

Shire of Denmark



Minutes

BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD IN COUNCIL'S RECEPTION ROOM, 953 SOUTH COAST HIGHWAY, DENMARK, THURSDAY, 10th November 2016, COMMENCING 6.30PM.

Contents

	Page No.
TERMS OF REFERENCE	2
1. DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS	3
2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE	3
3. ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE PERSON PRESIDING	4
4. ELECTION OF REPLACEMENT PRESIDING PERSON	4
5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	4 - 5
6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	5
6.1 BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 3 rd MARCH 2016	5
6.2 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES	5
6.2.1 COMMAND VEHICLE	5
6.2.2 DRAFT SOP FOR SAFE STORAGE/USE/HANDLING OF JERRY CANS	5 - 6
6.2.3 MANAGEMENT OF TOWNSITE UNALLOCATED CROWN LAND (UCL)	6 - 7
6.2.4 FIRE REGULATION NOTICE (FRN) REVIEW	7 - 8
7. TABLED ITEMS	8
8. OFFICER REPORTS	9
8.1 DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES	9
8.2 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND WILDLIFE	9
8.3 CHIEF BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICER	9
8.4 COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICES MANAGER	9
9. GENERAL BUSINESS	9
9.1 PASSING OF STEVE MCDONALD	9
9.2 ALTERNATE BRIDGE CROSSING	9 - 10
9.3 GENERAL ITEMS	10 - 11
10. NEXT MEETING	11
11. CLOSURE OF MEETING	11

Council Committee Meeting

10 November 2016

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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Don Atkinson the Deputy Presiding Person opened the meeting at 6.37 pm.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE**MEMBERS:** (Voting)

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Lez Baines | D.C.B.F.C.O |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Cr Mark Allen | Council Representative / Chairman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Chris Hoare | East Denmark FCO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Mike Hills | Harewood FCO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Bruce Pringle | Kordabup FCO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Malcolm Hick | Mt Lindesay FCO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Joe Baker | Ocean Beach FCO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Ivars Sulcs | Peaceful Bay FCO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Sid Marshall | Scotsdale FCO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Alex Williams | Hazelvale FCO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Brian Vigus | Tingledale FCO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ms Joan Merrifield | William Bay FCO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Kevin Hard | Parryville FCO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Don Atkinson | Town FCO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Gary Stanway | VFRS Captain |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Adrian Kranendonk | F.W.O./ Mt Shadforth FCO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Jean-Marc Merat | Nornalup FCO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Tim Shailes | Camarthen Proxy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Roger Seeney | Somerset Hill Proxy |

MEMBERS: (Non-Voting)

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr John Tonkin | DFES Area Officer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Wes Bailye | DPaW Fire Coordinator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Paul Ashton | Albany Plantation Forrest Company |

STAFF: (Non-Voting)

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Marcus Owen | Community Emergency Services Manager / Secretary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Gregg Harwood | Director of Community & Regulatory Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mrs Charmaine Shelley | Ranger |

ATTENDEES: (Non-Voting)

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Graeme Thallon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Cyril Edwards |

APOLOGIES:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Ross McDougall | C.B.F.C.O |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mrs Gail Guthrie | Mehniup Proxy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ms Sam Blythe | Owingup FCO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Callum Baxter | Somerset Hill FCO |

ABSENT: Nil**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Nil

Name	Item No	Interest	Nature

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING

With the resignation of Cr Roger Seeney on the 17/8/2016 the position of presiding person became vacant.

Don Atkinson presided over the meeting in his capacity as Deputy Presiding Person until such time as a new Presiding Person was elected.

Don thanked Roger for the work that he had put in as chair and for his active support of the brigades at Council.

4. ELECTION OF REPLACEMENT PRESIDING PERSON

Section 8.11 of BFAC's committee charter reads as follows:

8.11 Presiding Person

The Presiding Person and Deputy Presiding Person are to be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee pursuant to Council Policy P050107 and pursuant to Council Policy P040235 the Committee should elect an Elected Member to the role of Presiding Person.

