



Minutes

BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE SHIRE OF DENMARK RECEPTION ROOM
953 SOUTH COAST HIGHWAY, DENMARK
THURSDAY, 20th April 2023, COMMENCING AT 6:30pm

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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Chairperson acknowledged the land on which this meeting is being held and the traditional custodians of the land, the Bibbulmun and Menang people and pay respects to Elders past, present, and emerging. The cultural significance of fire and the role of the custodians of our land in relation to fire was acknowledged.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS:

Cr Ceinwen Gearon	Shire President, Council Delegate and Chairperson
Cr Clare Campbell	Council Delegate
Lez Baines	CBFCO
Nigel Marsh	DCBFCO
Brian Vigus	Tingledale FCO
Roger Seeney	Somerset Hill Captain
Simon Coppock	William Bay FCO
Craig Hughes	Carmarthen FCO
Chris Hoare	East Denmark
Craig Lilley	Kordabup FCO
Paul Moncrieff	Owingup FCO
Geoff Bowley	Shadforth FCO
Darin Hockley	Denmark VFRS, FCO
Adrian Kranendonk	Fire Weather Officer
Emily Harper	Mt Lindesay Proxy
Graham Dixon	Ocean Beach Proxy

STAFF:

Renee Wiggins	Manager of Community Services
Mark Guerin	Community Emergency Services Manager
Victoria Holloway	Bushfire Risk Mitigation Coordinator
Natalie Pescud	Administration Officer – Community Services

VISITORS:

NIL

APOLOGIES:

Alex Williams	Hazelvale FCO
Murray Brooker	Mt Lindesay FCO
Hank Alberts	Ocean Beach FCO
Claire Thompson	Governance Coordinator
Shane Howlett	DCBFCO
Paul Harbron	Town BFB

ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

Nil

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING

Ceinwen announced the CEO's resignation and extended thanks to the CEO David Schober for his magnificent support of BFAC, the Brigades, staff, and volunteers particularly during the Bayview Rise fires.

The chair noted that this meeting is being held during school holidays which can be difficult for members with children and suggested that school holiday meeting dates are avoided in the future.

Welcome to Nat Pescud – Administration Officer Community Services

3.1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

COMMITTEE DECISION & OFFICER RECOMMENDATION	ITEM 5
That the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held on the 19 th of January 2023, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.	
Moved: Lez Baines and Adrian Kranendonk	
Carried: Unanimously	

4. REPORTS

4.1. UPDATES FROM DEPARTMENTS AND POSITIONS

The Committee to be provided with an update on various matters from the departments and positions.

4.1.1. DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

NIL

4.1.2. DEPARTMENT OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION & ATTRACTIONS

NIL

4.1.3. AUSTRALIAN BLUEGUM PLANTATIONS

NIL

4.1.4. CHIEF BUSHFIRE CONTROL OFFICER

4.1.4.1. Permits in the gazetted town area. Proposal that no permits to be issued in the gazetted town area of Denmark during the Restricted periods or that permits only be issued to where land area > 2000sqm.

4.1.4.2. Fire Management Notice. Proposal that no camping sites within the Shire of Denmark (including the currently approved sites) to be allowed to have camping/cooking fires in the Prohibited Period

4.1.4.3. Lez acknowledged and thanked Steve Birkbeck at The Dam for his donation which will fund a standpipe, fast fill pump, lay-by-bay, and signage. In the event of a fire, the dam will be easily accessible. Brigades will acknowledge Steve and his family for this donation with publicity and photos when the new infrastructure is in place.

4.1.5. COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICES MANAGER

4.1.5.1. BFB Donations to be held by Mt Shadforth BFB for now. Donations currently held by the Shire along with monies for the airport prescribed burn to be deposited into the Mt Shadforth BFB account.

4.1.5.2. Fire and Fuel Management Notice 2023/2024 to be sent to residents separate from the rates, the goal being for the notice to catch the attention of residents rather than be overshadowed by the rates notice.

