

Minutes



BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD IN THE SHIRE OF DENMARK RECEPTION ROOM, 953
SOUTH COAST HWY, DENMARK
THURSDAY, 14th March 2024.

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INSERT DISCLAIMER

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

6.30pm - The Chairperson, Cr Clare Campbell, declared the meeting open and acknowledged the land on which this meeting is being held. Cr Campbell acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land, the Bibbulmun and Menang people and paid her respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

VOTING MEMBERS:

Cr Kingsley Gibson	Shire President, Council Delegate (arrived 6.50pm)
Cr Clare Campbell	Council Delegate and Chairperson
Lez Baines	CBFCO
Nigel Marsh	DCBFCO
Shane Howlett	DCBFCO
Gavin Butler	Somerset Hill FCO
Blair Darvill	William Bay FCO
Chris Hudson	Harewood FCO
Craig Lilley	Kordabup FCO
Geoff Bowley	Shadforth FCO
Graham Dixon	Ocean Beach FCO
Chris Hoare	East Denmark FCO
Proxy Em Harper	Mt Lindesay FCO
Darin Hockley	VFRS, FCO
Craig Hughes	Carmarthen FCO
Adrian Kranendonk	Fire Weather Officer

STAFF:

Mark Guerin	Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM)
Natalie Pescud	Community Services

VISITORS:

Cam Famlonga	Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)
Paul Ashton	Australian Bluegum Plantations
Tristan Farmer	DBCA

APOLOGIES:

Renee Wiggins	Manager of Community Services
Brian Vigus	Tingledale FCO
Murray Brooker	Mt Lindesay FCO
Paul Moncrieff	Owingup FCO
Nikki Rouse	DBCA
Ian Coulson	Nornalup FCO
Trevor Brown	Peaceful Bay Captain

ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

Nil

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRPERSON

Cr Campbell, on behalf of the councillors thanked the members for being on call over the summer period.

Cr Campbell asked members to please take note of the Community Emergency Services Manager's email about meeting efficiency, particularly in relation to provided agenda items prior to the meeting so that they can be duly considered by Shire Officer's and prepared for prior to the meeting

3.1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

It is preferable that the mover of any motion to confirm previous Minutes needs to have been at the meeting.

COMMITTEE DECISION & OFFICER RECOMMENDATION		ITEM 3.1
That the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held on the 14 th December 2023, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.		
Moved:	Lez Baines	Seconded: Geoff Bowley
CARRIED		

4. REPORTS

4.1. DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (DFES)

- Cam continues to fill the District Officer (DO) Albany Urban role until the position is filled through the standard recruitment process.
- High season appliances are now "State Operation Support Fleet" (SOSF) appliances. Ownership is with DFES, and they will be deployed as needed, regardless of season.
- DFES can organise a Rural Urban Interface exercise for Denmark. Lez to provide Cam with possible dates.
- Moir Drive – can DFES assess current protections of the telecommunication infrastructure and revert with any recommendations for additional protection of the infrastructure? Mark has spoken to Telstra and associated stake holders; they are going to address the mitigation works required and adhere to the Fire and Fuel Management Notice moving forward.
- Chris Hoare thanked DFES for the excellent treatment of volunteers at the recent Esperance fire.

4.2. DEPARTMENT OF BIODIVERSITY, CONSERVATION AND ATTRACTIONS

Report attached.

4.3. CHIEF BUSHFIRE CONTROL OFFICER

Report attached.

- The prohibited burning period has been extended to the end of March.
- The consolidation of three brigades into one new shed was discussed.

The CESM advised that DFES are not putting much money into sheds, so he is investigating a self-supporting loan. Mark stated that this would mean that the Shire would create a loan, and DFES would make the repayments.

Mark advised that he would be suggesting including earthworks in the next Council budget.

4.3.1. Fire weather officer

A deputy Fire Weather Officer (FWO) would be a good idea, Lez is willing to do this when he finishes the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (CBFCO) role. There is no provision in the Act to have a deputy. Additional FWOs can be assigned.

