

Shire of Denmark Agenda



BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TO BE HELD IN Nornalup Hall
SOUTH COAST HIGHWAY, NORNALUP
THURSDAY 14th January 2021, COMMENCING AT 6.30PM

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Bush Fire Advisory Committee

Vision

Our vision is to make the Shire of Denmark a safe community by managing the risk of fire through the delivery and implementation of fire prevention, preparedness, response and recovery strategies.

Terms of Reference

- To recommend and regularly review Council's Policies relating to the delivery of fire prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.
- To provide support and guidance to all Bush Fire Brigades within the Shire of Denmark and to assist those Brigades to fulfil their objectives.
- To establish and maintain an operational command and control structure by developing procedures to enhance the ability of the Brigades to carry out operations, activities and training efficiently and effectively.
- To ensure co-operation and co-ordination between all Fire Brigades within the Shire of Denmark and between all other Fire Brigades and stakeholders in their efforts and activities.
- To advise Council regarding all matters relating to prosecutions for breaches of the Bush Fires Act 1954.
- To advise Regional Officers in the area and any other relevant person or organization on matters referred to the committee.
- To report to Council on matters referred to the Committee by Council.
- To perform any other function assigned to the Committee under Section 67 of the Bush Fires Act, regulations or Council policy.

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Presiding Person opened the meeting at 6.35 pm.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Lez Baines	CBFCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Bryce Edwards	DCBFCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Nigel Marsh	DCBFCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cr Mark Allen	Council Delegate / Chairman
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cr Roger Seeney	Council Delegate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Mike Hills	Harewood FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Craig Lilley	Kordabup FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Murray Brooker	Mt Lindesay FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Hank Alberts	Ocean Beach FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Trevor Brown	Peaceful Bay Captain
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Sid Marshall	Scotsdale FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Callum Baxter	Somerset Hill FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Alex Williams	Hazelvale FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Brian Vigus	Tingledale FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Kevin Hard	Parryville FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Lee Shelley	VFRS Captain
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Paul Harbron	VFRS
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Adrian Kranendonk	Fire Weather Officer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Neville Brass	Nornalup FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Simon Coppock	William Bay FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Craig Hughes	Carmarthen FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Carl Wesley	Mt Shadforth FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Paul Moncrieff	Mehniup FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr William Miller	East Denmark FCO

MEMBERS:

(Non-Voting)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Wes Bailye	DFES Area Officer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nikki Rouse	DBCA
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Paul Ashton	Australian Bluegum Plantations

STAFF:

(Non-Voting)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Ms Renee Wiggins	Manager of Community Services
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Lee Shelley	Acting Community Emergency Services Manager
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr David Lonie	Senior Ranger
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ms Melanie Haymont	Bushfire Risk Planning Coordinator

VISITORS:

Joe Baker
Gail Guthrie

APOLOGIES:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Sid Marshall	Scotsdale FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Paul Moncrieff	Mehniup FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Simon Coppock	William Bay FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Brian Vigus	Tingledale FCO

ABSENT:

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING**

Cr Allen welcomed Renee Wiggins to the meeting as Acting Manager Community Services and Lee Shelley as Acting Community Emergency Service Manager.

Thanked outgoing Community Emergency Service Manager Scott Medhurst for his work and professionalism to BFAC for the past 30 months and wished him well in his new role

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**4.1 Committee Meeting Minutes**

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION	ITEM 4.1
Moved: Alex Williams	Seconded: Adrian Kranendonk
That the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held on the 8th October 2020, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.	
Carried: Unanimously	

5. OFFICER REPORTS**5.1 Department of Fire and Emergency Services**

Mr Wes Bailey provided a report to the committee

- Thanked the Bushfire members that volunteered to attend the Red Gully fires north of Perth only to be stood down before Kojonup
- Stressed the importance of keeping up to date with safety circulars
- Encouraged any new potential leaders to apply for DES leadership Program
- Any Interstate or intrastate deployments requires volunteers to have a minimum of 4 yrs experience