Given that Cr Mark Allen has been appointed to replace Roger Seeney and is now the only council member that attends BFAC. His appointment as Presiding Person is for all intents and purposes mandatory under the terms of the charter.

<p>6.1 Presiding Person (Must be a member of the BFAC Committee) Nominated: Cr Mark Allen Moved: Lez Baines Carried: 18/1</p>	<p>Seconded: Alex Williams</p>
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5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Graeme Thallon:

Spoke in regards to a letter he had tabled in regards to the second Denmark River Crossing and his experience and reflections as a former Chief the need for a second bridge and spoke in support of option 3B.

Cyril Edwards:

Raised three questions on notice:

- 1) How brigade Secretaries and FCOs were to be kept informed as to the changes in their members skills levels now that the online E academy system had been introduced.
- 2) Asked about hydrant maintenance and blue reflectors and the fate of the repair lists that he had put through to DFES over recent years.
- 3) Spoke in regard to second bridge discussion and the need to have control of the traffic streams coming through town and enough notice that so that evacuation traffic flows can be planned. He then discussed the concept of a southern crossing bridge in the Rail Trail area as it would in his opinion be the most useful for residents in the Ocean Beach corridor.

Cyril urged BFACs members to support a second crossing but not select an option unless they have fully studied consultant's options.

Tony Pedro spoke in favour of option 3E.

Tony also spoke in regards to the Waroona fire and the fact that Landgate's satellites picked it up the night before and DPaW staff did not pick it until the next morning.

Wes Bailey responded in terms of how the DPaW Frankland office currently uses satellite imaging and conducts field checks for confirmation.

John Tonkin also responded from a DFES perspective and communicated his experience with satellite tracking and the fact that their reliability is limited by their infrequent orbit and changing paths.

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

6.1 Committee Meeting Minutes

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION & COMMITTEE DECISION		ITEM 5.1
Moved: Joe Baker	Seconded: Don Atkin	
That the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held on the 2 nd June 2016, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.		
Carried 19/0		

6.2 Matters Arising From Minutes

6.2.1 Command Vehicle

At the Ordinary meeting of Council held 14th June 2016, Council resolved the following;

MOVED: CR SEENEY

ITEM 9.1
SECONDED: CR GILLIES

That Council advise BFAC that it is prepared to make the following commitments in regards to the financing of a Bush Fire Command Vehicle:

1. *Make a maximum cash contribution of \$10,000 in the 2016/2017 budget towards the anticipated \$70,000 cost of purchasing and equipping a new 4WD dual cab ute subject to a successful Lotterywest co-funding grant outcome.*
2. *That Council permit the Volunteer Brigades to continue to seek funding from other sources to allow the purchase of the vehicle.*
3. *To pay for the vehicle's fuel, insurance and maintenance costs once it has been purchased.*
4. *Replacing the vehicle in 10 years' time in the event that the DFES controlled ESL program fails to start funding them or alternative grant funding cannot be obtained.*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: 8/0

Res: 050616

The Chief FCO collated a funding application which was subsequently submitted to Lotterywest requesting \$47,887. To date no notification has been received as to the success of this application.

6.2.2 Draft SOP for the Safe Storage/Use/Handling of Jerry Cans.

When the matter was last considered at the 3 March 2016 BFAC meeting the following officer recommendation was rejected by the committee:

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION
MOVED: Malcolm Hick

ITEM 5.2.2
SECONDED: Brian Vigus

That BFAC recommends to Council that it adopt the following Safety Circulars;

1. *Safety Circular 01-2015 Refuelling Static Motors at Incidents,*
2. *Safety Circular 04-2015 Removal of Jerry Cans from Light Tankers During Bushfire Incidents and*
3. *Safety Circular 11-2015 Jerry Can Stowage on Light Tankers.*

As Standard Operating Procedures for the Shire of Denmark Bushfire Brigades.

