the Bush Fires Act 1954, Fire Brigades Act 1942 and the Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998.

The Concept Paper now allows the general populace including local governments and volunteer fire brigade members to further comment on the findings of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services Review Team prior to the preparation of Parliamentary drafting instructions.

As the legislation involved, particularly the Bush Fires Act 1954 which is regularly utilised in the day to day business of the Shire of Denmark and its Bush Fire Brigades it is important that feedback is provided to DFES to assist in shaping the future how emergency management and services are undertaken into the future.

This report discusses the main areas of the Concept Paper that relate to the Shire of Denmark and its Bush Fire Brigades.

Background:

The Concept Paper has been drafted based on the extensive consultation that has been undertaken by DFES. During the first stage of consultation, the DFES Review Team met with over 450 people as part of information sessions across Western Australia. The Project Team also hosted 11 expert panel meetings between August and November 2013, with representatives of local governments, state government agencies, volunteers and the private sector. To date, in excess of 1,500 individuals have been directly consulted on the review through various channels by DFES with 220 formal submissions received.

The Concept Paper explores various options that have been considered in relation to identified issues. It also identified preferred options and provides another opportunity for stakeholders to supply feedback, adding rigour to the development of the future legislation.

Following the completion of the Concept Paper comment period, the processes of preparing Parliamentary drafting instructions will commence.

Consultation:

All of the Shire of Denmark Bush Fire Brigades, Councillors and staff have been advised of the review of the Emergency Services Acts and a notice was placed in the May 15 2014 edition of the Denmark Bulletin to specifically notify the general community.

Statutory Obligations:

There are major statutory implications in that the review, once completed will seek to amalgamate the Bush Fires Act 1954, Fire Brigades Act 1942 and the Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998.

Policy Implications:

There may be policy implications once the review of the Emergency Services Acts is completed and a review of Council's policies related to fire and emergency management may need to be reviewed to ensure that the Shire is operating within its statutory obligations.

Budget / Financial Implications:

There are possible financial implications upon either the Council's current Budget or Long Term Financial Plan and may include;

1. Provision of additional training of volunteer fire fighters,
2. Undertaking further risk identification and mitigation activities on local government land in general and or if directed to by the FES Commissioner,
3. Increased mitigation and compliance workloads of staff, in particular private property hazard management plans,
4. Education and community awareness programs, and
5. Redevelopment of infringement notices.

Strategic Implications:

The report and officer recommendation is consistent with Council's adopted Mission and Vision and assists achieve the following specific adopted Strategic Objectives and Goals.

Public Safety: ...work with relevant authorities and organisations to maintain a safe and secure environment for its residents and visitors.

Fire Management: ...work collaboratively with relevant agencies to maintain a high level of planning, communication and infrastructure for effective fire and emergency management.

Sustainability Implications:**➤ Governance:**

There are known significant governance considerations relating to the report as the new Emergency Services Act will result in the review of local government by laws, policies, procedures and daily activities.

➤ Environmental:

There are no known significant environmental implications relating to the report or officer recommendation.

➤ Economic:

There are no known significant economic implications relating to the report or officer recommendation.

➤ Social:

There are known social considerations relating to the report or officer recommendation as the Emergency Services Act will relate to the local communities and volunteer fire fighters.

Comment/Conclusion:

In May 2014 the Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) developed a Local Government Summary (attached) in response to the DFES Concept Paper. The Local Government Summary identifies the key points from the 198 page Concept Paper that are relevant to local governments which includes Bush Fire Brigades.

From reviewing both the Concept Paper and the Local Government Summary the officer has identified that a majority of WALGA's comments are valid and are in concord with recent motions that have been raised by the Bush Fire Advisory Committee and submitted to Council.

This includes subjects such as;

- Development and implementation of hazard management plans on private property.
- Prescribed burning is defined and referred to as a distinct mitigation strategy.
- The provision of a standard system that must be complied with in the case of every prescribed burn.
- In the case of any conflict between the new Emergency Services Act and any other prescribed Act, the Emergency Services Act will prevail.
- The inclusion of provisions of Asset Protection Zones.
- Inclusion of training standards for Bush Fire Brigades
- Local government retaining its control of Bush Fire Brigades, as long as it was meeting its responsibilities to the brigades.
- The endorsement of Incident Controllers.

