

# Shire of Denmark Minutes



## BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO BE HELD IN COUNCIL'S RECEPTION ROOM, 953 SOUTH COAST HIGHWAY, DENMARK, THURSDAY, 27<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2014, COMMENCING 7.30PM.

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

The Presiding Person opened the meeting at 7.35pm.

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

- |                          |                      |                                   |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Ross McDougall    | D.C.B.F.C.O                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Adrian Kranendonk | F.W.O                             |
| <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 Dave Guthrie      | Mehniup FCO                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Malcolm Hick      | Mt Lindesay FCO                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Jean-Marc Merat   | Nornalup FCO                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Joe Baker         | Ocean Beach FCO                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ms Ann Howard        | Parryville Proxy                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Lee Shelley       | Mt Shadforth FCO                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Sid Marshall      | Scotsdale 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 Wes Bailye        | DPaW Fire Coordinator             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Cr Roger Seeney      | Council Representative / Chairman |

STAFF: (Non Voting)

- |                          |                  |  |
|--------------------------|------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Nathan Hall   | Community Emergency Services Manager / Secretary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Gregg Harwood | Director of Community & Regulatory Services      |

ATTENDEES: (Non Voting)APOLOGIES:

- |                          |                   |                       |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Graeme Thallon | C.B.F.C.O             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Alex Williams  | Hazelvale FCO         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Russell Gould  | DFES District Officer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Matt Giles     | WAPRES                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Lez Baines     | Carmarthen FCO        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ms Sam Blythe     | Owingup FCO           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Brian Vigus    | Tingledale FCO        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Ivars Sulcs    | Peaceful Bay FCO      |

ABSENT:DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

*Nil*

Name	Item No	Interest	Nature

### 3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING

*The presiding person, Cr Roger Seeney thanked the Committee members and their brigades on behalf of himself and Council for their efforts so far this fire season and in particular the recent Clear Hills Fire.*

### 4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

*Nil*

### 5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

#### 5.1 Committee Meeting Minutes

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION & <b>COMMITTEE DECISION</b>	ITEM 5.1
Moved: Jean-Marc Merat	Seconded: Joe Baker
That the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held on the 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2013, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.	
Carried 14 / 0	

#### 5.2 Matters Arising From Minutes

*7:40pm – Malcom Hick arrived*

##### 5.2.1 Shire of Denmark Emergency Services Standard Operating Procedure Review

At the Denmark Shire Council meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2014 the three reviewed Standard Operating Procedures (SOP);

- Training Standards
- Driving Guidelines and
- Call Out Procedures

As well as the two new SOP's;

- T Cards and
- First Situation Report

Were all adopted by Council without alteration. A folder with the current SOP's has been developed for each brigade and is available at the end of the meeting.

*The Community Emergency Services Manager, Nathan Hall issued each Bush Fire Brigade with a copy of the Shire of Denmark Emergency Management Standard Operating Procedures Manual.*

*7:45pm – Bruce Pringle arrived*

##### 5.2.2 Improved Hazard Reduction by Facilitating Prescribed Burning

At the September 2013 BFAC meeting the Committee raised the following recommendation to Council, *“That the Committee recommends to Council that additional hazard reduction burns be facilitated on Shire controlled land by devolving management of less complicated burns to local FCOs”*. This matter has yet to be presented to Council as the Committee was requested at the December 2013 meeting that advice be sort from the Office of Bushfire Risk Mitigation as to the expected requirements of Local Government when developing a prescription for a prescribed burn.

Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) Nathan Hall contacted the Office of Bushfire Risk Mitigation (OBRM) as to the expected requirements of Local Government when developing a prescription for a prescribed burn. At this stage he has been advised by Peta Turner, from OBRM, that due to legislative matters OBRM has no ability to review Local Governments prescribed burning policies.

As a result the Committees motion will be presented to Council along with the CESM's following recommendation that Council adopt the recently completed DFES prescription guidelines and template, which are compliant with the Risk Management Standard ISO 31000, for its reserves. This way the Shire will comply with the latest approved standards and will withstand any scrutiny should a fire escape from a prescribed burn. A copy has been attached to the agenda for the Committee's consideration.

The CESM has also contacted DFES Superintendent Peter McCarthy at the training academy in early February for an update on the Prescribed Burning course. At this stage the Prescribed Burning Course is still under review with no time line on a release date.

#### OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends to Council that;

It adopts the Department of Fire and Emergency Services Prescribed Fire Plan Guidelines and Template, contextualised for the Shire of Denmark, as a standard template for prescribed burns on Shire reserves.

