

Shire of Denmark

Minutes



BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD IN COUNCIL'S RECEPTION ROOM, 953 SOUTH COAST HIGHWAY, DENMARK, WEDNESDAY, 28th FEBRUARY 2018, COMMENCING 6.30PM.

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Council Committee Meeting

28 February 2018

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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Cr Mark Allen the Presiding Person opened the meeting at 6.37pm.

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Ross McDougall	C.B.F.C.O
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Lez Baines	D.C.B.F.C.O
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cr Mark Allen	Council Representative & Presiding Person
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cr Roger Seeney	Council Delegate, Deputy Member
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Mike Hills	Harewood FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Bronnie Wallace	East Denmark FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Bruce Pringle	Kordabup FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mrs Gail Guthrie	Mehniup FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Murray Brooker	Mt Lindesay FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Joe Baker	Ocean Beach FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Ivars Sulcs	Peaceful Bay FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Sid Marshall	Scotsdale FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Brian Vigus	Tingledale FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Simon Coppock	William Bay Proxy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Don Atkinson	Town FCO & Deputy Presiding Person
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Gary Stanway	VFRS Captain
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ms Kelly MacLeod	Carmarthen FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Bryce Edwards	Owingup Proxy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Jean-Marc Merat	Nornalup FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Kevin Hard	Parryville FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Callum Baxter	Somerset Hill FCO

MEMBERS: (Non-voting)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Wes Bailey	DCBA PaWS Fire Coordinator
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Tim Wall	DFES Area Officer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Mal Parker	PF Olson
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Paul Ashton	ABP

STAFF: (Non-voting)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Marcus Owen	CESM / Secretary
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ms Melanie Haymont	Bushfire Risk Planning Coordinator

ATTENDEES: (Non-voting)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Craig Hughes	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Cyril Edwards	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ms Vivienne Gardiner	Bushfire Risk Planning Officer

APOLOGIES:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Ms Sam Blythe	Owingup FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Alex Williams	Hazelvale FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Adrian Kranendonk	F.W.O
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Peter Mildwaters	Mt Shadforth FCO

ABSENT:

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Nil

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING

Cr Allen passed on the Shire President's and Deputy Shire President's thanks for the brigades efforts throughout the fire season so far.

Cr Allen also introduced Mel Haymont and Viv Gardiner to the committee.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr Cyril Edwards raised some points in regard to some volunteers missing out on a day's wages when responding to fires as a result of negligence and that the perpetrator not being held to account.

The CESM asked to address these concerns in the CESM report.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 Committee Meeting Minutes

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION & COMMITTEE DECISION	ITEM 5.1
Moved: Murray Brooker	Seconded: Gail Guthrie
That the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held on the 8 th June 2017, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.	
Carried Unanimous	

5.2 Matters Arising From Minutes

5.2.1 Command Vehicle

The Command/Support Vehicle has been delivered, fitted out and commissioned and has proved to be an extremely valuable addition to the fleet.

The CESM thanked the Chief for his efforts, and those who were also involved, to secure this vehicle and get it operational.

5.2.2 Management of Town-site Unallocated Crown Land (UCL)

For the 2017/18 financial year \$32,000 was requested and subsequently approved for mitigation works in Denmark.

To date no work has been completed due to the need to use DFES approved contractors. A lot of Local governments are in the same boat.

To date;

A scope of works has been put together and sent to a local contractor (DFES approved) to provide quotes. A reply is imminent.

It is understood that DFES and WALGA are currently discussing insurance covers in order for local governments to be able to carry out mitigation works.

Monday 12th March 2018 Palmers Earthmoving were asked to proceed with mitigation works.

5.2.3 Fire Equipment Trailer

Council has approved the transfer of funds.

Purchase order has been issued.

