

# Shire of Denmark Minutes



## BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE WAS HELD IN COUNCIL'S RECEPTION ROOM, 953 SOUTH COAST HIGHWAY, DENMARK, THURSDAY, 5<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2015, COMMENCING 7.30PM.

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# Council Committee Meeting

5 March 2015

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**1. DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS**

The Presiding Person opened the meeting at 8.05 pm.

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Graeme Thallon	C.B.F.C.O
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Ross McDougall	D.C.B.F.C.O
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Adrian Kranendonk	F.W.O
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cr Roger Seeney	Council Representative / Chairman
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Lez Baines	Carmarthen FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ms Sam Blythe	Owingup FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ms Ann Howard	Parryville proxy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Bruce Pringle	Kordabup FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Colin Tindale	Mehniup FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Peter Mildwaters	Mt Shadforth FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Jean-Marc Merat	Nornalup FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Joe Baker	Ocean Beach FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Sid Marshall	Scotsdale FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Callum Baxter	Somerset Hill 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
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Gary Stanway	VFRS Captain
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Chris Hoare	East Denmark FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Malcolm Hick	Mt Lindesay FCO

MEMBERS: (Non-Voting)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Wes Bailye	DPaW Fire Coordinator
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr John Tonkin	DFES Area Officer

STAFF: (Non-Voting)

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

ATTENDEES: (Non-Voting)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Paul Ashton	Elders Forestry
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ms Kelly McLeod	Carmarthen BFB
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr David Keels	Owingup BFB
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Cyril Edwards	Ocean Beach BFB
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mrs Gail Guthrie	Mehniup BFB

APOLOGIES:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Alex Williams	Hazelvale FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Mike Hills	Harewood FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Ivars Sulcs	Peaceful Bay FCO

ABSENT:

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

Name	Item No	Interest	Nature

**3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING**

The Chairman, Cr Roger Seeney said he would like to continue with the 'round table' approach in General Business however any business that arises from the discussion should be investigated further and brought back to a future BFAC with an officer report.

**4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Nil questions.

**5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES****5.1 Committee Meeting Minutes**

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION & COMMITTEE DECISION	ITEM 5.1
Moved: Lez Baines	Seconded: Bruce Pringle
That the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held on the 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2014, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.	
Carried 20/0	

**5.2 Matters Arising From Minutes**

UHF Repeater will be discussed under general business.

**5.2.1 Bush Fire Service Command and Support Vehicle**

At its December 2014 meeting BFAC moved the following recommendation to Council.

*"That the Committee recommends to Council that:*

- 1) *They support the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer's strategy of seeking public, corporate and philanthropic donations to fund the acquisition of a Bush Fire Service command and support vehicle.*
- 2) *It offers to hold funds that have been raised by Bushfire brigades specifically for the purchase of the vehicle.*
- 3) *The viability of the project being assessed annually to determine if it is likely to achieve the fund raising target within three years and the collected funds returned if it is not likely to be achieved.*
- 4) *That notwithstanding point (3) all funds being returned to donors if the project does not proceed within three years."*

This item is being presented to Council at the next meeting to be held on Tuesday 3 March 2015.

Graeme Thallon advised that Council supported the recommendation at its Tuesday 3 March 2015 meeting.

### **5.2.2 District Operational Advisory Committee (DOAC)**

The next meeting is being held on Thursday 26 March 2015

Could those brigades who deployed members to the Lower Hotham (Boddington) and the Northcliffe fires debrief amongst themselves and pass on any constructive comment to the CESM to take to this meeting.

CESM advised some feedback has been received; common themes – food, new crews being sent out at night – unfamiliar with fire ground.

### **5.2.3 Volunteer Vehicle and Equipment Advisory Committee (VVEAC)**

The next meeting to be held on Saturday 14 March 2015. The Deputy Chief Fire Control Officer is a committee member.

*Ross gave a short update and will report at the next meeting.*

### **5.2.4 Re-vegetation of Windfarm Fire Tracks**

At the December 2014 meeting Joe Baker raised the re-vegetation of tracks around the wind farm and Joan Merrifield said that it was an issue for her brigade.

#### Committee Service Outcome:

*CESM to organise a meeting with Joe & Joan and the CESM to discuss reveg/ Rehabilitation programs in the Ocean Beach/ William Bay locality.*

The CESM has spoken to the Shire's Sustainability Officer, Donna Sampey, who is keen to meet also and explain where things are at in regard to the bush tracks in this area and a meeting is in the process of being organised.

*CESM advised this meeting had been organised for Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March, Joan Merrifield was unable to make it and the meeting needed to be re-scheduled.*

### **5.2.5 Removal of Civic Centre Pine Trees Near Telstra Exchange**

At its December 2014 meeting BFAC moved the following recommendation regarding the Civic Centre pine trees which are near Telstra Exchange on the basis that it may be a potential fire hazard.

“That the Shire be requested to remove the three pines trees behind the Civic Centre that endanger the Telstra exchange and the Coop's gas bottles and replace them with Jacarandas.”

Council's CEO has determined that the trees are part of the CBD street scape and will not be removed and that the most appropriate course of action is for Council rangers to contact Telstra regarding improvements to the exchanges maintenance regime which has occurred.

### **5.2.6 Mount Shadforth UHF1 Repeater**

At the December 2014 meeting Adrian Kranendonk mentioned that UHF1 repeater on the top of Mount Shadforth needs to be repaired.