MOTION REJECTED: 0/22

An alternative motion was put to the committee;

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ITEM 5.2.2
MOVED: Alex Williams

SECONDED: Joan Merrifield

That BFAC recommends the Officer Recommendation be referred to the SOP subcommittee where the subcommittee will draft an SOP which is to be presented at the next BFAC meeting.

CARRIED: 22/0

Update on Jerry Can SOP:

A draft SOP has been put together and tabled at this meeting. See attached.

<p>OFFICER RECOMMENDATION & COMMITTEE DECISION ITEM 6.2.2 Moved: Alex Williams Seconded: Joan Merrifield</p> <p>That the Committee recommends to Council that the following Standard Operating Procedure “Safe Storage/Use/Handling of Jerry Cans” be adopted as an Emergency Management Standard Operating Procedure for the Shire of Denmark subject to changing “<i>well away from fire ground</i>” to read “<i>well away from active fire</i>”.</p> <p>Carried: 19/0</p>

6.2.3 Management of Townsite Unallocated Crown Land (UCL)

At the June 2016 meeting of BFAC the committee recommended to Council that they not support Mr Brian Humphries suggestion to ‘peppercorn lease’ the parcels of UCL adjacent to his and other properties in the Ocean Beach area.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION & COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved: Mike Hills

Seconded: Joe Baker

That BFAC recommends to Council that it not proceed with Mr Brian Humphries proposal of peppercorn leasing Unallocated Crown Land (UCL) to adjoining private land holders in residential areas for the following reasons:

- 1) *It will potentially force an unwelcome extra task onto adjoining property owners who have chosen to live in residential because they expect Council to “fix” these types of problems and are rated accordingly.*
- 2) *The setting up of the leases would cause Council considerable costs in administrative time.*
- 3) *The leases would fragment the management of the land. Currently Council’s rangers only have to deal with one property owner the Depart of Lands. If the land if leased to adjoining property owners Council’s rangers would need to be dealing and additional 200 plus property lessees.*
- 4) *The system would require a 100% take up rate to be successful.*

Carried: Unanimously

At the Ordinary meeting of Council held 14th June 2016, Council resolved the following;

COUNCIL RESOLUTION & OFFICER RECOMMENDATION ITEM 9.2
MOVED: CR SEENEY SECONDED: CR CARON

That Council not proceed with Mr Brian Humphries proposal of peppercorn leasing Unallocated Crown Land (UCL) to adjoining private land holders in residential areas for the following reasons:

1. *The parcels of land in question are actually Right of Ways (ROWs) which cannot be leased without a change to their vesting and the Department of Lands has advised that they not be prepared to review that vesting because they are the result of a subdivisional process.*
2. *Council already has the legal capacity to enter ROWs and to maintain them under section 3.53 Local Government Act 1995 so the concept of lease is unnecessary.*
3. *The creation of the leases will potentially force an unwelcome extra task onto adjoining property owners who have chosen to live in residential areas because they expect Council to "fix" these types of problems and are rated accordingly.*
4. *The setting up of the leases would cause Council considerable costs in administrative time.*
5. *The leases would fragment the management of the land. If the land is leased to adjoining property owners Council's Rangers would need to be dealing with an additional 200 plus property lessees.*
6. *The system would require a 100% take up rate to be successful.*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY: 9/0

Res: 250716

The CESM has been informed, by DFES Great Southern, that DFES Great Southern has been successful in securing a significant increase in funding for this financial year for mitigation work on UCL/UMR land. Notification of allocations will be given soon.