Expected to be built and ready for collection by end of March

6. TABLED ITEMS

Nil

7. OFFICER REPORTS

7.1 Department of Fire and Emergency Services – Tim Wall

Report attached

7.2 Department of Parks and Wildlife – Wes Bailye

25,350ha has been burnt this season so far, 12,00ha of which was done in Denmark.

Autumn program is on hold at present – awaiting rain.

25,00ha to be done, 10,000ha of which will be in Denmark.

7.3 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer – Ross McDougall

Report attached

Feast Not Fire – mixed opinions as to whether it should be a formal or informal event.

Budget of \$3,000

Bev Seeney happy to coordinate with assistance, Ross to confirm with Bev.

7.4 Community Emergency Services Manager – Marcus Owen

Report attached, including report from the Rangers

7.5 Bushfire Risk Planning Coordinator – Melanie Haymont

Mel thanked the brigades for their input so far that resulted from the initial zone meetings.

Brigades were given maps of their brigade areas on which to log further information.

Both Mel and Viv are happy to attend brigade meetings to discuss the project and answer any related queries.

7.6 Plantation Industry

Paul Ashton thanked the brigades who were involved in the plantation fire on Roberts Rd and praised the rapid response that kept fire damage to a minimum. Appreciation was also extended to the front-end-loader operator who put a break around the fire to prevent further spread.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 Social Media Policy

Brief discussion held.

Policy needs to be backed by code of conduct.

8.2 Provision of Fast Attack vehicle for Mt Lindesay BFB

Short discussion on Future Fleet – future appliances will be ‘off the shelf’ vehicles.

Round Table discussion

Permits for William Bay area – William Bay FCO has left Denmark.

Simon Coppock happy to assist, with the local knowledge, Joe Baker, Chief, Deputy Chief, Callum Baxter with the writing of permits.

Generator theft from Mehniup.

Brigades to compile an asset list for their sheds and return to CESM.

Brigades to let CESM know if they require security screens over windows.

To avoid 'burn-out' of volunteers, be smarter with experienced and less experienced mix.

Cr Seeney thanked the Chief & Deputy for their efforts so far this season.

9. NEXT MEETING

It is recommended that the next meeting of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee be held on Thursday 7th June 2018 at the Shire of Denmark Reception Room following the AGM.

10. CLOSURE OF MEETING – (Expected closure 8:30pm)

There being no further business to discuss the Deputy Presiding Person closed the meeting at 8.50pm.

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

Signed: _____
Cary Green – Director Corporate & Community Services

Date: 19th March 2018

These minutes were confirmed at the meeting of the

Signed: _____

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



DFES COUNTRY OPERATIONS REPORT TO SHIRE OF DENMARK BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF 28 February 2019

Fellow Fire Fighters,

The following report has been compiled in order to draw Brigade members' attention to some issues which may be of interest.

TRAINING.

Volunteer Fire Fighter Training

DFES Great Southern has prepared regional training calendar for 2018. Should you or your brigades require any training, please let Marcus or me know.

PRE- SEASON FORUMS

Last year's pre-season forums (8 across GS region) was well received and feedback on how we can do it better this year has been taken on board.

This year's forum will be held in Shire of Plantagenet on 26 September 2018.

This year will include guest speaker.

Scenario includes – ordering spot forecast, fire shape predictions, issuing advice, watch and act and emergency warning and planning road closures. Incident grows and focus becomes on the role and relationship between Sector Commander and IC.

Rural Urban Interface exercise was held prior to last year's fires season as successful, this years will be held again in Denmark in October location TBA

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Bush fire ready training in Denmark on 14 April 2018, this training is focused on brigade members and bush fire ready with in local your community.

5 Minute fire chat with community members – replaces Prepare Act Survive.

Regards,

Tim Wall
AREA OFFICER – ALBANY WEST
GREAT SOUTHERN REGION

BFAC Meeting 28th Feb 2018

Chief Bushfire Control Officer's Report

Permits

We are about to enter the Autumn 2018 Restricted Period and I think it is an opportunity to remind permit writers of a few matters. It is important that a telephone number is included with the details of the permit holder, as often a quick call can save turning out an appliance. And also if using a contractor or brigade please note that on the permit.