*An alternative motion was put forward by the Committee as an acknowledgement that additional resources would be required to undertake Bush Fire Mitigation work in the Shire in the light of the increase in standards to undertake prescribed burns and Lee Shelley's position, in the Community and Regulatory Services Department no longer being available.*

*It was also noted that already approved prescribed burn plans should not have to be rewritten and that only new prescriptions would need to comply with the new standards.*

#### **COMMITTEE DECISION**

ITEM 5.2.2

Moved: Chris Hoare

Seconded: Mike Hills

The Committee recommends to Council that;

It adopts the Department of Fire and Emergency Services Prescribed Fire Plan Guidelines and Template, contextualised for the Shire of Denmark, as a standard template for future prescribed burn on Shire reserves where the prescription have not yet been written.

That in order to facilitate the timely preparation of these prescriptions and the completion of as many burns as possible that a 0.5 FTE Bush Fire Mitigation officer position be considered in next budget and that FCO's be trained and encouraged to conduct these burns.

Carried 16 / 0

### 5.2.3 Mount Frankland Mobile Phone Tower

At the Denmark Shire Council meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2014, the Council adopted the following motion regarding the Mt Frankland Radio tower as put forward by this Committee.

*“That Council lobby the State Government and other bodies on their respective communities behalf regarding the delays to the Mount Frankland mobile phone tower project due to a claimed lack of government funding for power infrastructure, that was to improve mobile phone coverage across a large geographical area of the Shires of Denmark and Manjimup, specifically in areas that either has no coverage or contains black-spots for the following reasons:*

- *The use of mobile phone communication for both voice and data transmission has become an integral part of emergency management, evacuation, Incident Control and general emergency information and warnings.*
- *Governments should reassess their priorities and bring forward funding to support the supply of power to the proposed site, enabling the project to be completed in line with the original schedule to fulfil Government promises for improved, reliable coverage.*
- *At a time when emergency alerts are commonly distributed via the mobile network it is inappropriate to have these projects delayed, particularly as this area has a large visitor population during the high fire danger period.*
- *Nornalup and surrounding areas are known AM radio, WAERN and CB radio black spots.”*

*Cr Roger Seeney advised the Committee that the Director of Community and Regulatory Services, Gregg Harwood was to write a letter regarding Council’s decision and submit it to the District Emergency Management Committee for further action.*

*8:25pm – Anne Howard left the meeting*

### 5.2.4 Fire Regulation Provisions

This report discusses the deferred Resolution 160709, Fire Regulation Provisions and alternative officer recommendations that seek the Committees input as to the continued progress of the related recommendation to Council for consideration.

#### **Background:**

In July 2009 Council deferred Resolution 160709, Fire Regulation Provisions, to this Committee for comment. The recommendation that Resolution 160709 refers to states that;

*“A new Regulation is established in Council’s Annual Fire Regulation Notice that requires a Hazard Separation Zone to be created in conjunction with a Building Protection Zone around all residential buildings on lots greater than 2500m<sup>2</sup> (.25 hectares) in zones other than residential. The definition of a Hazard Separation Zone is closely to reflect the definition of parkland clearing as outlined in Council’s Town Planning Policy 10. The definition which is to be included in the Council’s annual Fire Regulation Notice is to read as follows, A Hazard Separation Zone is a fire protection zone which comprises an area with a minimum clearance distance in all directions from the Building Protection Zone of at least 30 metres on flat land, which is to increase by 10 metres for every 10 degrees increase in slope. Vegetation fuel loads within this zone shall be maintained at 5 tonnes per hectare”.*

**Comment:**

This motion was originally developed to assist in providing additional protection to resident's buildings in rural, special rural, special residential, landscape protection and tourist zoned areas. Areas zoned residential already require their entire property to be fuel reduced to 8 tonnes per hectare or less.

In the document Planning for Bush Fire Protection, which is utilised by the Shire of Denmark technical officers, all new subdivisions need to implement a minimum 100 metre Hazard Separation Zone which includes a 20 meter Building Protection Zone around all buildings. It is recommended that fuel loadings in the Hazard Separation Zones are kept at 8 tonnes per hectare in Jarrah/Marri vegetation and 15 tonnes per hectare in Karri vegetation. The fuel loadings in Planning for Bush Fire Protection are more realistic and achievable than the originally suggested 5 tonnes per hectare in the recommendation.

It should be noted that this regulation primarily targets existing subdivisions and properties prior to the release of edition 1 of Planning for Bush Fire Protection in 2006 as more recent development should be in compliance with current standards. As such this regulation should not interfere with the standards of the newer regulations which potentially require a higher level of compliance as indicated in their relevant Fire Management Plan.