6.2.4 Fire Regulation Notice (FRN) Review

At the BFAC meeting held 2nd June 2016 the committee moved the following motion and recommendation to Council to form a Fire Regulation review committee

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION & COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved: Mike Hills

Seconded: Bruce Pringle

1. *That BFAC form a Fire Regulation Notice (FRN) review committee to assist the CESM in that process.*

Committee members;

- *CESM*
- *Chief*
- *Senior Ranger*
- *Joe Baker*
- *Mike Hills*

2. *That BFAC support the presentation of an initial step by step plan to Council explaining the processes/procedures being undertaken in the review.*

Carried: Unanimously

At the Ordinary meeting of Council held 5th July 2016, Council resolved the following;

COUNCIL RESOLUTION & OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

MOVED: CR SEENEY

SECONDED: CR GEARON

That Council resolve to support the following approach to reviewing the Fire Regulation Notice that has been put forward by BFAC:

1. *That a Fire Regulation Notice (FRN) Review Working Group be formed that reports back to the Bush Fire Advisory Committee to assist the CESM in that process, with membership to be determined by BFAC.*
2. *Invite the Working Group to a Strategic Briefing Session to explain the processes/procedures to be undertaken in the review.*

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:

RES: 080716

The FRN review committee has held 2 meetings and has put together some draft regulations, see attached.

Feedback is sought from BFAC on these draft regulations. These draft regulations will also be provided to senior Shire staff and their feedback sought prior to going to a Strategic Briefing Session with Council.

The following feedback was provided by those at the meeting:

- Adrian Kranendonk: Does not support fire breaks on rural properties because they cause erosion.
- Alex Williams: Agreed with Adrian and said the review committee that the review committee's role should be limited to review and not change.
- Mike Hills: Advised that the Council resolved to give a wider scope and spoke about the problem contiguous bush areas over multiple properties and the cumulative effect of them.
- Chris Hoare: Raised 100mm pasture height and need to maintain it.
- Joan Merrifield: You need to consider terrain in regards boundary fire breaks. We currently use arbitrary boundaries between properties. The review needs to consider having fire breaks that serve 3 or 4 properties.
- Adrian Kranendonk: Fire breaks in Karri don't last long due to leaf litter.
- Don Atkinson: Asked if the same standard would be applied to Council's unmade road reserves
- Alex Williams: The committee needs to take on board the need for good strategic access over fire breaks.

Adrian Krannendonk and Joan Merrifield sought to move a motion that perimeter fire breaks be struck out of the review. This motion was disallowed by the chair on advice from and Roger Seeney the former the chair and Gregg Harwood for the following reasons:

- 1) BFAC has an accepted custom and practice that motions cannot be raised from the floor without notice and members wanting to raise an issue should do so through the CSM so that it can be referred to the committee with an officer report.
- 2) Moving such a motion at this time was a tool to block the work of a review committee that BFAC had set up and that they should, out of respect for their efforts, be allowed to complete that review unhindered.

- John Tonkin: Stated that his opinion was that perimeter fire breaks were needed in areas of bush but not pasture in this region.
- Gregg Harwood: Agreed with John's comments and stated that staff's primary concern was to the need for perimeter fire to deal with the major wildfire risk posed by areas of contiguous bush that straddle the boundaries of adjoining and in many cases several properties.
- Adrian Krannendonk: Stated that he did not have particular objection to perimeter fire breaks through areas of contiguous bush it was there use in areas of pasture that was his primary concern.

The discussion concluded and members BFAC were asked to submit comments to Marcus Owen by the 20 December 2016.

7. TABLED ITEMS

Letter from Graeme Thallon regarding the need for a second bridge crossing and his preferred option which is 3B.

8. OFFICER REPORTS

8.1 Department of Fire and Emergency Services

DFES Area Officer John Tonkin provided a report to the Committee.

8.2 Department of Parks and Wildlife

DPaW Fire Coordinator Wes Bailye provided a report to the Committee.

8.3 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Ross McDougall provided a report to the Committee.

8.4 Community Emergency Services Manager

Community Emergency Services Manager Marcus Owen provided a report to the Committee.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

9.1 Passing of DO Steve McDonald

During the night of Wednesday 19th October Steve suddenly and unexpectedly passed away; many of the volunteers in the Shire of Denmark would have come across Steve either in the classroom conducting training or on the fire ground, be it locally or on deployment intra state.