4.3.2. Australian Fire Danger Rating Electronic Signage

RECOMMENDATION	ITEM 4.3.2
That Council:	
1. INCLUDE funding in the 2024/25 Draft Budget for the appointment of a grant writer to apply for grants to fund an upgrade of the existing signage to automated electronic signage; and	
2. INCLUDE funding in the 2024/25 Draft Budget to cover any co-contribution requirements of grant.	
Moved: Les Baines Seconded: Nigel Marsh	
CARRIED	

4.4. COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICES MANAGER

4.4.1. Firebreak and Fuel Management Notice.

Members to provide input via email to CESM for next firebreak and fuel management notice by the end of April 2024.

4.4.2. Tablets.

Non-profit Microsoft licenses are being arranged – each brigade will have their own unique email and licensing for Microsoft products.

Remote management software is installed on the tablets, and the Shire is working through some issues with this. Updates will be provided as the implementation progresses.

A unique BART logon has been established for each appliance. The new tablets will utilise these logons according to the appliance in which they are installed.

AlpineQuest licensing will be provided once brigade Microsoft licences are finalised.

4.4.3. Training requirements.

Brigades to provide a list of desired training courses to the CESM and he will endeavour to get the training delivered.

4.4.4. Personal Protective Clothing (PPC) – active members

Brigades to provide names & sizing for active members who require a second set of fire retardant (FR) trousers to the CESM, as soon as possible.

4.5. BUSHFIRE READY UPDATE

- Planning for the Bush Fire Ready (BFR) weekend in November 2024 has commenced.
- BFR groups have asked for all campfires to be banned, not just campers. Suggestion – to make the language clearer in the notice.

4.6. AUSTRALIAN BLUEGUM PLANTATIONS

Paul Ashton provided a summary of Australian Bluegum Plantation's activities.

4.7 COUNCIL

Cr Campbell suggested that an item action register be developed so that all items that are unresolved remain active on the register until decided by the BFAC.

5. AGENDA ITEMS

5.1. Town brigade windup.

RECOMMENDATION	ITEM 5.1
That Council DEREGISTER the Town Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade for the following reasons:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <i>The brigade has no bushfire appliance and therefore no capacity to operate in a bushfire brigade capacity. This has been the case for many years; and</i>2. <i>The operational capacity of existing bushfire brigades has been deemed sufficient for the Shire of Denmark local government area and therefore the likelihood of obtaining a bushfire appliance for Town Brigade is extremely low.</i>	
Moved: Les Baines Seconded: Darin Hockley	
CARRIED	

5.2. Donation funds update. – Les Baines

purchase of six lay-flat hose winders, to be mounted on the heavy appliances by Shire. Remaining funds stand at approximately \$5750. Suggestion is to use remainder to purchase UHF radio twin packs.

5.3. Motion to prioritise review of Bushfire Brigades Local Law – Lez Baines

RECOMMENDATION	ITEM 5.3
That Council:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. INCLUDE funding in the 2024/25 draft Budget for the appointment of a local law consultant to undertake a review of the Shire of Denmark Bush Fire Brigades Local Law, given that it has not been reviewed since 2008; and2. REQUEST the Chief Executive Officer to prioritise:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) a review of all Bush Fire Brigade Standard Operating Procedures; andb) the development of any new required procedures relating to the <i>Work Health and Safety Act 2020 (WA)</i>.	
Moved: Chris Hoare Seconded: Shane Howlett	
CARRIED	

5.4. Total Fire Ban & Harvest & Vehicle Movement Ban notices – Shane Howlett & Mark Guerin

Ensure notifications are sent out by the Shire only. Direct people to the official notices. Thanks, from Paul Ashton for the timely Shire messaging around Total Fire Bans and Harvest & Vehicle Movement Bans.

5.5. BART Notifications – Shane Howlett

Overview of notification types and their uses. See Shane's email re alert tones and when to use it. Contact Shane with questions.

5.6. Conducting hazard reduction burns on private property – Craig Hughes

Currently, conducting hazard reduction burns on private property is problematic given the restrictions in place. Restrictions on no standing bush make it difficult to conduct brigade led burns.

Is there a way to provide more opportunity to conduct these burns?