5.2 Department of Biodiversity Conservation & Attractions

Ms Nikki Rouse provided a report to the committee

- DCBA has conducted burns totalling 15000 ha in the Warren Region with 600ha in the Denmark area
- DBCA are planning for Autumn burning 2021
- A brief overview of the Rate Block burn

5.3 Australian Bluegum Plantations

Mr Paul Ashton provided a report to the committee

- Currently harvesting 20ha at Nekele Rd
- Extra risk management procedures adopted

5.4 Chief Bushfire Control Officer

Mr Lez Baines Reported on the following

A nice brief report for the start of this new year.

- For the first time in around 6 to 7 years Peaceful Bay Brigade turned out to attend a Fire. This occurred where the green waste was dumped in Peaceful Bay. The Brigade has come back from the dead and they are extremely enthusiastic and ready to turn out wherever they are needed.

- We have only had one more incident which was a Structure Fire on Mt Shadforth Road. As always, I requested that VFRS be paged plus Mt Shadforth Appliances. Will was actually driving the East Denmark 2.4 when the call came in and I instructed him to also attend, Fire 3 also arrived to assist. Being a Structural Fire I handed control over the VFRS as they were the required main combat agency.
- Communications between VFRS and Bush Brigades are excellent and we all work together without any issues. Thanks to all you guys.
- Lee Shelley, the acting CESM, needs to be congratulated on his work sorting out what has been, or not been done, plus also sorting out the PPE orders and other issues.
- Lee also found a box of medals which had never been issued which are here this evening.
 - Training across the Shire seems to be in full swing with some interesting exercises being held.
 - Finally, the Communication Repeater Mast issues are slowly being resolved. Tomorrows Schedule will hopefully be crystal clear after the technician's found what they feel was a faulty earth wire. Fingers crossed.
 - Requested Shire write a letter on behalf of BFAC thanks to Scott Medhurst
 - Asked brigades to check aerials and microphones vertex handhelds and order new if required
 - No Chinese knockoff radios are to be used by any brigade or its members

5.5 Acting Community Emergency Services Manager

Mr Lee Shelley provided the following report to the committee

Community Engagement;

Preparedness

- Familiarisation for Incident Support Room at the shire was held on the 23rd December with Shire staff CBFCO, deputies and ICV trained volunteers
- PPC and PPE are on order and awaiting delivery there has a long lead time for delivery of some items
- FCO's with any concerns with properties in their area regarding the lack fire preparedness and mitigation please liaise call and speak to one of the ranger team

Training

- IFF & BFF t held 24th & 25th October 36 places was well attended
- Zone training was well attended with burn over training, turn out procedures and PAFTAC reporting skills refreshed
- Volunteer Hub and Eacademy. All volunteers are encouraged to access the Hub and Eacademy to assist in their access to information and training.

Response

- Thank you to crews that volunteered for the Red Gully Fire only to be stood down

Business Arising from previous meeting

- **Communications Tower Mount Shadforth**
A temporary mast and repeater has been installed with investigations ongoing. DFES Communications technicians and contractors working to resolve the issue.
- **Fuel Load Surrounding Communications Tower Mount Shadforth**
These works have been completed and paid for by DFES, photos shown to the meeting of the completed works.

5.6 Bushfire Risk Planning Coordinator

Ms Melanie Haymont provided the following report to the committee

▪ Verge Burning

The Shire of Narrogin sought clarification on exemptions under the bushfire act with regards to clearing for bushfire mitigation purposes. Previously it was unclear as to the need under the act to gain a clearing permit each time we need to do mitigation work, burning is classified as clearing.

DWER and DFES has sought legal advice from the State solicitor and they have come back with the advice that we can use section 36B of the BF Act to give us authorisation to clear on Shire owned or Vested land for the purpose of fire control.