There are some areas that the officer felt that further information was warranted from the DFES Review Team to assist in the ability to make an informed decision, such as;

- Replacing the Restricted and Prohibited burning times with a single Fire Danger Period.
- Placing the standard conditions for burning into the Regulations and permits not being required for certain activities.

As a result the following motion is put forward to the Committee;

Voting Requirements:

Simple majority.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

ITEM

That the Committee recommends to Council that,

1. In regards to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services Concept Paper for the Emergency Services Acts review that the Bush Fire Advisory Committee would like further clarification on the working details of sections;
 - 3.11.1 – Replace Restricted and Prohibited burning times with a single Fire Danger Period.
 - 3.16.1 – Permits will be required for burns that pose a higher risk, with conditions for most burns being set out in the regulations.
2. It supports the rest of the comments provided in the Western Australian Local Government Association Local Government Summary.

COMMITTEE DECISION

ITEM 8.1

That the BFAC authorise the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer to form a sub-committee / working group of a maximum six interested FCOs or brigade officers to make a submission on the proposed Emergency Services act on behalf of BFAC prior to the 30 July 2014.

Moved: Graeme Thallon

Seconded Joe Baker

Carried 20/1

8.2 Fire Appliance for the Scotsdale/Shadforth Bush Fire Brigade

This report discusses the motions that were raised at a meeting that was attended by some of the members of the Scotsdale/Shadforth Bush Fire Brigade, which were submitted to the Shire in relation to the scheduled replacement of the current 2.4 rural fire appliance.

The three motions that were raised at this meeting were;

1. That the Scotsdale/Shadforth Bush Fire Brigade not accept a PTO live drive truck if offered.
2. That this brigade keeps our current truck until a suitable replacement acceptable to the Scotsdale/Shadforth bush fire brigade is found.
3. That the qualified service technicians of the Shire of Denmark are consulted when brigade trucks are due for replacement.

Background:

The Shire of Denmark, along with all local governments in Western Australia, signed up to the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) in 2003 which is overseen by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES). A part of ESL process includes the State-wide Resource Replacement Program which sets out the replacement schedule for bush fire appliances, being 16 years for all fire appliances (tankers) larger than a light tanker, which is replaced once it is 10 years old.

The 1998 Scotsdale/Shadforth 2.4 rural fire appliance has now reached 16 years of age and a submission on the type of replacement fire appliance required was required to be given to the DFES Great Southern regional office as part of the Shire's 2014/15 ESL application by the 28th February 2014.

In deciding the type of fire appliance that would replace the Scotsdale/Shadforth 2.4 rural fire appliance the following factors were taken into consideration;

- The list of fire appliances available via the ESL State-wide Resource Replacement Program.
- The 2011 Shire of Denmark Risk to Resource document.
- The capacity and capability of the appliances.
- The needs of the growing community over the next 16 years, which identified the requirement for an appliance with urban interface firefighting capabilities.
- Consultation with the Chief and Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officers and the Scotsdale/Shadforth brigade Captain.

At the 27th February 2014 Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting the following motion was passed;

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION & COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved: Ross McDougall

ITEM 8.6

Seconded: Roger Seeney

That the Committee recommends to Council that;

1. *The current standard operating procedure P050108 Donkey Motored Pump Fire Truck Procurement is reworded to state;*

“To confirm that Council procures suitable fire appliances significant consideration should be given towards the fire appliances capacity and capability to ensure the best fire protection for the community is achieved, with the preference of fire appliances with Donkey Motored Pumps if they are available.

2. *That an alternate 2014/15 Emergency Service Levy application is submitted to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services that identifies that a 4.4 Rural Dual Cab fire appliance is the preferred replacement fire appliance for the current 2.4 Rural Single Cab fire appliance at Mt Shadforth/Scotsdale.*

On the 26th March 2014, the Shire of Denmark received a copy of the above stated motions that were raised at a meeting that was attended by some of the members of the Scotsdale/Shadforth Bush Fire Brigade, in relation to the scheduled replacement of the current 2.4 rural fire appliance.