There is the ability in Planning for Bush Fire Protection for a development to alter the size of a Hazard Separation Zone if the buildings that will be developed are built to comply with AS3959 standards, an Australian Standard for construction of homes in bushfire prone areas, which reduces the distance of vegetation from a building by increasing the construction standard of the building. By continuing with the use of AS3959 property owners not wanting to clear the full additional Hazard Separation Zone could increase their building standards in accordance to AS3959. The option of building to the AS3959 standard will need to be logged to assist in compliance matters. This could be quite simply achieved by using the current "Urban Fire Management Plan" form that is mentioned under Regulation 3 of the Fire Regulation Notice.

This could effectively solve some of the issues that the Shire currently has in not being able to enforce properties to retrospectively conform to AS3959 standards and allows people the choice on how much vegetation they will have to clear on their property.

There are several levels of standards that can be achieved under AS3959 however the Shire will not accept buildings to be built to the two highest bush fire attack levels (BAL) Flame Zone and BAL-40 which means that the vegetation will always be a minimum of 20 meters from the building, which conforms to the standard size of a Building Protection Zone.

The original recommendation referred to increasing the size of the Hazard Separation Zone by 10 metres for every 10 degrees of slope, which is similar to the current requirements of the Shire's Building Protection Zone. While this may further assist in the protection of properties consideration should be given to the total extent of clearing that will be undertaken. As the size of the Building Protection Zone will alter in relation to slope to provide additional protection it would be satisfactory for the Hazard Separation Zone to be kept at a standard size of 30 meters which will reduce additional clearing and allow for simplification when undertaking inspections for compliance.

The Fire and Emergency Services Authority (now DFES) report titled Investigation of the House Losses in the Roleystone/Kelmscott Bushfire 6<sup>th</sup> February 2011, clearly indicates that one of the major contributing factors that resulted in the loss of the 72

houses was the high fuel loads within an area that could have been designated as the Building Protection and Hazard Separation Zones.

The report states that “The HSZ is the zone up to 100 metres out from the building. The HSZ may be reduced in accordance with “Planning for Bushfire Protection” and AS 3959. For a reduction to occur the construction standards of the home should increase to compensate for the increased potential bushfire attack level onto the home. As this fire affected areas that was not declared as bushfire prone, yet for much of the area was adjacent to a forest or woodland vegetation type. This would require these areas to have a HSZ of 100 metres with a fuel load of less than 8t/ha”.

“As is clearly demonstrated a high fuel load within the HSZ and close to the building will have a significant impact on the survivability of a standard constructed home in a bushfire risk area. FESA advocates that the fuel load should be less than or equal to 8t/ha in the HSZ. When coupled to a fuel load of 2t/ha in the BPZ it ensures that the fire is losing intensity and the bushfire attack level is reducing as the fire gets closer to the house. The standard construction home survivability is increasing as the appropriate fuel management is occurring in the BPZ and HSZ”.

From all this information it highlights that a regulation to include a Hazard Separation Zone in rural, special rural, special residential, landscape protection and tourist zoned areas will assist in bringing existing properties closer to modern fire planning standards and greatly assist fire brigades in controlling and extinguishing fires on private property, and ultimately increase the chance of buildings and residents surviving a bush fire.

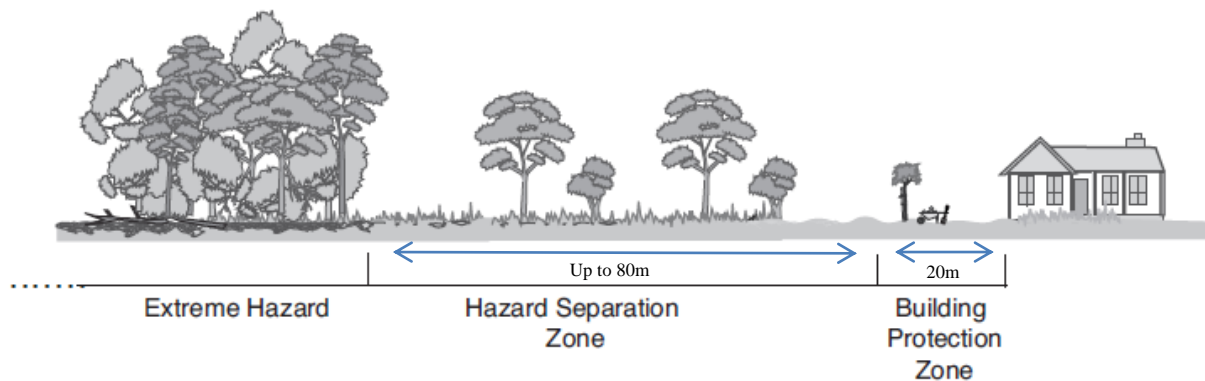


Diagram of a Hazard Separation Zone and Building Protection Zone in relation to a building and a fire hazard. Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2010.