This is the mechanism we can use to issue permit to undertake verge burning. We will still need to develop a robust internal process to ensure we do not take-out heritage, environmental or structural values. If DWER consider the clearing excessive or unnecessary this may still constitute unauthorised clearing under the act.

Shire to show due process when permitting clearing upon Shire vested land under this exemption. Internal process to be developed with Rangers, Sustainability and CESM

▪ MAF

Works progressing with most of roads completed and moving on to reserves and access's

Addition works programmed for approx.\$100,000 including ULC/UMR

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES.

NIL

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1

Radio Comms

The following extract from <https://www.omnitronicsworld.com/dfes-department-offire-emergency-services-selects-omnicore/> may be of interest to Denmark brigades.

“DFES is the second WA government department to select **omnicore** as their radio dispatch system in just a 2month timespan. Vast distances and extremely harsh conditions in the largest Australian State mean reliability cannot be compromised. Selecting an Australian dispatch system gives peace of mind that the developers fully understand how to manage communications over vast distances when the mission is critical.

The software-based dispatch solution **omnicore** was developed for the dispatch requirements of radio systems that need to connect large numbers of sites over great distances using Radio over IP technology.

Integrating **omnicore** with IPR series **RoIP** and **Interoperability Gateways**, analog radio and digital technology connect effortlessly.”

At first sight it may seem to impact on the analogue radio that we depend upon at our level of operations. I do not think that it will, but it might be a good idea for brigades to understand how RoIP can contribute to incident management ... and should perhaps be discussed at BFAC.

Cyril Edwards
Training Officer, Ocean Beach BFB

Response

Lez Baines stated that there is no advantage to the brigades using this technology

7.2

Driveway Crossover Compliance

Who is responsible for this section of driveway? It being Shire land, is the Shire responsible for seeing that the driveway comes up to the standard required for safe access of a fire vehicle, does it have the clearance required as laid down in the Shire Fire Break Notice? If not the Shire's responsibility, can the property owner bring the driveway up to the Shires Firebreak Notice standard, that is can the property owner clear vegetation, cut down or fall trees & do earthworks to bring the driveway up to the Shires Firebreak Notice standard? If this is the case, is the property owner required to have a Clearing Permit to do this work on Shire owned land?

Is there a policy on this?

Neville Brass

Nornalup FCO

Response

It is the land owner's responsibility as per the Fire Management Notice. A clearing permit is not required though any major works including removing trees and construction will require liaising with the Ranger Team and seeking Shire approval.

The Shire is looking to amend their crossover notice to reflect a consistent approach in regards to access to properties.

Action

- Neville Brass requested clarification in writing from the Shire regarding crossover and verge clearing on Shire land in front of private property

7.3

- Cr Seeney questioned the age of the Large wall map in the Shire ISG. CESM replied the maps are approximately 4years old and are used as a visual guide. Detailed maps are used for planning
- Mike Hills requested volunteer insurances be added to the next BFAC agenda, detailing what volunteers are covered.
- Hank Williams question why the HRB at Water Corp block was cancelled
Lez Baines stated that conditions weren't right and he vetoed the burn
- Bryce Edwards stated that many volunteers from other agencies qualifications and experience aren't being recognised by DFES and are reluctant to undergo the full DFES courses. He said that abridged courses may be completed on a case-by-case basis and to contact him directly.
- Murray Brooker thanked Richard Stanley for the radio training he has been conducting with Mt Lindesay and Lee Shelley for assistance with brigade business
- Craig Hughes said they are training well as a brigade
- Nikki Rouse requested feedback on the DBCA Pre-season training
- Cr Seeney thanked Shire officers for the work with Sutton Rd residents with variations to LFBA
- Les Baines stated he felt that there should be no "budget" for essential PPE
- BFAC Chairman Cr Allen praised BFAC members for their participation and support

8. NEXT MEETING

It is recommended that the next meeting of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee be held on 15th April 2021 at the Shire of Denmark Reception Room that will commence at 6.00pm

9. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business to discuss the Presiding Person closed the meeting at 7.58 pm