Consultation:

The Community Emergency Services Manager has consulted with the Chief and Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officers, the Shire Chief Executive Officer, the Director of Community and Regulatory services, the Scotsdale/Shadforth brigade Captain and members of the Denmark Council.

Statutory Obligations:

There are no Statutory Obligations.

Policy Implications:

There are no policy implications.

Budget / Financial Implications:

There are no known financial implications upon either the Council's current Budget or Long Term Financial Plan.

Strategic Implications:

The report and officer recommendation is consistent with Council's adopted Mission and Vision and assists achieve the following specific adopted Strategic Objectives and Goals.

Public Safety: *...work with relevant authorities and organisations to maintain a safe and secure environment for its residents and visitors.*

Fire Management: *...work collaboratively with relevant agencies to maintain a high level of planning, communication and infrastructure for effective fire and emergency management.*

Sustainability Implications:

➤ **Governance:**

There are no known significant governance considerations relating to the report or officer recommendation.

➤ **Environmental:**

There are no known significant environmental implications relating to the report or officer recommendation.

➤ **Economic:**

There are no known significant economic implications relating to the report or officer recommendation.

➤ **Social:**

There are no known significant social considerations relating to the report or officer recommendation.

Comment/Conclusion:

In considering the motions raised by some of the members of the Scotsdale/Shadforth Bush Fire Brigade, only 17 of the 43 registered members were in attendance which was insufficient to form a quorum of brigade membership, the following comments have been provided;

1. While modern rural classified fire appliances are almost exclusively fitted with live drive pumps and petrol ancillary pumps, research by Nathan Hall, Council's Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) has indicated that a small number of diesel donkey motored rural fire appliances are occasionally built and that there was a possibility that in the future that some diesel donkey motored rural fire appliances may be available.

Having obtained this information the CESM has communicated to DFES that Council's first preference is for a diesel donkey motored rural classified fire appliance, followed by a petrol donkey motored rural classified fire appliance and that a live drive rural classified fire appliance was Council's least choice, however one that the Council would accept to ensure that the new appliance would have the best capacity and capability for the Shire over the next 16 years.

2. The ultimate decision as to what types and configurations of fire appliance are provided to the Shire rests with Daniel Austin, DFES's Great Southern Superintendent, the final decision as to which brigades those units are allocated to rests with Council.

The Brigade's concerns have been raised with the Shire's Chief Executive Officer and the Shire of Denmark as the agency with operational responsibility for bushfire brigades. It should be noted that we are not prepared to allow fire appliances to be retained past their scheduled ESL change over dates and we are not prepared to allow brigades to decline fire appliances because they have been specified according to the current and future needs of the area.

3. While the advice of the Shire's service technicians is valued and automatically considered as part of Council's normal business operations, the Shire is not prepared to allow fire appliances to be retained past their scheduled ESL change over dates.

While the Shire's service technicians are regularly consulted with in relation to the servicing and condition of the Shire's fire appliances with recent forms, such as the vehicle fault books, further assisting with communications, the whole purpose of the 16 year rotation for larger fire appliances is that no vehicle is kept long enough to necessitate the juggling of vehicle changeovers and the retention of outdated equipment.

4. A letter has been provided to the Scotsdale/Shadforth Bush Fire Brigade outlining these comments and closing this matter.

From this information the following recommendation is put forward.

Voting Requirements:

Simple majority.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION and COMMITTEE DECISION	ITEM 8.2
That the officer report titled “Live Drive Pumps on Fire Appliances” regarding the replacement of the current 2.4 rural fire appliance at the Scotsdale/Shadforth Bush Fire Brigade and the referral from the 27 th February 2014 BFAC recommendation to Council be noted.	
Moved: Ross McDougall	Seconded: Graeme Thallon
Carried: 21/0	

Committee Service Outcome:

That staff and the newly elected future Mount Shadforth & Scotsdale FCOs have discussions with DFES to confirm the characteristics of the replacement fire appliance for those brigades.