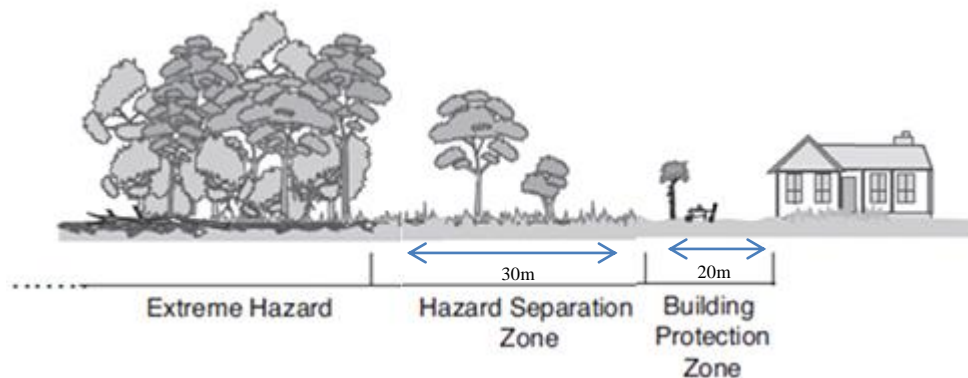
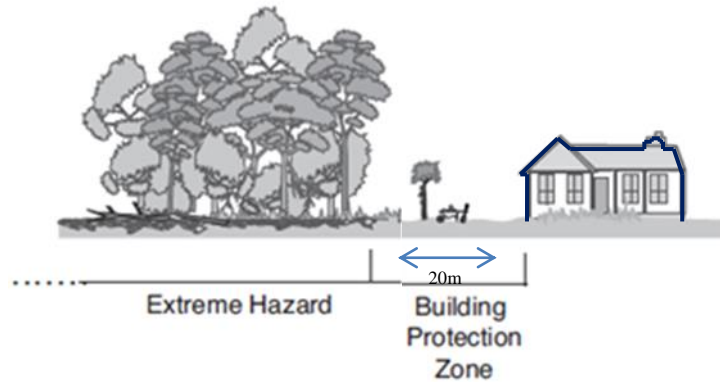


Diagram of a Hazard Separation Zone and Building Protection Zone in relation to a building and a fire hazard as a result of the new regulation.



A Diagram representing two possible scenarios –

1. A Building Protection Zone in relation to the current fire regulation notice of a building and a fire hazard or
2. A Building Protection Zone in relation to a new building, built to AS3959 standards BAL 29, and a fire hazard.

This process while advantageous will require comment from and time for the community to be able to consider and implement the addition of a Hazard Separation Zone. As such it would warrant that the proposed new regulation is offered for public comment for 60 days and a 3 year time frame is given for implementation. This will also assist property owners in saving for the works required to install a Hazard Separation Zone or installing the Hazard Separation Zone in a gradual manner.

To achieve an effective result in protecting properties and lives and allow for alternatives to the amount of vegetation to be cleared, it will be suggested that the following alternative officer recommendation in relation to Hazard Separation Zones be considered as a more practical application of the desired outcome;

*A new Regulation is established in Council's Annual Fire Regulation Notice that requires a Hazard Separation Zone to be created in conjunction with a Building Protection Zone around all residential buildings on lots greater than 2500m<sup>2</sup> (.25 hectares) in zones other than residential. The definition of a Hazard Separation Zone is to read as follows:*

*"A Hazard Separation Zone is a fire protection zone which comprises of an area with a minimum clearance distance in all directions from the Building Protection Zone of at least 30 metres. The distance of the Hazard Separation Zone can only be reduced where the building(s) standard of building protection is increase in accordance with the document titled Planning for Bush Fire Protection and Australian Standard AS3959. Vegetation fuel loads within this zone shall be maintained at 8 tonnes per hectare in Jarrah/Marri vegetation and 15 tonnes per hectare in Karri vegetation. This regulation does not overrule the size or fuel loading of a Hazard Separation Zone should it be of a higher standard as stated in a previously approved Fire Management Plan or set the standard for future Fire Management Plans".*

#### **Consultation:**

In July 2009 Council deferred Resolution 160709, Fire Regulation Provisions, to this Committee for comment. This report seeks additional consultation from this Committee and the general public prior to implementation.



**Statutory Obligations:**

There are statutory implications in that should the new regulation be implemented into the Shire's Fire Regulation Notice, it is then enforceable by the Shire's Rangers under Section 33 of the Bushfires Act 1954.

**Policy Implications:**

There are no policy implications.

**Budget / Financial Implications:**

There are known financial implications upon the Council's current budget with expenses for advertising and inclusion of the new regulation in the Fire Regulation Notice being met by current funding. There will be additional workload placed on the Shire's Ranger Services to enforce compliance on the new regulation; this may not be able to be absorbed within the current budget or workloads.