ACTION ITEM Email Mark with suggestions for changes to the notice by 31 May 2023.

4.1.6. BUSHFIRE RISK MITIGATION COORDINATOR

4.1.6.1. Victoria showed the new Simple Prescribed Burn Plan Forms Part A – Shire to fill in Part B – Brigades to fill in. Send all forms to Victoria well in advance. See Victoria by next week with any MAF work requests.

4.1.6.2. Cultural Burning Program – an indigenous ranger group (approx. 6 people) will join a Denmark brigade with mentors from DFES. The rangers will be inactive Members until cultural burn season then become active members. These volunteers will also work with the Shire on the Heritage survey. All training will be provided and run by DFES. Cultural Burning will sit within the Shire plans. The group will sit with a single brigade.

ACTION ITEM Contact Victoria if your brigade would like to host the group.

4.1.7. DENMARK VFRS/DENMARK TOWN BFB UPDATE

Report Appendix A

4.1.8. COUNCIL

Council Minutes Item 10.2 Appendix B

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

Members are welcome to raise any items of general business at this point of the meeting. Items of general business must align with the Committee's Terms of Reference.

5.1. AFDRS (Geoff Bowley)

The new 4 scale Australian Fire Danger Rating (AFDR) seems to have quite a low bar before burning is prohibited. There have been several instances on very wet days where permits have been cancelled. Is this a wider problem and should we consider making a submission to DFES/BoM?

ACTION ITEM Forward comments about the new rating system and its impact on your activities, permits and residents to Lez by 31 May. This will become a consolidated response to DFES.

5.2. Incinerators (Craig Lilley)

Discussion on the use of incinerators in the Shire during the Prohibited and restricted periods.

5.3. Lez Baines

Proposed that no camping or cooking fires be allowed during the restricted time.

Discussion about internal/external fire during restricted and prohibited periods.

ACTION ITEM – look at other Shires to see how they have worded regulations/restrictions for incinerators, BBQS, pizza ovens. Forward ideas to Mark for the Fire and Fuel Management Notice by 31 May. Draft FMN to be presented at next BFAC.

Ocean Beach has given out 80-100 permits mainly for burning green waste in town area.

BFAC to consider restrictions on permits – possible land size restrictions? (2000sqm in Albany) Discussions ensued; To be discussed further at next BFAC meeting.

ACTION ITEM – Each Brigade to report back at the next meeting – How many permits issued? What are people burning? Do boundaries need to change? Do we need to cap the number of burns?

ACTION ITEM – discussion to be had with Murray about further education around green waste e.g. taking it to the tip.

5.4. Paul Moncrieff

Possible new map from Andimaps showing brigade boundaries.

ACTION ITEM – Look into cost of new map and production.

5.5. Geoff Bowley

LGS guidelines suggest we update PPE form.

Capital Fleet allocations – 7 appliances need replacing

Suggestion – the form comes to BFAC from Shire early so BFAC has a role in it.

Requests minutes and agenda 1 week prior to meeting. Apologies from Renee for this oversight while Mark was on leave.

5.6. Brian Vigus

Who is responsible for fire sheds and surrounds? Forward concerns to Mark and Victoria.

5.7. Nigel Marsh

Congratulations to all brigades for completing annual skills refresher course. Ceinwen added - well done to all.

5.8. Craig Hughes

New pump caught fire. Occurred whilst transferring water from a tank. Intake air filter on diesel pump caught on fire. Possible cause – overheating. Pump was running for approximately two hours prior to fire. Details of pump make & model will be circulated. Recommendation that this pump model is not left unattended while operating.

6. NEXT MEETING

It is recommended that the next meeting of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee be held on 27 July 2023 at the Shire of Denmark Reception Room commencing at 6.30pm.

7. CLOSURE

There being no further business to discuss, the presiding Person declared the meeting closed at 8.28pm.