The conditions are particularly dry at this time so permits should be restricted to heaps no more than 10 square metres and please reinforce the need for adequate water on hand and the permit holder must be in attendance until the fire is extinguished. No permits for standing bush at this time unless a prescription is written and brigade/s are in attendance. If unsure please contact Fire 2, Denmark CFM , or Denmark Chief.

Easter is at the end of March so please reinforce with absent landowners the need to fully extinguish the fire before they go back home and as per the usual practice no new fires should be lit on Good Friday (30 March).

Feast not Fire/ Brigades Bonfire

The Shire of Denmark Council sets aside funds for the Denmark Brigades to run an event each year to thank volunteers in the Bush Fire Service and their families. There is quite a bit of effort to successfully run an event and it takes a small hard working team at least a few months of work. I would like to publicly acknowledge and thank Bev Seeney for her hard work coordinating the event for the last few years and those who have helped Bev. If BFAC would like an event this year we need to have people who are willing to volunteer their time to put the event together. BFAC needs to nominate the type of event and provide suggestions about what is the best way to recruit willing event coordinator and workers.

Private Bridges

At a recent fire on the edge of Town appliances travelled across a small private bridge that was unable to carry the weight of a heavy appliance and failed. Fortunately no crew were injured nor the appliance damaged but it could have had a different outcome.

The Annual Fire Management Notice provides for a driveway with a trafficable surface of 4 metre width and Guidelines for Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas allow for vehicle access to have a minimum capacity of 15 tonnes.

Following the incident with the private bridge the CESM spoke with the Rangers to include private bridges as part of the Rangers annual fire inspections and if in doubt the Rangers will refer the matter to the Engineering Section of the Shire.

Please be aware of this incident and look out when crossing any private bridges. All public bridges are designed to take the heaviest trucks otherwise they will have clear signs stating a load limit.

Western Power Grants

There are several changes to the Annual Western Power Grants including the provision for Local Government Authorities to apply for grants that benefit brigades across the Shire. Because of this change the Shire of Denmark is submitting an application for an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED), a comprehensive first aid kit and a Thermal Image Camera to be kept in the Command and Support Vehicle.

Which reminds me, to encourage all active brigade members to do a first aid course, which enables members to more effectively use the AED if we are successful with the funding or not !!.

CESM Report BFAC Meeting 28 February 2018

Prevention

Planned burns;

- Airport reserve – prescription written – on hold.
- Parry Beach – Boating & Angling Club and north of the caravan park – prescription written.
- 387 Benson Rd Bow Bridge (Tony Manso)
- UCL – Zimmerman St/Ocean Beach Rd (including Water Corp south side of Rail Trail)
- UCL – to rear of Shire Depot

Bushfire Management Plan (BMP) reviews; on going.

Shire of Denmark Bushfire Risk Management Plan ongoing – Mel Haymont to report

- Thanks to the brigades for attending the initial workshops organised by Mel, your input was greatly appreciated, please keep feeding information back to Mel.

Community Engagement

- More Street Meets have been held, Point Hillier Vista and Knowles Court. These meets were well attended. Congratulations to the brigades involved. The scope is there to conduct more, if you wish to host a street meet in a location within your area, it can be arranged.
- DFES Community Engagement Officer Charlotte Powis and CESM have been coordinating some engagement activities in Peaceful Bay, targeting the visitors and raising awareness of the bushfire threat in the area and distributing brochures containing emergency services contact numbers etc.

Fire Management Notice 2017/18

- Compliance inspections targeted Special Rural & Special Residential areas.
- Progress has been slow due to Low Fuel Access issues. Rangers and CESM have had to revisit properties to go over the requirements.
-

Preparedness

Vehicle Servicing

AVL checks – a monthly check of AVLs is now required

Due to unforeseen circumstances there have been delays with appliance servicing.