**Strategic Implications:**

There are significant strategic implications as the new regulation will greatly assist in protecting lives and properties in rural, special rural, special residential, landscape protection and tourist zoned areas from bush fires.

**Sustainability Implications:****➤ Environmental:**

There are significant environmental implications relating to the report as it will require private property owners to increase clearing of fire fuels on their land to comply with the new regulation. However property owners will have the ability to retrospectively conform their buildings to AS3959 to reduce the amount of clearing required.

**➤ Economic:**

There are known economic implications relating to the report as there will be costs imposed on private property owners to undertake additional clearing of fire fuels on their properties. It is recommended that this occur over a 3 year period to allow for people to save up the money for the work to be completed or gradually implement the new regulation.

**➤ Social:**

There are no known significant social considerations relating to the report or officer recommendation.

**Voting Requirements:**

Simple majority.

**OFFICER & COMMITTEE DECISION**

ITEM 5.2.4

Moved: Adrian Kranendonk

Seconded: Chris Hoare

That the Committee recommends to Council that;

1. It considers the amended officer recommendation in regards to Hazard Separation Zones that states;

*A new Regulation is established in Council's Annual Fire Regulation Notice that requires a Hazard Separation Zone to be created in conjunction with a Building Protection Zone around all residential buildings on lots greater than 2500m<sup>2</sup> (.25 hectares) in zones other than residential. The definition of a Hazard Separation Zone is to read as follows:*

*"A Hazard Separation Zone is a fire protection zone which comprises of an area with a minimum clearance distance in all directions from the Building Protection Zone of at least 30 metres. The distance of the Hazard Separation Zone can only be reduced where the building(s) standard of building protection is increase in accordance with the document titled Planning for Bush Fire Protection and Australian Standard AS3959. Vegetation fuel loads within this zone shall be maintained at 8 tonnes per hectare in Jarrah/Marri vegetation and 15 tonnes per hectare in Karri vegetation. This regulation does not overrule the size or fuel loading of a Hazard Separation Zone should it be of a higher standard as stated in a previously approved Fire Management Plan or set the standard for future Fire Management Plans".*

2. The regulation be put out for public comment for a period of 60 days and advertised in the following manner;
  - Two advertisements placed in both the Denmark Bulletin and Walpole Weekly, evenly spaced over the 60 day period.
  - Notifications placed on the Shire's website and notice boards.
  - Letters be sent to the following community groups advising them of the draft regulation and comment period;
    - Denmark Environment Centre
    - Denmark Chamber of Commerce
    - Denmark Weed Action Group
    - Green Skills
    - South Coast Environment Group
    - Department of Parks and Wildlife
    - Department of Fire and Emergency Services
    - Shire of Denmark Bush Fire Brigades
3. It considers the public comment at the end of the 60 day period at the next available Council meeting and makes a decision to review, adopt or dismiss the above mentioned Officer Recommendation.

**DEFERENTIAL MOTION:**

Moved: Joe Baker

Seconded: Jean-Marc Merat

The agenda item 5.2.4 is deferred so that economical and environmental impact statements that form the basis of informed decision making may be carried out.

Lost 2 / 13

**The original motion was then put forward and carried.**

Carried 15 / 0

8:25pm – Anne Howard returned to the meeting

## 6. TABLED ITEMS

*Nil*

## 7. OFFICER REPORTS

### 7.1 Department of Fire and Emergency Services

DFES District Manager Russell Gould tendered his apologies for the meeting.

### 7.2 Department of Parks and Wildlife

DPaW Fire Coordinator Wes Bailye provided the following report to the Committee;

*The DPaW Walpole office has dealt with 7 fires and completed 5 prescribed burns since January 2014, including burns at the Giants Block and Rate Block.*

*Upcoming prescribed burns in the Denmark area include;*

- *Hay Block*
- *Redman Reserve*
- *Giants Block*
- *Douglas Hill*
- *Quarram Block*
- *Harewood Block*
- *Kordabup Block and*
- *Themes Block.*

*Wes thanked the brigades for their efforts at the Clear Hills fire and stated that there had been many good comments about Denmark's professionalism and high standards.*

*Wes also advised that there have been some issues with DPaW channel 544 which resulted in channel 173 being used during the Clear Hills Fire. Work is being undertaken to correct this matter.*

### 7.3 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Graeme Thallon has tendered his apologies for the meeting. (Report Attached)

### 7.4 Community Emergency Services Manager

Community Emergency Services Manager Nathan Hall will provide a report to the Committee. (Report Attached)

## 8. GENERAL BUSINESS

### 8.1 Bush Fire Brigades Annual General Meetings

Shire of Denmark Bush Fire Brigades are reminded to supply a copy of their AGM's, which is to include a nomination for the local Fire Control Officer, to the Community Emergency Services Manager by no later than the 26<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

*Item noted by the Committee*

## 8.2 Denmark Town Site Urban Fringe Bush Fire Mitigation

Following the recent 14,000 hectare fire, Clear Hills, to the north of Denmark in January this year and the Community Risk Study undertaken in 2010, the town site of Denmark has been identified as potentially at greater bush fire risk from fires approaching in an arc from the North East to the North West direction.

