

Shire of Denmark

Minutes



BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD IN COUNCIL'S RECEPTION ROOM, 953 SOUTH COAST HIGHWAY, DENMARK, THURSDAY, 8th JUNE 2017, COMMENCING 6.30PM.

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Council Committee Meeting

8 June 2017

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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Cr Mark Allen the Presiding Person opened the meeting at 6.55pm.

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Ross McDougall	C.B.F.C.O
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Lez Baines	D.C.B.F.C.O
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Adrian Kranendonk	F.W.O/ Mt Shadforth FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Chris Hoare	East Denmark FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Bruce Pringle	Kordabup FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mrs Gail Guthrie	Mehniup Proxy
<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 Brian Vigus	Tingledale FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ms Joan Merrifield	William Bay FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Don Atkinson	Town FCO & Deputy Presiding Person
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Gary Stanway	VFRS Captain
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cr Mark Allen	Council Representative & Presiding Person
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ms Kelly MacLeod	Carmarthen Proxy

MEMBERS: (Non-voting)**STAFF: (Non-voting)**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Marcus Owen	CESM / Secretary
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Gregg Harwood	Director of Community & Regulatory Services

ATTENDEES: (Non-voting)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Craig Hughes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Murray Brooker
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Tony Pedro
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ms Pauline McHenry
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Karl Wesley

APOLOGIES:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Jean-Marc Merat	Nornalup FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Wes Bailey	DPaW Fire Coordinator
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Tim Wall	DFES Area Officer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ms Ann Howard	Parryville Proxy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ms Sam Blythe	Owingup FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Alex Williams	Hazelvale FCO

ABSENT:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Mike Hills	Harewood FCO
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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Nil

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING

Nil

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Pauline McHenry spoke about three issues:

- 1) The ongoing control burning that she does as a responsible land holder to manage the fuel loading of areas of karri bush on her property and how getting permit was becoming more difficult and that they should be issued for a period longer than 4 days.
- 2) The issue of careless landholders who through their inaction/ lack of attention/ preplanning and or equipment lose control of burns necessitating brigade turn outs and the need for them to be charged or fined.
- 3) That Rangers should have an understanding of the benefits of deciduous trees as a fire shield and allow leniency when they are close to houses.

Gregg Harwood responded to Pauline's questions and her concerns were noted.

Tony Pedro spoke as a Denmark Environment Centre member and advised that the Centre would like to be able to use its skills to assist the volunteer bush fire brigades and suggest that a position for a Denmark Environment Centre representative be created on BFAC.

Ross McDougall responded and suggested that the Environment Centre should put their request in writing so that it can be considered.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

5.1 Committee Meeting Minutes

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION & COMMITTEE DECISION	ITEM 5.1
Moved: Les Baines	Seconded: Brian Vigus
That the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held on the 2 nd March 2017, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.	
Carried Unanimous	

5.2 Matters Arising From Minutes

5.2.1 Command Vehicle

A letter has been received from Lotterywest notifying the Shire that the grant application for \$47,887 has been successful.

Update

The vehicle has been ordered, expected delivery May/June.

The pod is in the process of construction.

The lights and siren have been purchased and will be fitted to the pod when it is finished.

Expected delivery to Lake Grace (Maalouf Ford) 16th June or soon after.

5.2.2 Management of Town-site Unallocated Crown Land (UCL)

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.

\$12,000 has been allocated to Denmark for 2016/17.

Update

The \$12,000 has been expended.

- *A firebreak has been established and made trafficable to the rear of properties on Payne Rd.*
- *Slashing and burning has been carried out on the UCL & UMR parcels around Zimmerman St, Blackburn St & Ocean Beach Rd.*
- *Firebreak spraying & slashing has been conducted around UCL parcels behind the Shire depot*
- *Fuel reduction work has been done on two parcels at the end of Honeymyrtle Court off Zimmerman St.*

A further \$10,000 is available for additional mitigation work.

It is proposed to use this money for slashing work on UCL parcels to the rear of the Shire depot

5.2.3 Permit to Burn Standing Bush

The following motion, moved at the March BFAC meeting, will be presented to Council at the June Council meeting when the revised Fire Regulation Notice will also be presented.

AMENDED MOTION & COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

ITEM 8.1

Moved: Adrian Kranendonk

Seconded: Alex Williams

That the Committee recommends to Council that;

1. *In order for any private occupier or owner of land to burn any area of Standing Bush a Permit to Burn is required from the 1 September to the 30 April except the prohibited season when permits will not be issued to private persons.*
2. *The Restricted Burning Time to burn Standing Bush is implemented with the 2017/18 Fire Regulation Notice.*
3. *A media campaign be conducted advising of the change.*

Carried: 16/3 Joe Baker left the room

Marcus Owen advised the Committee that the Fire Regulation Notice will be presented to the July 2017 Council meeting.

5.2.4 Fire Regulation Notice (FRN) Review

The motion below, moved at the March meeting will be presented to Council at the June Council meeting.

Comments have been received from Shire staff and any relevant alterations, in terms of terminology, have been made.

Advice as to the legality of the contents of the document is to be sought.

