

Shire of Denmark Minutes



BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HELD IN COUNCILS RECEPTION ROOM,
953 SOUTH COAST HIGHWAY, DENMARK,
TUESDAY 26th JUNE 2018.

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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7.17pm.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCEMEMBERS:

Cr Mark Allen	(Voting) Council Delegate / Chairman
Mr Ross McDougall	C.B.F.C.O
Mr Lez Baines	D.C.B.F.C.O
Cr Roger Seeney	Somerset Hill FCO Proxy
Mr Chris Hoare	East Denmark FCO Proxy
Mr Mike Hills	Harewood FCO
Mr Bruce Pringle	Kordabup FCO
Mr Joe Baker	Ocean Beach FCO
Ms Sam Blythe	Owingup FCO
Mr Sid Marshall	Scotsdale FCO
Mr Alex Williams	Hazelvale FCO
Mr Brian Vigus	Tingledale FCO
Mr Kevin Hard	Parryville FCO
Mr Adrian Kranendonk	F.W.O.
Ms Kelly MacLeod	Carmarthen FCO

MEMBERS:

Mr Brendan Gordon	(Non-Voting) DFES Area Officer
Mr Wes Bailye	DBCA PaWs Fire Coordinator

STAFF:

Mr David Schober	(Non-Voting) Manager of Community Services
Mrs Charmaine Shelley	Senior Ranger
Ms Melanie Haymont	Bushfire Risk Planning Coordinator
Ms Kevina Richardson	Acting Secretary

VISITORS:

Mr Graeme Thallon
Mr Lee Shelley
Mr Bryce Edwards
Mr Craig Lilley
Mr Carl Wesley

APOLOGIES:

Mr Jean-Marc Merat	Nornalup FCO
Ms Bronnie Wallace	East Denmark FCO
Mr Tim Walls	DFES Area Officer
Mr Callum Baxter	Somerset Hill FCO

ABSENT:

Mrs Gail Guthrie	Mehniup FCO
Mr Murray Brooker	Mt Lindesay FCO
Mr Ivars Sulcs	Peaceful Bay FCO
Mr Don Atkinson	Town FCO
Mr Gary Stanway	VFRS Captain
Mr Peter Mildwaters	Mt Shadforth FCO
Ms Joan Merrifield	William Bay FCO

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING

Cr. Allen passed thanks on behalf of Cr Ceinwen Gearon, Shire President, to all Bush Fire Volunteers for their efforts in dealing with the incidents in late May 2018. Cr Allen also passed on his own thanks to the Volunteers for their efforts over those days in May 2018.

Cr. Allen expressed his support of the Bush Fire Brigades and emphasised he was looking forward to working alongside the Bush Fire Brigades and Shire of Denmark in the future.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 Committee Meeting Minutes

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION	ITEM 4.1
MOVED: LES BAINES	SECONDED: MIKE HILLS
That the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held on the 28 th February 2018, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.	
CARRIED UNANIMOUS: 14/0	RES:010618

5. OFFICER REPORTS

5.1 Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)

The Great Southern Area Officer (AO) Mr Gordon thanked the Bush Fire Brigades for their efforts at the incidents at the end of May 2018.

Mr Gordon advised that the Great Southern AO role would rotate between Great Southern Community and Emergency Service Managers until a replacement is found. Mr Gordon advised that DFES is restructuring and there is no timeframe for this to occur.

Mr Gordon advised that the e-Academy Training Computer System is reverting back to the modular system to make it more 'user-friendly'.

5.2 Department of Biodiversity Conservation & Attractions (DBCA)

Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) Fire Coordinator Wes Bailye advised that DBCA had conducted 14 burns in the Great Southern area during this past fire season (9 burns within the Shire of Denmark) resulting in a total of 30,000 hectares being burnt.

Mr Bailye advised that DBCA proposed 25 prescribed burns (with 11 proposed for the Shire of Denmark) during the coming fire season, with a proposed total burn area of 18,000 hectares.

5.3 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Ross McDougall advised the committee that the new Fire Equipment Trailer was almost ready. The internal wiring needs to be finished with a few fast fill pump fittings needing to be ordered while other equipment needs to be loaded. Mr McDougall advised that the trailer will be able to carry quite a lot of equipment including the collar tank, two fast fill pumps, road signs, jerry cans with fuel, additional hoses, foam etc. He advised that they are also hoping to get some folding camp chairs so fire fighters can rest at water points or during meal times.

Mr McDougall said the trailer will be garaged in the Somerset Hill Fire Shed where it can be connected to mains power to keep the internal battery charged. Mr McDougall asked that if Brigades want to use the trailer for hazard reduction burns, please let the Chief, Deputy or Denmark CESM know so they are aware where it is if it is needed in an emergency.

Mr McDougall spoke about the success of the Brigade Bonfire which was held at Parryville Hall on Saturday 9th June 2018. Mr McDougall said despite the rain there were around 70 people in attendance.

Mr McDougall passed on his thanks to the people involved in putting the event on, particularly Bev Seeney.

5.4 Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM)

As the current CESM, Marcus Owen, was on leave, David Schober, Manager of Community Services, addressed the committee.