8.3 Inspection of Controlled Burns

On the 12th May 2014, the Scotsdale/Shadforth bush fire brigade requested that the Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) provide some legal clarification on the following question in relation to Fire Control Officers inspecting private properties prior to issuing a permit;

“If an issuing officer inspects the proposed burn to assess its safety prior to either issuing the permit or prior to letting the permit holder light up does this not then shift the liability to the issuing officer. It appears to us that this safety inspection could be shifting the legal liability from the permit holder to the issuing officer. In the event of an escaped burn or a disaster, would not the permit holder use for their legal defense that the issuing offer said it was safe to light”.

The CESM researched the Bush Fires Act & Regulations 1954 and has sought confirmation on his finding with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and is able to provide the following response;

1. Section 15 of the Bush Fire Regulations 1954 clearly states on Form 3 (Permit to Set Fire to the Bush) that “A Bush Fire Control Officer is not compelled to inspect an area to be burn before issuing a permit to burn. The onus lies on the person not only to comply with the provisions of the Bush Fires Act, but to also to ensure there is no danger of the fire escaping. The issue of this permit in no way affects that responsibility.”

As such it clearly identifies that the onus of ensuring that the fire does not escape is completely the responsibility of the permit holder and not the Fire Control Officer that issued the permit.

2. The inspection of a burn site by a Fire Control Officer does not ensure the safety of a burn, but rather allows a Fire Control Officer who decides to inspect a burn site to actually reduce the risk of a fire potentially escaping as this allows them to identify and provide any specific conditions to the permit as per section 18(7) of the Bush Fires Act 1954. Without undertaking an inspection this information may not be identified via the information they are given over the phone or at another location by applicant wishing to obtain a permit.
3. A site inspection would provide further support to a Fire Control Officers decision should they refuse to issue a permit as identified in section 15(2) of the Bushfire Regulations 1954 and would assist the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer’s or Chief Executive Officer’s consideration should the applicant make an appeal against the decision of a Fire Control Officer to refuse a permit.

4. A Fire Control Officer cannot be held responsible for the attitude and actions of a property owner to whom they have issued a permit as the permit holder is the one making the definitive decision to conduct the burn and the method in which that burn is undertaken.
5. Section 37 of the Fire and Emergency Services 1998, which provides that a person does not incur civil liability for anything a person has done, in good faith, in the performance or purported performance of a function under the emergency services Acts.

Unless the Fire Control Officer issuing the permit was acting in a malicious or negligent manner and they validly issued a permit under section 18 of the Bush Fires Act 1954, then they are likely to be captured by Section 37 of the Fire and Emergency Services 1998. The inspection of a proposed burn will only further assist in proving that due care was taken by the officer issuing the permit.

Based on the information obtained from the emergency services Acts, observations provided from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and the CESM's personal experience, the inspection of proposed burn sites prior to a Fire Control Officer issuing a permit are beneficial in assisting in the prevention of the potential escape of a fire and actually minimising a Fire Control Officer's risk. As this matter is quite clear it is the CESM's opinion that further legal advice through the Shire's solicitors is not required.

As such the safest approach for Fire Control Officers to take in regards to issuing a permit would be to inspect the proposed burn sites where possible, especially when there is any doubt in regards to the conditions required to be included on a permit or insufficient information has been provided by a person requesting a permit.

Noted by Committee.

8.4 Fire Regulation Notice

Due to the current review of the Emergency Services Acts, development of State Planning Policy 3.7 "Planning for Bushfire Risk Management" and the drafting of the document Planning for Bush Fire Risk Management Guidelines no major alterations are envisioned for the 2014/15 Fire Regulation Notice.

Other than reviewing the dates and contact details in the Fire Regulation Notice a recent request has been received from the Ocean Beach Fire Control Officer, Joe Baker, in regards to the possibility of email addresses being included in the Shire's Fire Regulation Notice, to allow for an alternative method of receiving requests for and the issuing of permits.

It has been suggested that Fire Control Officers that wanted to consider this option could be assisted in creating a new position orientated Hotmail address, such as oceanbeachfco@hotmail.com or camarthenfco@hotmail.com, which could be utilised by current and future officers to obtain requests and send permits via the internet rather than making costly phone calls to mobiles etc.

