

Shire of Denmark Minutes



DENMARK BUSHFIRE MITIGATION WORKING GROUP

HELD IN THE RECEPTION ROOM
953 SOUTH COAST HIGHWAY, DENMARK
THURSDAY, 16TH JANUARY 2020

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1. ELECTION OF PRESIDING PERSON

Two nomination forms were submitted to the group, the group unanimously voted that [Cr Mark Allen](#) hold the position of presiding person and [Cr Roger Seeney](#) hold the position of Deputy.

2. DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Presiding Person opened the meeting at 9:35am

3. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCEMEMBERS:

Cr Mark Allen	Deputy Shire President & Presiding Person
Cr Roger Seeney	Denmark Shire Councillor
Mr Tristan Farmer	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions
Mr Wayne Green	Department of Fire & Emergency Services
Mr Drew Bennett	Water Corporation
Mr Kurt Weinert	Western Power
Mr Bart Lebbing	Denmark Environment Centre
Mrs Dianne Harwood	Denmark Weed Action Group
Mr Alex Williams	Hazelvale FCO (West Zone)
Mr Adrian Kranendonk	East Zone Officer
Mr Lez Baines	Chief Bushfire Control Officer (CBFCO)
Mr Bryce Edwards	Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer (DCBFCO)
Mr Lee Shelley	Denmark Volunteer Fire and Rescue Captain/FCO
Mr Tony Pedro	Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee

STAFF:

	(non-voting)
Mr Scott Medhurst	Community Emergency Services Manager
Ms Melanie Haymont	Bushfire Risk Planning Coordinator
Mr Bohdan Davies	Sustainability Officer
Ms Emma Holliday	Administration Officer Community Services (scribe)

APOLOGIES:

Mr Steve Machin	Western Power
Mr Steve Childs	Water Corporation

VISITORS:

Nil

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Nil

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING

Cr Mark Allen commended the work of Melanie Haymont and then facilitated everyone introducing themselves around the table.

5. REPORTS

5.1 Proposed Mitigation Activities

Melanie Haymont presented the attached report.	Refer to Attachment
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5.1.1 Peaceful Bay

Question (Roger Seeney): Are BAL assessments being done on the assets?

Answer (Melanie Haymont): New BAL assessments are not being done on each individual asset although, current ratings have been taken into account when certain treatments have been applied to an area.

Question (Lez Baines): In the sections marked as Parkland clear will there be access for vehicles to drive.

Answer (Melanie Haymont): Yes, but will only be suitable for a light tanker.

5.1.2 Nornalup

Treatment ID 4656: Tristan Farmer advised that an assessment of this area was conducted and concluded that it was full of Melaleuca trees and not suitable for a prescribed burn as the area is too wet.

Question (Bohdan Davies): Enquired as to what treatment was planned for the end of riverside drive?

Answer (Melanie Haymont): There is allocated road reserve in that area that currently is overgrown, it is suggested that treatment be completed and access way extended in the area to create an exit for the Schulz property which is on a vulnerable section of land. This has not been scheduled for the first round of treatment though.

5.1.3 Kenton Estate

Question (Bryce Edwards): Asked if there is anything that can be done about the large tree that blocks the access way.

Answer (Melanie Haymont): An assessment was done and concluded that the tree will not be removed, but a gate will be put in place right next to the tree so that vehicles can enter into the Richards property and then continue on around the tree.

Question (Alex Williams): Advised that there is a couple of overgrown tracks down to the river, could some treatment be applied to a track(s) to provide easier access to the river.

Answer (Melanie Haymont): Noted for further investigation.

5.1.4 Boat Harbour Road

Question (Roger Seeney): Asked if the road all the way down to the beach will be completely gravelled?

Answer (Melanie Haymont): The really rough areas will be gravelled but not the whole access way.

Question (Mark Allen): Asked how many bad areas are there?

Answer (Melanie Haymont): There are approximately three (3) really bad areas.

Question: Do DBCA encourage the deterioration of the road to stop people from travelling down to the beaches.