Mr Schober asked for his comments from the AGM on the 26th June 2018 to be tabled -

Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM)

- End of 3 year contract term and recruitment process outlined
- Acknowledgement of past 3 ½ years service for current CESM Marcus Owen
- Noted the support from Brigades for Marcus
- Appointment of new CESM Scott Medhurst. Outlined background and relevant skills and experience.
- Start date is early to mid August 2018
- General discussion on function of the role and support to Brigades

Meeting deferral

- Apology to BFAC members however due to a number of complications a change was required to manage conflicting demands to achieve the best outcomes
- Meeting dates for 2018/19 will not be altered and members are asked to nominate proxy members in the event they are unavailable. Should the Chair be unavailable the Deputy Chair will Chair the meeting.
- Meeting frequency will be discussed in General Business.

Mr Schober also let the committee know that there would be a morning tea function to farewell Marcus Owen, CESM, on Monday 2nd July 2018 to be held in the Shire of Denmark Administration building. Mr Schober asked if the Brigades can please advise him of attendees prior to the day.

5.5 Bushfire Risk Planning Coordinator

The Bushfire Risk Planning Coordinator (BRPC) Melanie Haymont provided the following report to the Committee.

- Shire of Denmark hosted a Fire resilience workshop on the 26th of May 2018. The workshop was delivered by the Forever Project and presented by Chris Ferrira and Rohan Carbon. The workshop was well attended with 50 people learning how to manage fuel loads and biodiversity on their properties.
- Shire of Denmark would be facilitating a Community debrief for the recent fires in Peaceful Bay on the 13th July. This meeting will be a collaborative effort between Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) and

the Shire of Denmark, with a number of representatives from other agencies invited to attend. Any Brigades that would like to attend are welcome.

The purpose of the meeting would be to:

- Inform the community about the events surrounding the fire of 24th May,
 - Discuss preparedness levels across the community, and
 - Share insights into emergency management in Peaceful Bay.
- 2017/2018 Unallocated crown land – Unmanaged Reserves (UCL-UMR) funding has been acquitted.
 - 2018/2019 UCL -UMR works have been planned. \$43,700 has been applied for to complete these works.
 - Asset ID is ongoing throughout the Shire, slow process due to the nature of the vegetation in the shire of Denmark.
 - The Bushfire Risk Management Plan (BRMP) is 60% complete and will be the contextual document associated with the treatment schedule. Once complete and endorsed by Council and the Office of Bushfire Risk Management the Shire would be eligible to apply for funding through the mitigation activities fund
 - The BRPC attended the Nornalup picnic to provide information on the BRMP process and general preparedness
 - Thanks to the Brigades who have stated identifying fuel ages and mitigation in their Brigade areas. The BRPC will start collecting this information in August.

5.6 De-Brief Response 24th & 25th May 2018

Tabling of notes from de-brief held on May 24th and 25th 2018 which involved feedback from the Brigades.

Chairman, Cr Allen, congratulated the Fire Brigades for their honesty during the debrief meeting regarding the incidents on the 24th and 25th of May 2018.

5.7 Fire Break Notice Improvement

Mr Schober spoke to committee about the types of Fire Management Notices. Discussion ensued and the members advised the meeting they prefer the glossy A4 Fire Management Notice as distributed in 2017/18 year.

5.8 Private Burns

This item was deferred and covered in items 5.9 and 5.10.

5.9 Applying Costs to Irresponsible Property Owners

Discussion on various possibilities for changes to the Fire Management Notice to better reflect the responsibilities of residents. This included when burning off during permit and non-permit seasons.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

MOVED: LEZ BAINES

ITEM5.9

SECONDED: MIKE HILLS

The Shire of Denmark 2018/19 Fire Management Notice to be reworded from 'open' to 'no permit required' and the word 'unrestricted' in the definitions be changed to read 'no permit required; you may light an open fire but you must have the means to extinguish or control and contain the fire within the boundaries of the property'

CARRIED UNANIMOUS: 14/0

RES:020618

5.10 Private Property Owners to have Fire Unit on-site

The Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer discussed the various options available to the Shire and Brigades around enforcement of the Bush Fire Act. Cost recovery and fines for negligent residents considered.

The Bush Fire Risk Planning Coordinator asked to establish Fire Guidelines to go alongside the Fire Management Notice defining the wording to clarify for the general public. This could then be considered by Council when adopting the 2018/19 Fire Management Notice to residents.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 Mr Alex Williams – Property Sale Advice

Mr Williams asked if the Shire of Denmark advises, at the time of property settlement, for the requirement of fire break areas.

Mrs Shelley, Senior Ranger, stated this was addressed through the Property Settlement Advice completed by the Shire of Denmark.

6.2 Mr Joe Baker – Standardised Fittings for Water Tanks

Mr Baker asked whether property owners could be advised that a standardised fitting is required on water tanks so that Fire Brigade tankers can be filled as required.

Outcome

The Bushfire Risk Planning Coordinator will report at the next BFAC the new regulations for property owners who do not have scheme water to the property.

6.3 Cr. Mark Allen, Chairman – BFAC Meeting dates

Cr. Allen advised that currently BFAC meetings are held on first Thursday of June September and March. The Chairman put forward that he would like to have more meetings throughout fire season.

Discussion ensued and it was determined no changes would be made to future BFAC meeting dates. It was noted that BFAC meetings can be called at any time, as required.

It was noted that the National Council for Fire and Emergency Services Conference (also known as AFAC) will be held from the 5th – 8th September 2018. Some BFAC members will be unavailable if attending this conference however the BFAC meeting will convene as scheduled.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday 6th September 2018 at the Shire of Denmark Reception Room and will commence at 6.30pm.

8. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business to discuss, the Presiding Person closed the meeting at 9.09pm.