WAERN radio maintenance and 400MHz upgrade

- Increased number of UHF channels from 40 to 80
- Will not affect BFBs use of Ch 173 or simplex channels we currently use

Training

A training needs analysis of each brigade, for VFF1 & VFF2 pathways, was conducted to determine which courses to prioritise for 2018. Thanks to the volunteers who assisted in this process.

The training courses and dates for 2018 have been distributed to brigades;

Shire of Denmark BFB Training Calendar 2018				
Course	Date	Location	Course Coordinator	Training Course Occurance ID
Intro to Structural Firefighting	11/03/2018	Denmark Shire Office	Marcus Owen	5492368
Intro to Firefighting	22/04/2018	Denmark Shire Office	Marcus Owen	5493983
Bush Fire Firefighting	28/4 to 29/4/2018	Denmark Shire Office	Marcus Owen	5494296
Pump Operations	9/6 to 10/6/2018	Denmark Shire Office	Tim Wall	5490874
Intro to Structural Firefighting	23/06/2018	Denmark Shire Office	Tim Wall/Michelle Naisbit	5640701
Plantation Firefighting	7/07/2017	Denmark Shire Office	Tim Wall	5641044
Advanced Bushfire Firefighting	25/7 to 26/7/2018	Denmark Shire Office	Tim Wall	5635684
Crew Leader (Bushfire)	26/07/2018	Denmark Shire Office	Tim Wall	5635936
Intro to Structural Firefighting	28/07/2018	Denmark Shire Office	Marcus Owen	5637151
Pump Operations	25/08/2018	Denmark Shire Office	Marcus Owen	5642921
Fire Control Officer	14/09/2018	Denmark Shire Office	Tim Wall	5641840
Intro to Firefighting	30/09/2018	Denmark Shire Office	Marcus Owen	5643812
Bush Fire Firefighting	6/10 to 7/10/2018	Denmark Shire Office	Marcus Owen	5644123
Rurul Urban Interface	6/10/2018	Denmark Shire Office	Tim Wall	5649473
FCO Refresher	24/10/2018	Denmark Shire Office	Marcus Owen	5649266
Ground Controller	7/11/2018	Denmark Shire Office	Marcus Owen	5649833

Encourage members to check their Pathway on eAcademy for courses available to them.

VFF1

- AllIMS Awareness
- Intro to Firefighting
- Bushfire Firefighting

VFF2

- Intro to Structural Firefighting or Structural Firefighting

VFF3

- Advanced Bushfire Firefighting
- Pump Ops

Or

VFF5

- Advanced Bushfire Firefighting
- Crew Leader
- Ground Controller
- AllIMS4
- Sector Commander

PPC/PPE

- Requests for new or replacement PPC (jackets, pants, helmets & boots) are to be made through the brigade Captain using the PPC Request Form.

Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS) – ESL 2018/19

- Two 3.4 Urban Tankers (crew cab) have been approved valued at \$569,100 each, for Nornalup & Peaceful bay
- An offer of \$134,300 operating budget has been made. This offer is to be rejected and additional funds requested to cover increased insurance costs for the 2 new appliances, insurance is expected to cost approximately \$5,500 per appliance.

Response

Many thanks to all who attended the fires this season to date, especially those who spent considerable time at Board Rd.

At times it has proved to be quite difficult to 'man' appliances, this issue has led to fatigue problems with crews returning to the fire ground without a suitable rest period.

The Chief and CESM are looking to address this.

Recovery

The Shire's Local Emergency Management Arrangements (LEMA) has been updated. The document was table at the February Council Meeting and subsequently endorsed.

OTHER

Brigades are reminded of the Local Law below with regard to the timing of AGMs.