AMENDED MOTION & COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Alex Williams

Seconded: Roger Seeney

That the Committee recommends to Council that they;

1. *Endorse the new format/layout of the Fire Regulation Notice;*
 - *Page 1, 2 & 3 are the pages that will be printed and distributed with the rates notice.*
 - *Pages 3, 4, 5 & 6 will be on the website. The whole document will be available on the website and can be printed by individuals or on request.*
 - *Pages 7, 8 & 9 (variation request form) will also be on the website to print/download.*

2. *Endorse the fundamental changes of the Fire Regulation Notice;*
 - *Introduction of Low Fuel Boundary Access in a staged approach,*
 - *Introduction of Permits to Burn Standing Bush between 1st September to 30th April, except the prohibited season.*
 - *Variation forms being potentially accepted for 40 hectare compartmentalisation under Regulation 4.*
 - *Removal of bare earth breaks in regulation 5 and its substitution with a requirement for a low fuel zone that is maintained throughout the fire season.*

Carried: Unanimous

5.2.5 Status of the Kordadup & Owingup Fire Brigades

The following Committee Service Outcome has been addressed,

Committee Service Outcome:

CESM to clarify the status of the Kordadup & Owingup Fire Brigades from a Shire and DFES perspective and to confirm this in writing to both brigades.

A letter was sent to the Kordadup and Owingup brigades stating the Shire acknowledges the brigades as two brigades and acknowledges that they conduct joint meetings with the administration done by joint secretary/treasurer.

6. TABLED ITEMS

7. OFFICER REPORTS

7.1 Department of Fire and Emergency Services

DFES Area Officer Tim Wall will provide a report to the Committee.

The CESM passed on apologies to the committee on the behalf of Tim who was unable to attend due to ill health.

7.2 Department of Parks and Wildlife

DP&W Fire Coordinator Wes Bailye will provide a report to the Committee.

The CESM passed on thanks and appreciation to the committee on behalf of Wes.

7.3 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

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

7.4 Community Emergency Services Manager

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

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 Fire Equipment Trailer

Ross McDougall has put forward a proposal to purchase an equipment trailer with funds, currently held by the Shire, raised through hazard reduction burns.

See attachment.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION & COMMITTEE DECISION	ITEM 8.1
MOVED: Lez Baines	SECONDED: Chris Hoare
That BFAC recommends that following the completion of the Command Vehicle project, purchase and fit out, the next project be the purchase and fit out of a Fire Equipment Trailer utilising remaining and future funds raised from hazard reduction burns.	
Amended Motion:	
MOVED: Gail Guthrie	SECONDED: Lez Baines
That BFAC recommends that following the completion of the Command Vehicle project, purchase and fit out, the next project be to acquire and fit out a Fire Equipment Trailer utilising remaining and future funds raised from hazard reduction burns and that if a new trailer is purchased that it be made in Australia from Australian materials if possible.	
The Committee unanimously supported the amended motion and it became the substantive motion.	
CARRIED: Unanimously	

Cr Mark Allen left the meeting at 8.07pm and Don Atkinson took over as Presiding Person.

8.2 Burning of Road Verges

Adrian Kranendonk raised the issue of the fuel loads on various major roads in the Shire and Malcolm Hick raised the issue of the need to find a way to give adjoining land owners permission to burn road verges.

8.3 eAcademy

Gail Guthrie raised difficulties in using eAcademy in that it demands prerequisites but won't always accept them.

8.4 Fire Compliance of Properties Backing onto Good Friday Burn Area

Sid Marshall raised the poor state of fire fuel reduction compliance on some properties that backed onto the Good Friday burn.

9. NEXT MEETING

It is recommended that the next meeting of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee be held on Thursday 2nd November 2017 at the Shire of Denmark Reception Room that will commence at 6.30pm.

10. CLOSURE OF MEETING – (Expected closure 8:30pm)

There being no further business to discuss the Deputy Presiding Person closed the meeting at 8.20pm.

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

Signed: _____
Gregg Harwood – Director Community & Regulatory Services

Date: 14 June 2017

These minutes were confirmed at the meeting of the

Signed: _____

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

Item 8.1 attachment

Fire Equipment Trailer

At a larger or more protracted incident, or at a prescribed burn, there is quite a bit of equipment and supplies that make the job safer or easier, however it is difficult to assemble and often not deployed. Over the years the Bush Fire Service of Denmark have assembled equipment that is stored in multiple locations and require time to load into a suitable vehicle and then be transported to the incident or hazard reduction burn.

If the appropriate equipment was stored in a purpose built and dedicated trailer it would be a much simpler process to connect the trailer to a vehicle and transport it to the location, and much more likely to be used. It would also be a one person operation.

The list of equipment and supplies includes:

- *Collar tank, fitting and hoses*
- *Two pumps to use with the collar tank*
- *Road safety signs*
- *Jerry cans for petrol and diesel*
- *Drinking water*
- *Esky for food and drink*
- *Drums of Class A Foam*

The load is expected to be less than 1,200kg so the trailer would have a GVM of less than 2,000kg and would be fitted with override brakes, so the towing vehicle does not require any special braking equipment. A tandem trailer with a bed 3M by 1.5M (10ft by 5ft) would allow sufficient space to store all items and have a trade body with three doors that would protect and secure items whilst allowing adequate access.

A quote for a suitable trailer plus sign writing would be approximately \$8,000. The cost of annual registration and insurance would be quite low and we can ask the Shire to meet those annual costs and the annual maintenance costs would be negligible.

At the moment, an equipment trailer is not an eligible item for ESL funding and it is unlikely that our relatively small Shire has the financial capacity to fund this item. However, the Denmark Bush Fire

Service has been donated \$4,500 after the Castelli fire in November last year and there is also funds from various hazard reduction burns that means collectively the Brigades actually have sufficient funds to be able to purchase this Fire Equipment Trailer now,

Below is a picture of a similar trailer although the proposed trailer is two feet longer.