Bush fires being fanned by North East and North West winds prove very difficult to contain as they are generally combined with higher temperatures and lower humidity. The risk of these fires overrunning the urban area is heightened by the level of fuel in remnant bush blocks in this region. Please see the attached map.

These bush blocks in the designated arc have a variety of ownership/custodian tenures which in many cases makes fuel reduction measures difficult to execute due to the risk of fire encroaching on neighboring properties.

It has been proposed by the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, Graeme Thallon, that this Committee and in turn Council consider initiating a "Tenure Blind" approach to implementing a plan and resource allocation to reduce this fuel load in the near future and consider the long term need to then maintain the fuel load in this designated area.

In considering the concept of a "Tenure Blind" fire fuel reduction buffer the Committee should note Wayne Gregson's, the Commissioner of DFES's comments on the front page of the Monday 17 February 2014, West Australian to the effect that fire fuel loadings across all land tenures need to be reduced and Council's and private land owners should be paying for the cost of reducing the fuel loads on their land.

While for Council this means increased reserve burn plan budget allocation levels and increased reserve management and fire regulation notice compliance staff, for private property owners in target areas this means receiving property specific fire fuel reduction notices under Section 33 of the Bushfires Act 1954 and finding the funds out of their own resources to undertake the reduction work required in those notices.

While brigade assistance under Council's Burning on Private Land Policy P0150110 will assist property owners and greatly reduce their costs in meeting those orders, the long term implication of a tenure blind buffer approach for some property owners will be the realisation that they are holding property that they do not have the financial resources, knowledge or practical skills to manage.

In order to progress this matter and bring the relevant agencies together the Chief Fire Control Officer has suggested that it may be appropriate to involve the Office of Bushfire Risk Management "OBRM" to assist in insuring that a tenure blind approach is achieved.

From this information the following motion has been raised for the Committee's consideration;

### OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee recommends to Council that;

1. Council consider and investigate the most effective method for fuel reducing the urban fringe properties located within the area denoted on the attached map.
2. That assistance is sought from the Office of Bush Fire Mitigation to enable this method to be "Tenure Blind" as these properties include various tenure types and are controlled by various private and government bodies.

*Due to the Committee noting that DPaW attempts to work in with neighboring land holders when undertaking prescribed burns, it was felt that it would be beneficial that Council expedite this process by arranging neighboring private and other government agency held land throughout the Shire be burnt in conjunction with adjacent DAPW controlled burns .*

**COMMITTEE DECISION**

ITEM 8.2

Moved: Chris Hoare

Seconded: Adrian Kranendonk

That the Committee recommends to Council that;

1. Council consider and investigate the most effective method for fuel reducing the urban fringe properties located within the area denoted on the attached map.
2. That assistance is sort from the Office of Bush Fire Mitigation to enable this method to be "Tenure Blind" as these properties include various tenure types and are controlled by various private and government bodies.
3. That Council staff liaises with DPaW staff regarding private and other government agency held land throughout the Shire, adjacent to DAPW controlled burns that can be conveniently burnt at the same time and issuing section 33 Bush Fire Act notices to that effect.

Carried 16 / 0

### **8.3 Start of the Restricted Burning Period**

Alex Williams, Hazelvale Fire Control Officer would like the Committee to discuss their thoughts regarding the opening of the Restricted Burning Period and suitable restrictions that may need to apply due to the dry conditions.

*It was noted by the Committee that due to the permit season opening on the 1<sup>st</sup> March and the dry weather that Fire Control Officers had agreed that they were not issuing permits until substantial rain, 20mm of rain over a 48 hour period, had fallen.*

*Nathan Hall, Community Emergency Services Manager was requested to send out an email, make an announcement on the morning radio schedule and prepare a newspaper article or advert that states that permits were not being issued by Fire Control Officers until decent rain had fallen.*

### **8.4 Bow Bridge Fire Danger Sign**

Jean-Marc Merat, Nornalup Fire Control Officer would like the Committee to discuss possible solutions regarding the inaccuracy of the Bow Bridge Fire Danger Sign.

The sign is in a really effective location and there is a concern that if the sign is not regularly set to the correct fire danger rating then a fire may be lit at the wrong time, as people may have obtained the incorrect information. This is very important when the fire danger rating is very high or above.

It has also been suggested that if a solution is not able to be found then the indicator should be removed until the matter can be resolved.