Answer (Tristan Farmer): No not at all DBCA do not encourage deterioration of the road. The road reserve Boat Harbour Road is not managed by DBCA it is managed by the Shire of Denmark.

5.1.5 Parry's Beach

Question: What is the timeline for the prescribed burn?

Answer (Tristan Farmer): Depends on the weather conditions, looking at scheduling it in for this autumn, it is unlikely that it will be done in spring.

Question (Tony Pedro): What is the necessity to burn the designated Treatment Local ID HRBP1, if the areas around it have already been treated?

Answer (Melanie Haymont): To preserve the integrity of the camp ground. If the area is not treated and a fire goes through people could potentially be trapped.

5.1.6 William Bay

Question (Alex Williams): Will this area still be one way in, one way out?

Answer (Melanie Haymont): Yes.

Question (Tony Pedro): Could you please define the meaning of making the rail trail trafficable?

Answer (Melanie Haymont): The Denmark-Nornalup Rail Trail between Wentworth and Ocean Beach will be treated so that vehicles can access a 4m trafficable surface with a 5m vertical clearance and a passing bay every 100m (20m long and 6m wide). Traffic signage will be installed to direct vehicles of upcoming changes to the road.

Question (Roger Seeney): Is the temporary bridge trafficable?

Answer (Melanie Haymont): No this bridge is not trafficable to vehicles, can only be accessed by pedestrians. A grant request was lodged to have this bridge made trafficable but was not granted at this time, so no works are currently scheduled on the bridge. There could be opportunities to apply for future grants.

Question (Bryce Edwards): Is it possible to take the access road further west?

Answer (Scott Medhurst): Some works have already been done, group advised to go out and have a look if haven't seen the access track recently.

5.1.7 Lapko Road

Consultations are currently being had between the shire and the private property owner regarding the bridge on private property, as no works can be done on this area under the current grant scheme. The proposal is to make the bridge a road reserve owned by the shire, this then will make the bridge eligible for funding.

Currently this bridge would not be able to handle a truck, but could potentially be used in an emergency to evacuate people in light vehicles only.

5.1.8 Mt Hallowell

Question (Dianne Harwood): Could an access road be built on the north side to join up to the Denmark-Nornalup Rail Trail.

Answer (Melanie Haymont): Not Currently

Question (Lez Baines): Could a treatment be applied to the track behind houses on the east side?

Answer (Melanie Haymont): Currently this track has been deemed too steep, instead looking at widening the road reserve and joining the cul-de-sac(s) between Coughlan Grove and Ravenhill Heights.

Question (Lee Shelley): Could the treatment planned for the access area to the south side be continued all the way to Burke Place.

Answer (Charmaine Shelley & Melanie Haymont): Yes, will go and inspect.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 Mount Shadforth Phone Towers

Adrian Kranendonk advised that the fuel load around the Mount Shadforth phone towers needs to be reduced, why haven't any treatment plans been scheduled.

Melanie Haymont advised that this area is privately owned property.

6.2 Airport

Adrian Kranendonk advised that the fuel load around the Denmark Airport needs reducing.

Area has been marked for treatment in future rounds.

6.3 Spraying Concerns

Dianne Harwood expressed concerns about the mention of spraying in the treatment schedule.

Melanie Haymont advised that this would only be spot spraying, not bulk spraying. Scott Medhurst also advised that his contractors will be doing 100% slashing this year no spraying at all.

6.4 Priority of Work

Bryce Edwards enquired if there was a “priority of works” list.

Melanie Haymont advised that the tender for works is going out this week on Friday afternoon. All of the scheduled works must be done and acquitted by 15th June 2020 so this project will be implemented very fast, works will begin as soon as contracts are awarded. There will be no room for hold-ups.

6.5 How will the information be disseminated?

The question was raised by various members, as to how this information will be disseminated and will the Shire take this back to the “Bushfire Ready Groups”.

Facilitators have been briefed on the intended works and will take the relevant information to bushfire ready group meetings.

7. NEXT MEETING

Date to be advised

8. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Presiding Person closed the meeting at 11:40am

These minutes were confirmed at the meeting of the _____

Signed: _____

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