Committee Response:

The burning of standing bush during restricted period on private property by brigades. This can be done with the approval of the Fire Weather Officer (FWO). Brigades are to

*consult the FWO if the planned burn falls outside the standard permitted conditions.
The FWO will consider the forecast conditions and the nature of the burn to determine whether to authorise the burn to proceed.*

5.7 Standby generator for the airport - Geoff Bowley

RECOMMENDATION

ITEM 5.7

That the Shire of Denmark, as owner/operator of the Denmark Airport, liaises with all stakeholders with the objective of installing a standby generator at the airport.

Moved: Geoff Bowley Seconded: Les Baines Carried: Unanimously

6. NEXT MEETING

It is recommended that the next meeting of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee be held on Thursday the 13th of June 2024 at the Shire of Denmark Reception Room commencing at 6.30pm.

7. CLOSURE 8:18pm



8. Action Register

Action	Responsibility
Previous BFAC minutes to be uploaded to Shire website	Shire
Feedback on Hip camps to be provided to planning dept	Chiefs, CESM
Dates to be provided to DFES for RUI exercise	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Training requirements of brigades to be emailed to CESM.	FCOs
Names & trouser sizing's of active members to be emailed to CESM for 2 nd pair of FR trousers	FCOs
Provide feedback for next iteration of the "Firebreak and Fuel Management Notice" by end April	FCOs

BFAC Denmark CBFCO Report 14th March 2024

Extension of Prohibited Period.

The City of Albany has also extended their Prohibited Period on our adjoining properties and land to the end of March.

Incidents.

- 1) 23/1/24 Report of smoke Hazelvale Rd North.
Fire was caused by a slasher in a paddock. Thanks to Walpole DBCA who assisted with locating the Fire and also with their attendance.
Fire was classed as accidental.
- 2) 08/2/24 Report of heavy smoke in bush Sth Cst Hwy/Springdale Heights.
Fire was classed as Justifiable false alarm, smoke thought to have from Broke Inlet.
- 3) 9/2/24 Total Fire Ban plus HVMB report of a mini digger in use.
69 Panorama Rd . Contractor ceased work immediately on my arrival and was educated.
- 4) 10/2/24 Sutttons Rd/Porch rd report of a plume of smoke.
Fire was classed as justifiable false alarm, it was a re-ignition inside a burnt area of a completed DBCA burn.
- 5) 13/2/24 Scotsdale Rd/Howe Rd Report of smoke near a shed.
Brigades turned out to find that the owner had self extinguished after a fire was caused whilst welding/grinding.
Fire was classed as Accidental.
- 6) 23/2/24 23 Beaufortia Gardens report of smoke.
Illegal Fire, owner was burning garden waste. AFDR was High.
Report was sent into Shire for processing.
This owner was under the illusion that he had an incinerator. I feel that the Fire Management notice needs to describe what an incinerator is. Ie, An enclosed purpose built Fire container with a spark arrester on the chimney.
- 7) 6/3/24 56 Pittam Way Report of smoke.
Illegal camp fire.
Report will be sent into Shire for processing.

Donated funds.

We have considered all Brigades wish lists and what operational equipment we believed the Brigades could use.

There is a sample of a Lay Flat Hose rewiner and 6 of these units have been ordered for the following Brigades: East Denmark, Shaddy, Ocean Beach, William Bay, Peaceful Bay and Nornalup.

The costs of these 6 items is around \$8250 leaving a balance of around \$5750 remaining for further equipment purchases.

ComCen pre determined call outs:

Myself and Deputies have had a meeting with Cam (DFES) and Darin (Denmark VFRS) regarding an agreement for combined turnouts for BFB and FRS within certain catchment areas.

The purpose is to minimise an incident blow out caused by a delayed response. If Appliances are stood down then that would be a great result.

Example:

Fire in Peaceful Bay.

ComCen would automatically turn out Peaceful Bay, Nornalup, Tingle Dale and VFRS for asset protection/

Example:

Fire within Gazetted area (VFRS Incident)

ComCen would automatically turn out VFRS, East Denmark, Ocean Beach possibly Shaddy

Central Zone new shed build.