Steve was passionate about his work and was always looking out for the volunteers.

9.2 Alternate Bridge Crossing

The Somerset Hill brigade have asked that the proposed second crossing over Denmark River be listed for discussion under general business.

The Local Emergency Management Committee also considered this matter at its 12 Sept 2016 meeting and made the following decision:

"OFFICER RECOMMENDATION & COMMITTEE DECISION ITEM 6.4

Moved: Harold Luxton

Seconded: Ross McDougall

That the CESM write a letter, addressed to Council, expressing the committees concerns with regard to public safety in the event that the bridge in Denmark is compromised in some way and at the same time voicing full support for the construction of a second bridge.

Carried: Unanimous"

It is recommended that BFAC adopt a similar approach and the following officer recommendation has been provided as a starting point for them doing so.

COMMITTEE DECISION

ITEM 9.2

Moved: Roger Seeney

Seconded: Alex Williams

That BFAC requests that the CESM write a letter, addressed to Council:

- 1) Voicing full support for the construction of a second bridge and endorsing option 3B (choose from either 3B or 3E) as BFAC's preferred option.
- 2) Expressing BFAC's concerns with regard to public safety and evacuation generally and in particular regarding getting additional firefighting resources into the district in the event that access into Denmark is compromised in some way either due to an evacuation being called, an accident or natural event that affects the current bridge or its approaches or the long term impact of increasing congestion due to Denmark's predicted growth.

Joan Merrifield moved an amended motion which was seconded by Chris Hoare that sought to shorten point one to read "Voicing full support for the construction of a second bridge" so that all reference to a preferred bridge option were removed. This was lost 8 for verses 11 against and the Officer Recommendation became the substantive motion.

Carried: 14/4 Adrian Krannendonk, Malcolm Hick, Don Atkinson & Chris Hoare asked that their names be recorded as voting against the motion and Joan Merrifield left the room at the time of the vote on the substantive motion.

9.3 General Items:

- Adrian Krannendonk: Questioned whether we needed to have a BFAC meeting in February.
- Bruce Pringle: Asked about burn over and BA equipment training dates.
- Mike Hills: Given that permits start on Monday whether were guidelines for issuing permits this year.
- Joe Baker: Driver courses. People need pre training on manual transmissions Also raised the need for additional First Aid courses.
- Joan Merrifield: The water supply to the tank that services the William Bay Rd stand pipe needs to be checked. The prime needs to be reinstated.
- Roger Seeney: A letter of appreciation should be sent to Bev Seeney for her efforts in compiling this year's nominations.
- Chris Hoare: Gave an update water bomber filling facility at the airport.
- Garry Stanway: Mentioned that the McIntosh waste site was no longer accepting dry green waste for burning. Gregg Harwood advised that this misunderstanding and been corrected and that were accepting dry green waste for burning but not accepting chipboard or treated timber.
- Marcus Owen: Limborne Rd standpipe. The locking tag has been busted off. Marcus has arranged repairs and is looking at putting in a wheel valve lower down on the pipe that will be easier operate.

Lez Baines: Asked about the planned compliance strength of Council's 2016-2017 compliance program. Gregg Harwood asked the FCO's present for show hands in regards to a strict compliance program that readily issued infringements for non-compliance and 15 indicated that they supported such an approach and 2 indicated that they did not.

10. NEXT MEETING

It is recommended that the next meeting of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee be held on Thursday 2nd February 2016 at the Shire of Denmark Reception Room that will commence at 6.30pm.

11. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business to discuss the Presiding Person closed the meeting at 9:11pm.

The Chief Executive Officer recommends the endorsement of these minutes at the next meeting.

Signed: _____
Bill Parker – Chief Executive Officer

Date: 22 November 2016

These minutes were confirmed at the meeting of the

Signed: _____

(Presiding Person at the meeting at which the minutes were confirmed.)