BUSH FIRES ACT 1954

Shire of Denmark

BUSH FIRE BRIGADES LOCAL LAW

3.6 *Holding of annual general meeting*

A bush fire brigade is to hold its annual general meeting during the month of March each year.

Can brigades have AGM minutes and Office Bearer details to the CESM 30th April at the latest?

Board Rd Fire

Lessons were learnt at this fire.

Cause;

- Suspect sparks escaped from heaps of smouldering debris beneath heaps of dirt as a result of debris being pushed up and burnt in the spring.

Action;

- Make contractors aware of implications of mixing too much dirt with pushed up debris.
- Consider burning in the Autumn
- Will the heap burn up completely – too green, cart away or burn once dry
- Re-visit heap to 'stir' it up so it can burn completely

Contractors were contacted and this advice offered.

Action;

- Offer the above advice to the public

An article was published in the Bulletin.

Action;

- Remind permit holders of their obligations at the time of issue.

Action;

- Purchase Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC)

The property owner in question is paying for the dozer and has also been infringed.

Local government only administer the infringements as set out in the Bushfires Act 1953, they do not set the penalties.

CESM

Marcus Owen

Community Emergency Service Manager

Fire Management Notice 2017/18 Inspections

Rangers Report 28/02/18

- 265 letters of non-compliance have been mailed out
- 9 bush Fires Act 1954 Infringements have been issued
- 0 Withdrawals of Bush Fires Act 1954 Infringements
- 1 Bush Fires Act 1954 Infringement - Failure to produce permit to burn
- 2 Bush Fires Act 1954 Infringement – Section 18 Offences relating to burning of bush

Rangers have inspected the Rural Urban Interface, Special Residential and Special Rural also Peaceful Bay and Nornalup townsite also previous offenders and properties that stand out.

Contractors have been engaged by the Shire on a several properties where the owners have failed to comply with notice and therefore have been invoiced for these works with an additional 10% Administration Fee.

Each of the 265 properties are inspected twice and those that are non compliant and are infringed Rangers re-inspect the third time then a contractor is engaged by the Shire and the Ranger then meets with the contractor explains what is required to carry out the work. Total of up to 2 – 4 Inspections can be undertaken on one property. Letters are mailed out each time.

Rangers are quite often called back to a property to discuss and explain to the property owners what work is required to meet the Fire Management Notice. Receive and return numerous phone calls to property owners.

Absentee landowners are mostly only able to attend to properties within a longer time frame.

Holiday homes are booked out and have owners have to book time out for either a contractor or the property owner to attend to the non-compliance.

It appears that property owners know they are going to get a warning notice, granted an extension of time to comply and are not taking responsibility of ensuring their property is compliant by the 1 December and continually maintained through until the 30 April the following year.

Recommendation to Council for future Fire Management Notice Inspections that non-compliant properties are infringed upon first inspection, \$250.00 from the 1 December.

Ranger's inspections continue through until the end of April, by March it is already too late by the time you carry out the multiple inspections on one property.

More Fire Management Notice Compliance education is required to increase compliance throughout the Shire.

Notes on UCL/UMR insurance for LEMC

We have been in communications with the DFES procurement manager Kelli Smith

We have been advised that the tender process for contractors, to be put on the approved contractor list has not been finalised. We currently have no indication of when this will be finalised.

Prescribed burning by LG-managed BFB's: DFES met with the Manager, Property and Liability of LGIS on 17 January, where we agreed that LGIS would work with WALGA to establish a common insurance position for mitigation services on behalf of all LG's.

We are still seeking clarification regarding the ability of the BFB to carry out this year's burn program on UCL/UMR

There has been a concession to the unlimited in the aggregate requirement of DFES to contractors for the practical application of this requirement but it will be at the discretion of DFES staff .

If there is no contractor on the preferred contractor list locally we make seek permission/advise from the Bushfire mitigation branch

In short.. they are working on simplifying the process for us

The manager of DFES procurement services is happy to come down and give a presentation to explain the rationale behind the process