Another benefit of permits being sent via the internet is that people will be able to readily receive their permits once they have been scanned and sent by the Fire Control Officer as it has been found that some people are not collecting their permit once it had been written. This may result in people not complying with or remembering the conditions that have been placed on the permit.

As such it has been identified that on page 5 of the current Fire Regulation Notice that the column titled UHF call sign could be replaced with the email addresses of Fire Control Officers that wanted to utilise this option. As the general public do not have access to the WAERN radio network, knowing a Fire Control Officers call sign is superfluous and that space could accommodate email addresses.

As previously mentioned the use of email addresses for receiving permit requests and sending permits via the internet is not compulsory and needs only to be undertaken by Fire Control Officers that wish to utilise this option. As such the following recommendation to council is put forward;

OFFICER and COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION	ITEM 8.4
Moved: Joe Baker	Seconded: Lee Shelley
That the Committee recommends to Council that;	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Due to the current review of the Emergency Services Acts, development of State Planning Policy 3.7 "Planning for Bushfire Risk Management" and the drafting of the document Planning for Bush Fire Risk Management Guidelines no major alterations are undertaken for the 2014/15 Fire Regulation Notice. 2. That minor alterations to the 2014/15 Fire Regulation Notice are undertaken and include; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Updating of dates to match the current year, b. Updating of Fire Control Officer positions and contact details, and c. Removal of UHF call signs for Fire Control Officers on page 5 of the Notice and replacing it with the email addresses of Fire Control Officers who wish to have them listed. 	
Carried 20/1	

8.5 Retirement of District Manager Russell Gould

At the end of March 2014 District Officer Russell Gould retired from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. Russell has been working with the Department for over 20 years and spent most of his recent years providing assistance and guidance to the Shire of Denmark and its Bush Fire and Fire and Rescue Brigades.

A letter from Russell has been attached to this agenda and the Community Emergency Services Manager will be providing a response and thanking Russell for his years of dedicated service to the community.

Adrian Kranendonk spoke on behalf of the committee to thank Russell Gould for the hard work and guidance that he has provided to the Denmark Brigades during his tenure. The meeting resolved to have Roger Seeney write to thank Russell.

8.6 Plantation Industry

Paul Ashton informed the meeting that the industry was relatively quiet at the moment however they are continuing to undertake fire mitigation work on plantations.

8.7 Appliance Battery – Safety Circular

In response to a question the CESM advised the meeting that ESL funds will be used to replace batteries as required by the circular.

8.8 Appliance Crew Protection Measures

Adrian Kranendonk expressed concern that the recent work to replace some plastic components on appliances did not include replacing plastic fittings in the engine air intake that could melt in a high temperature situation and shut down the engine.

8.9 Improving Bush Fire Response

Gary Stanway suggested to the meeting that response to bush fire could be enhanced by DFES utilising SMS messaging to notify BFS personal of reported incidents.

8.10 Voting Members of BFAC

Daniel Austin and Wes Bailey suggested to the meeting that it was inappropriate that representatives from State Government Departments be included on BFAC as voting members. Whilst they are happy to provide input and advice to relevant issues they consider that being obliged to vote on matters can place them in a conflicted situation. They requested that the Committee consider recommending to Council that the BFAC Charter be altered to change the Departmental representatives to non-voting members.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION		ITEM
Moved: Sam Blythe	Seconded: Lez Baines	8.10
That BFAC recommends to Council that the BFAC Charter be altered to make the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and the Department of Parks and Wildlife representatives' non-voting members.		
Carried 21/0		

8.11 Feast Not Fire

The CBFCO Graeme Thallon expressed his appreciation to the meeting of the effort that the FnF Committee had put in that resulted in the event being a resounding success.

9. NEXT MEETING

It is recommended that the next meeting of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 4th September 2014 at the Denmark Shire reception room.

10. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business to discuss the Presiding Person closed the meeting at 8.25pm.

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

Signed: _____
Annette Harbron – Ag/Chief Executive Officer

Date: 17 June 2014

These minutes were confirmed at the meeting of the _____

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