Gregg Harwood also mentioned at the same meeting that the ownership of the repeater needed to be established before any repairs could be considered as the owner of the equipment may not allow us to touch their equipment.

This resulted in the following committee service outcomes and BFAC recommendation.

Committee Service Outcome: (December 2014)

*The CESM & Chief to raise the repair of the Mount Shadforth UHF 1 repeater at LEMC.*

*Committee Decision:*

*“BFAC recommends to Council that an out of budget allocation be made to acquire if necessary, repair, and provide ongoing maintenance of the Mount Shadforth UHF 1 repeater.”*

This matter was not raised at the December 2014 LEMC as the meeting did not go ahead due to a lack of a quorum.

The CESM has spoken to Nurrunga Communications (Mt Barker Comms); the repeater is theirs and they are following up with a view to repairing. They will be on site sometime during the week of 23 to 27 February to assess the fault and repair the transmitter.

Given this information there is no reason for Council to be considering spending ratepayer’s funds on repairing this facility.

The CESM will update members with the latest information at the meeting.

*The CESM gave an update on the progress of the repairs and the ownership of tower and the possible transfer of it from Nurrunga Communications to Council.*

*Chris Hoare and Adrian Krannendonk mentioned that Council already owned it and local farmers paid \$40 per year to maintain it and that there was a resolution on Council’s books to that effect.*

Committee Service Outcome: (March 2015)

*CESM to research the history and Council resolutions in regards to the Mount Shadforth UHF 1 repeater.*

## **6. TABLED ITEMS**

### **6.1 DFES Safety Circular 01/2015**

Refuelling static motors at incidents – since 2006 DFES has received numerous reports of petrol erupting from jerry cans. Due to the recurrence and potential severity of the outcomes a procedure has been produced.

A Shire SOP will be written that mirrors this circular and presented to a future BFAC for adoption.

## 7. OFFICER REPORTS

### 7.1 Department of Fire and Emergency Services

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

### 7.2 Department of Parks and Wildlife

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

Wes advised units from Walpole had attended 23 fires.

Soil moisture is still very low therefore a significant hazard will remain until such times of a significant rainfall event.

Approximately 50,000ha planned to be burnt in the Autumn.

### 7.3 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Graeme Thallon provided a report to the Committee.

Report attached

### 7.4 Community Emergency Services Manager

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

Report attached

### 7.5 Tree Farming Industry Update

Clarification was given to where the tree farming industry stood in relation to Total fire Bans (TFB) – Tree farming is categorised as an agricultural activity so therefore is not affected by the imposition of a TFB.

## 8. GENERAL BUSINESS

### 8.1 Start Time of Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meetings

FCO Sam Blythe of the Owingup Bush Fire Brigade has asked that the committee consider moving the starting time of the BFAC meetings forward by at least one hour (1830hrs start) but preferably one and a half hours (1800hrs start).

Sam's rationale for this request is that the meeting currently finishes too late for FCOs who live in the western part of the shire given the numbers of hours they have already worked in the day on top of travel time to the meeting and the duration of the meetings.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION & COMMITTEE DECISION	ITEM 5.1
Moved: Sam Blythe	Seconded: Callum Baxter

That the start time of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee meetings be brought forward to 6.30pm (1830hrs) with a stated desired finish time of 8:30pm.

Carried 11/10

Note: Sam Blyth tabled a written proxy from Ivars Sulcs in regards to this item.

## **8.2 Prohibited Burning Time Extension**

Don Atkinson asked about the rationale for extending the prohibited season as opposed to not issuing permits.

Graeme Thallon and Gregg Harwood explained why extending the season is preferable with the primary reason being that if it is permit season there should be a reasonable expectation that a permit will be issued.

Malcolm Hick mentioned that some FCO's did not hear the radio at time that consensus decisions were being made.

## **8.3 Council's Control Burn Program**

Joe Baker asked for an update on Council's burn program.

Due to the CESM position not being filled in a permanent capacity, Council's burn program has temporarily stalled.

Now the position is filled the burn program will continue, weather permitting.

## **8.4 Fire Regulation Compliance Drive Way Height Clearance**

Chris Hoare raised the issue of access into people's houses in terms of height clearances for appliances.

Jean-Marc Merat suggested having a "can this truck fit down your driveway" campaign.

## **8.5 Combine Shire and Parks & Wildlife Burns**

Wes Bailly suggested that if the Shire is planning a burn adjacent to a DP&W burn, 'tack' that burn on to the DP&W burn – utilise DP&W resources.

## **8.6 Grass Fire Exercise**

CESM to organise 'running' grass fires exercise.

## **8.7 Identification of "Cleared Properties" During Fires**

Cr Roger Seeney suggested carrying fluoro marker paint in fire units so drive ways could be marked.

## **8.8 Radio Etiquette**

Discussion on the need to observe/practice radio etiquette.

## **9. NEXT MEETING**

It is recommended that the next meeting of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee be held at 6.30pm on Thursday 4th June 2015 at the Denmark Shire Reception Room.



**10. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

There being no further business to discuss the Presiding Person closed the meeting at 9.40pm.

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

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dale Stewart – Chief Executive Officer

Date: 13 April 2015

These minutes were confirmed at the meeting of the

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

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