*Nathan Hall, Community Emergency Services Manager advised the Committee that Ivars Sulcs from the Peaceful Bay Bush Fire Brigade had offered to communicate with the Bow Bridge shop to keep the Fire Danger Sign current.*

## 8.5 National Volunteer Fire Fighters Day

On the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2014 the Shire of Denmark received a letter (attached) from Pamela Harman. Ms Harman has suggested in her letter that the Shire of Denmark approach the appropriate national committees and recommend that a “National Volunteer Firefighter Day” be proclaimed.

The CESM would like to hear this Committee’s thoughts about the suggestion of a “National Volunteer Firefighter Day” in line with the following information prior to the matter being taken to Council, if required;

- The Shire of Denmark provides funding, \$2,500.00, towards an annual dinner for its local volunteer fire fighters.
- The Department of Communities and the Shire sponsor the annual “Thank a Volunteer Day” event in Denmark each year, on or near the 5<sup>th</sup> December, which is to recognise all volunteers.
- Is the role of firefighters within the community much different to SES, marine rescue and ambulance officers to justify a separate day of acknowledgement?
- A National Volunteer Firefighter Day will not necessarily guarantee additional funding for equipment as outlined in Ms Harman’ letter.

*The Committee felt that as a whole there was already enough recognition for volunteer fire fighters and identified two other events, International Fire Fighters Day and National Red Balloon Day.*

*Cr Seeney offered to write back to Pamela Harman explaining that our fire fighters are well equipped, celebrated and recognised.*

## 8.6 Live Drive Pumps on Fire Appliances

This report discusses the need to review the existing Council Policy P050108 Donkey Motored Pump Fire Truck Procurement, as in its current form it is not suitable in maintaining the Shire’s firefighting capacity due to the policy restricting the types of fire appliances that the Shire may procure.

### **Background:**

In March 2012 the Shire of Denmark Council adopted an Emergency Management Standard Operating Procedure regarding the pump systems on fire appliances, Policy P050108 Donkey Motored Pump Fire Truck Procurement, which states;

*“To ensure that Council procures fire trucks that are suitable for the conditions where they will be used and the training and experience levels of the volunteers that may be using them, that Council’s preference is for fire trucks with independent, Donkey Motor, driven pumps and that Council staff advises FESA as such”.*

A matter has now arisen in relation to this procedure. For the 2014/15 financial year the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) has offered the Shire of Denmark through the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) four replacement vehicles (See ESL offer attached), being new light tankers at Harewood and Kordabup and 4.4 single cab broad acre appliances at Tingleddale and Mt Shadforth/Scotsdale.

The light tankers for Harewood and Kordabup and the 4.4 broad acre appliance at Tingleddale are all suitable replacements, especially the additional water capacity of a 4.4 appliance in the western areas of the Shire; however a broad acre appliance at Mt Shadforth/Scotsdale would be a step backwards in the equipment provided on the appliance and crew capacity.

**Comment:**

The replacement heavy appliances, 1.4 to 4.4, have a current life span of 16 years which requires some thought being applied to ensure the appliance chosen is suitable to the growing demands of the area in which it is intended for. In the case of the Mt Shadforth/Scotsdale region there has been and will continue to be encroachment of urban subdivisions, with more houses within close vicinity of bushland. To keep pace with this encroachment, public and fire fighter expectations the replacement appliance will need to have the capabilities and capacity to meet these needs, so it would be a reasonable consideration that a 4.4 Dual Cab Rural appliance would be more suitable for the Mt Shadforth/Scotsdale area.

This is where the conflict with the existing standard operating procedure, P050108, exists. The only vehicles that are equipped with the “donkey motor” driven pumps are light tankers, broad acre appliances and the 1.4 rural appliances, with the broad acre appliances being further restricted to single cabs. The rural and urban appliances which have more equipment, dual cab capacity for up to 6 fire fighters, property defence capabilities and are more suitable to the Mt Shadforth/Scotsdale area all have “live drive” pumps. Furthermore within the next 2-3 years the Ocean Beach, Nornalup and Peaceful Bay appliances will be replaced with 3.4 Urban appliances which all currently have “live drive” pumps.

The Shire needs to continue with the progression of its firefighting fleet to meet the needs of the community and it cannot be expected that DFES will provide custom made appliances for the Shire, so we need to be flexible in our acceptance of the pumping systems on the appliances and take the time to learn and train with the appliances we receive.

This does not preclude the ability to accept new fire appliances with donkey motored pumps and where suitable utilise them as a preference, such a 4.4 broad acre appliance for the Tingle Dale Bush Fire Brigade.

**Consultation:**

The Community Emergency Services Manager has consulted with the Chief and Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officers, the Director of Community and Regulatory services and members of the Denmark Council.

**Statutory Obligations:**

There are no Statutory Obligations.