The suggestion is to build 1 new shed with a 3 bay parking area for Carmarthen, William Bay and Parryville appliances to be housed in.

This is deemed to be more attractive to DFES as only 1 shed will be replaced.

Brigade FCOs are in agreement with this proposal.

Mark can explain self funded loans etc.

Thoughts on putting a motion to Council at the next meeting to put shed earthworks into the 24/25 Budget.

Lez Baines

CBFCO Denmark

**DBCA Parks & Wildlife Service - Frankland District
Update for Shire of Denmark Bushfire Advisory Committee**

Thursday 14 March 2024

Fire Mitigation

The Frankland District Burn Options Program 2023-24 has been approved and is available to view on the Parks and Wildlife Service website at the following link:

<https://www.dbca.wa.gov.au/management/fire/prescribed-burning/burn-options-program>

Burn ID	Burn Name	Area (ha)	Locality	Status
FRK_039	William Bay	35	William Bay National Park 17 km west of Denmark	
FRK_061	Parry Inlet	425	William Bay National Park 10 km southwest of Denmark	
FRK_062	Styx	3,488	Styx forest block 17 km west northwest of Denmark	Complete
FRK_073	Tingle View	286	Walpole Nornalup National Park 3 km north of Walpole	4 cells completed. 2 cells remaining.
FRK_074	Blue Holes	1,352	Walpole Nornalup National Park 1 km southeast of Walpole	
FRK_075	Irwin	691	Walpole Nornalup National Park 1 km northeast of Peaceful Bay	
FRK_086	Clear Hills	9,344	Mt Roe National Park 23 km north northwest of Denmark	Complete
FRK_094	Sheepwash North	7,798	Mt Lindesay National Park 17 km north northeast of Denmark	
FRK_096	Thames	8,357	Mt Roe National Park 20 km east northeast of Walpole	SE cell (900 ha) complete. Northern cell remaining
FRK_099	Nornalup (Shire of Manjimup)	81	Walpole Nornalup National Park adjacent to Nornalup, north of Frankland River	
FRK_100	Conspicuous Cliff	1,747	Walpole Nornalup National Park, adjacent to Peaceful Bay	
FRK_101	Scotsdale Road Nature Reserve	42	Scotsdale Road Nature Reserve 3 km north of Denmark	

FRK_102	Quarram Nature Reserve	1,111	Quarram Nature Reserve 21 km east southeast of Walpole	
FRK_103	Hay	183	Mt Lindesay National Park 6 km north northeast of Denmark	2 cells (north and south) complete. 1 cell (central) remaining.
FRK_104	Frankland State Forest (Shire of Manjimup)	98	Frankland State Forest 8 km north northeast of Walpole	
FRK_105	Kordabup North	84	Kordabup Nature Reserve 18 km west of Denmark	
FRK_106	Hazelvale Road	67	Frankland State Forest 9 km northeast of Walpole	Complete

Fire Response

DBCA Frankland have responded to 4 fires within the district since last report. 1 fire was located within the Shire of Denmark.

Fire ID and Name	Size (ha)	LGA	Managing Agency	Cause
Fire 1 Gravity Springs	1	Manjimup	LGA	Accidental (farm machinery)
Fire 2 Hilltop	0.2	Manjimup	DBCA	Lightning
Fire 3 Hazelvale	2	Denmark	LGA	Accidental (farm machinery)
Fire 4 Inlet	20	Manjimup	DBCA	Suspected deliberate ignition (under investigation)

Walpole airstrip is currently only available for water bomber reloading between 0900-1500, due to high kangaroo numbers. DBCA has commenced early stage planning to fence the airstrip.

Fire Resource Availability

Water bombing and reconnaissance aircraft are all currently operational. The Mt Frankland fire tower has been extended into March due to the continuation of the Prohibited Season in both the Shire of Denmark and the Shire of Manjimup.

Second bulldozer currently available in the district.

Communication Infrastructure

New phone tower is planned to be installed in June 2024 at William Bay to provide mobile reception for carpark. A second new tower is also planned to be installed in June 2024 at Mazzoletti Beach to provide service in the carpark.