

Minutes



BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD IN THE SHIRE OF DENMARK RECEPTION ROOM
THURSDAY, 14TH December 2023, COMMENCING AT 6.30pm

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Bush Fire Advisory AGM & Committee Meeting

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1 DECLARATION OF OPENING

6.35PM - Due to it being the first meeting since the 2023 Local Government Elections, the Manager of Community Services assumed the Chair and called for nominations for the position of Chair Officer and Deputy Chair Officer.

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE**MEMBERS:**

Cr Kingsley Gibson	Shire President, Council Delegate and Chairperson
Cr Clare Campbell	Council Delegate and Deputy Chairperson
Lez Baines	CBFCO
Nigel Marsh	DCBFCO
Shane Howlett	DCBFCO
Gavin Butler	Somerset Hill FCO
Craig Lilley	Kordabup FCO
Paul Moncrieff	Owingup FCO
Trevor Brown	Peaceful Bay Captain
Geoff Bowley	Shadforth FCO
Adrian Kranendonk	Fire Weather Officer
Graham Dixon	Ocean Beach FCO
Chris Hoare	East Denmark FCO
Darin Hockley	VFRS, FCO
Cam Famlonga	DFES

STAFF:

Renee Wiggins	Manager of Community Services
Mark Guerin	Community Emergency Services Manager
Florence Guillet	Minutes Taker

APOLOGIES:

Victoria Holloway	Bushfire Risk Mitigation Coordinator
Paul Ashton	Australian Blue Gum Plantations
Murray Brooker	Mt Lindesay FCO
Nikki Rouse	DBCA
Tristan Farmer	DBCA
Craig Hughes	Carmarthen FCO

LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

Nil

ABSENT:

Brian Vigus	Tingledale FCO
Blair Darvill	William Bay FCO
Chris Hudson	Harewood FCO
Ian Coulson	Nornalup FCO

VISITORS:

Murray Anning	Australian Blue Gum Plantations
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3 ELECTION OF PRESIDING PERSON

The Manager of Community Services announced that she had received a nomination for the position of Chair Officer for Cr Gibson.

Cr Gibson accepted the nomination in writing and assumed the position as the Chair.

4 ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIR

Cr Gibson nominated Cr Clare Campbell for the position of Deputy Chair.

Cr Clare accepted the nomination in writing as the Deputy Chair.

5 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING

Nil

5.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

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

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION	ITEM 3.1
That the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting held on the 28 th of September 2023, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.	
MOVED: Geoff Bowley	SECONDED: Shane Howlett

6 REPORTS

6.1 DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

- Cam Famlonga filling in for Diarmuid Kinsella until the end of January 2024
- Thank you to all deployed, including volunteers.
ACTION: need to create a volunteer register
- Still waiting on high season vehicles – light tanker coming soon
- Training calendar to go live in January

6.2 DEPARTMENT OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND ATTRACTIONS

- Nil

6.3 CHIEF BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICER

ACTION: Shane is to email the brigades the link to the volunteer portal and what qualifications are required to be a volunteer.

- No permits allowed to Parry Beach and Peaceful Bay campgrounds – Boat Harbour was issued a permit because it is a community campfire.
- No campfires allowed after midnight 15th December 2023
- Well done for the work done on Wednesday night with the fire on South Coast Highway

ACTION: All brigades to send Lez their availability for the Christmas period.

6.4 COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICES MANAGER

6.4.1 Appliance tablets update

Tablets are in final configuration works. Hope to have them deployed before Christmas.

6.4.2 Basic training schedule

Basic training is scheduled for the weekend of the 3rd & 4th of February. It will be available on eAcademy shortly.

6.4.3 Water, foam, hydration supplies

Water blocks and antiseptic wipes are available for collection from Lez's house (10 Stanley Close). Isotonic sachets and sun hats available for collection. Bushmaster foam supplies are available from the depot, update the CESM when you take stock.

6.4.4 Xmas hamper

A Christmas hamper was received for the bushfire brigades. It was suggested that it be donated to the Community Resource Centre (CRC) to be added to their Christmas appeal. All agreed.

6.5 BUSHFIRE RISK MITIGATION COORDINATOR

- Mitigation for the last round of funding finishes next week
- Victoria has applied for the next round of funding
- Victoria has identified areas that need burning/work
ACTION: Victoria to put together a presentation to explain the process for clearing firebreaks.
- Vic working closely with contractors regarding Peaceful Bay.

6.6 BUSHFIRE READY UPDATE

- Bushfire Ready working closely with the vulnerable people of our community with plans to assist in case of an emergency.

6.7 COUNCIL

- Local Planning Strategy – review close 22nd December – Cast your eyes over it from a Bush Fire point of view.

7 GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Brigade boundary maps – Shane Howlett

- Map to be printed for every brigade – one to show boundaries and the other each brigade area. Shane Howlett and Nigel Marsh worked hard on these maps.

ACTION: Send feedback/comments to Shane

7.2 Donated funds and grants

- Lez talked about Single File donating \$14200 and thanked Phil and Viv for their generous donation.
- There are some grants available in early 2024, any suggestions for grant applications to be emailed to the CESM.
- Chris Hoare suggested a backup generator for the airport. This is to be discussed next BFAC.

ACTION: Brigades to email Lez their wish lists before mid-January 2024.

7.3 AFDR

- Cam Famlonga confirmed that the AFDR review is almost completed and a new AFDR rating system will be put in place soon.

ACTION: To invite Derek Jones to this meeting to address the members regarding AFDR.

7.4 Australian Blue Gum Plantations

- Murray Anning confirmed that a total fire ban does not stop the truck's movements harvesting the blue gum.

7.5 BART Licences

- Check if some licences can be removed to make some space.
- WEB EOC access not working due to upgrade.

7.6 Bush Fire Local Law

- Shane asked about the Bush Fire Local Law and its prioritisation.
- Need to get feedback for visibility.

ACTION: Renee to follow up

7.7 Gazettal of FCOs & Firebreak and Fuel management Notice

- Discussion on whether the Firebreak and Fuel management Notice and FCO appointments need to be gazetted.

ACTION: Renee to follow up with Claire.

7.8 Radio & Comms

- Concerns raised with radios being taken out of the machinery and not put back. Cam Famlonga confirmed that the standard practice is to use the UHF.
ACTION: Comms plan to be updated
- Gavin Butler raised concerns regarding issues with comms when trying to get a team organised and prep for a bush fire.
- 1st acknowledgment to COMCEN is crucial – let them know you have a crew ready, or you do not.
- Second call to COMCEN is when you leave the station.
- Lots of technology available which will eventually be able to be used. Tablets will go in the trucks – BART will be accessible on the tablet.

7.9 Telstra Tower

- Geoff Bowley asked several questions regarding the Mohr Drive Telstra Tower – BFAC should be provided with an operational guide.

ACTION: To be raised with Telstra.

7.10 Motion to thank DBCA

- Adrian Kranendonk put a motion forward to thank DBCA Walpole for their work protecting the Shire of Denmark against bush fires.

6 in favour – 7 not in favour

Motion denied

8 NEXT MEETING

It is recommended that the next meeting of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee be held on the 14th of March at the Shire of Denmark Reception Room commencing at 6.30pm.

9 CLOSURE OF MEETING

Chair Kingsley Gibson thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting and all the work they do, and wished everyone the best Christmas Season

8.25 pm – There being no further business to discuss the Presiding Person declared the meeting closed.