**Policy Implications:**

There are policy implications as this report suggests that the existing Council Policy P050108 Donkey Motored Pump Fire Truck Procurement, be re worded to allow the procurement of “live drive” motored pumps on fire appliances if an alternative is not available.

**Budget / Financial Implications:**

There are known financial implications upon the Council’s current Budget.

**Strategic Implications:**

There are known significant strategic implications that if Policy P050108 Donkey Motored Pump Fire Truck Procurement is not re worded to allow the procurement of “live drive” motored pumps on fire appliances, then there is the probability that the Shire will be issued with fire appliances that are not suitable, in both capacity and capability, for the area in which they are intended.

**Sustainability Implications:****➤ Environmental:**

There are no known significant environmental implications relating to the report or officer recommendation.

➤ **Economic:**

There are no known significant economic implications relating to the report or officer recommendation.

➤ **Social:**

There are no known significant social considerations relating to the report or officer recommendation.

**Voting Requirements:**

Simple majority.

<b>OFFICER RECOMMENDATION &amp; COMMITTEE DECISION</b>	<b>ITEM 8.6</b>
Moved: Ross McDougall	Seconded: Roger Seeney
That the Committee recommends to Council that;	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The current standard operating procedure P050108 Donkey Motored Pump Fire Truck Procurement is reworded to state;           <p style="margin-left: 40px;">“To confirm that Council procures suitable fire appliances significant consideration should be given towards the fire appliances capacity and capability to ensure the best fire protection for the community is achieved, with the preference of fire appliances with Donkey Motored Pumps if they are available.</p> </li> <li>2. That an alternate 2014/15 Emergency Service Levy application is submitted to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services that identifies that a 4.4 Rural Dual Cab fire appliance is the preferred replacement fire appliance for the current 2.4 Rural Single Cab fire appliance at Mt Shadforth/Scotsdale.</li> </ol>	
Carried 8 / 7 (The Chairman cast the deciding vote)	

**8.7 Service Medals**

*Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, Ross McDougall reminded Committee members that the Bush Fire Brigades need to submit applications for service medals and can ask the CESM for assistance.*

**8.8 Fire Fuel Build Up, CBD**

*Lee Shelley, Mt Shadforth Fire Control Officer enquired if the Chamber of Commerce had made any notification to building owners, regarding the build-up of fire fuel on the roofs of premises in the CBD. It was resolved at the December 2013 Committee meeting that the matter could best be communicated through the Denmark Chamber of Commerce.*

*Nathan Hall, Community Emergency Services Manager will follow this matter up with Gail Guthrie from the Chamber of Commerce.*

**8.9 Budget for Fire Regulation Notice Compliance Measures**

*Lee Shelley, Mt Shadforth Fire Control Officer suggested that a budget item be created by Council for Fire Regulation Notice remedial compliance work.*

*Gregg Harwood, Director of Community and Regulatory Services advised the Committee that although there was not a specific budget item for this compliance work that it would still be undertaken with any costs being charged back to the property owner.*



**8.10 Flagging Tape**

*Nathan Hall, Community Emergency Services Manager provided each of the brigades with coloured flagging tape and a reference guide which is to be stored on all of the Shire’s fire appliances. The use of the flagging tape is in line with the Departments of Fire and Emergency Services and Parks and Wildlife and is to be used to demark the following;*

- White                                      Sector Boundary
- Yellow                                      Tree to be Felled
- Blue                                        Item Requiring Mop-up
- Red/White                                Hazardous Tree or Other Safety Hazard

**8.11 Burn Over Blanket Containment Brackets**

*Nathan Hall, Community Emergency Services Manager provided all of the Shire’s Bush Fire Brigades who have single cab fire appliances, other than light tankers, with Burn Over Blanket Containment Brackets and requested that they liaise with the Shire Workshop staff to have these installed as soon as possible.*

*It was also noted that the East Denmark, William Bay and Peaceful Bay dual cab fire appliances are still to have the lower restraint bar installed by the Shire Workshop.*

**8.12 External Fuses on 1.4 Fire Appliances**

*Chris Hoare, East Denmark Fire Control Officer enquired if any work had been undertaken to consider relocating the exposed fuse system on the current 1.4 Rural fire appliances.*

*Ross McDougall, Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and the Great Southern Region’s representative on the Volunteer Vehicle & Equipment Advisory Committee (VEAC) advised Chris that the matter had been raised at VEAC and an outcome was still pending.*

**9. NEXT MEETING**

It is recommended that the next meeting and Annual General meeting of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee be held at 7.00pm on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2014 at the Denmark Shire.

**10. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

There being no further business to discuss the Presiding Person closed the meeting at 9.48pm.

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

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

Date: 13 March 2014

These minutes were confirmed at the meeting of the \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Presiding Person at the meeting at which the minutes were confirmed.)*