

# Minutes

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## **BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

TO BE HELD AT THE SHIRE OF DENMARK RECEPTION ROOM  
THURSDAY 22<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021, COMMENCING AT 6.30PM

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

The Presiding Person opened the meeting at 6.30pm.

**2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Lez Baines	CBFCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Bryce Edwards	DCBFCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Nigel Marsh	DCBFCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cr Mark Allen	Council Delegate / Chairman
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cr Roger Seeney	Council Delegate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Mike Hills	Harewood FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Craig Lilley	Kordabup FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Murray Brooker	Mt Lindesay FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Hank Alberts	Ocean Beach FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Trevor Brown	Peaceful Bay Captain
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Callum Baxter	Somerset Hill FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Alex Williams	Hazelvale FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Brian Vigus	Tingledale FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Kevin Hard	Parryville FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Lee Shelley	VFRS Captain
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Paul Harbron	VFRS
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Adrian Kranendonk	Fire Weather Officer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Neville Brass	Nornalup FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Simon Coppock	William Bay FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Craig Hughes	Carmarthen FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Carl Wesley	Mt Shadforth FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Paul Moncrieff	Mehniup FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr William Miller	East Denmark FCO

**MEMBERS:**

(Non-Voting)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Wes Bailye	DFES Area Officer
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nikki Rouse	DFES
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Paul Ashton	Australian Bluegum Plantations

**STAFF:**

(Non-Voting)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Ms Renee Wiggins	Manager of Community Services
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Lee Shelley	Acting Community Emergency Services Manager
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ms Charmaine Shelley	Senior Ranger
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ms Melanie Haymont	Bushfire Risk Planning Coordinator

**VISITORS:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Bart Lebbing	Scotsdale BFB
<input type="checkbox"/>	Richard Stanley	Denmark Support

**APOLOGIES:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Murray Brooker	Mt Lindesay FCO
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr Kevin Hard	Parryville FCO

**ABSENT:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Cr Roger Seeney	Council Delegate
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nikki Rouse	DFES

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Nil

**3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING**

- 3.1** Cr Allen Noted the passing of Scotsdale FCO Sid Marshall and his valuable contribution to the community and his service not only with the Scotsdale Bushfire Brigade but with the Denmark Surf Lifesaving. Sid will be greatly missed.

**4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES****4.1 Committee Meeting Minutes**

<b>OFFICER RECOMMENDATION</b>	ITEM 4.1
<b>Moved:</b> Adrian Kranendonk	<b>Seconded:</b> William Miller
That the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held on the 14 <sup>th</sup> January, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.	
<b>Carried:</b> Unanimously	

**5. OFFICER REPORTS****5.1 Department of Fire and Emergency Services**

AO Rural Wes Bayle Reported

- A RUI exercise will be held at Goode Beach Albany 30<sup>th</sup> May all FCOs are welcome to attend please send RSVP to Denmark CESM
- There have been a couple of regional incidents with crews deployed
- High season appliances are slowly transitioning back to Perth for redeployment
- Burn Smart workshops are going ahead please contact Wes Bayle at DFES Albany for more information
- There has been some staff changes at Albany Regional Office
- DFES is again offering a Flu Vaccination subsidy

**5.2 Department of Biodiversity Conservation & Attractions - Nil Report****5.2.1 Australian Bluegum Plantations**

- A quiet season thus far
- One fire on Private Property was contained to the property
- No problems with this year programmed harvest

**5.4 Chief Bushfire Control Officer Report**

*The Chief Bush Fire Control Officer provided the following report which was tabled at the meeting.*

*“Not too much has happened since the last BFAC meeting regarding incidents:*

**Greaterex Road, Kentdale.**

*Grass Fire started from an exhaust spark from a tractor moving stock. Luckily the property owner saw the smoke and had a Fire Unit on site. This fast response plus dialling 000 saved probably several days’ work chasing what could have been a large bush fire which had the potential to follow the river down towards South Coast Hwy and the Kenton Estate.*

*Exceptional turn out from Brigades and thanks to DBCA for having the Water Bombers on standby plus the SES for re-loading.*

*However, should it be proposed that property owners who own a parcel of land over a certain area be required to have a Fire Response trailer in working order?*

**Nutt Road, Nornalup.**

*This was thought to have been the result of a lightning strike. Nornalup and Peaceful Bay turned out.*

**25k Vehicle Fire on Mt Barker Road.....False alarm.**

**Cnr Cotswold Dve/Ocean Beach Rd.**

*Owner was BBQing chops!!!! Thanks to O.B. for investigating.*

**Peaceful Bay Inlet.**

*Thankfully in DBCA land, handed over to Walpole and offer of assistance by BFB was made.*

**Ocean Beach Caravan Park.**

*Illegal camp fire attended by myself, matter is being handled by the Rangers.*

*AGMs are commencing so if you would like the Chief, Deputy or CESM to attend please let us know.*

*Please could FCO's speak to me regarding any area's where they would like to do a Hazard Reduction Burn so that we can put a plan into action for either completing burns now or in Spring. DBCA have also asked if any Brigades would like to burn Private Properties next to where they are proposing to burn.*

*On the cards so far is the Water Corp burn which is being looked at on May 1<sup>st</sup> should the conditions be favourable.*

*We are also looking to do several Shire reserves in Peaceful Bay plus 2 Hazard Reduction Burns on Private Property in Peaceful Bay.*

*I am aware that Ocean Beach is also conducting a burn very shortly."*

**5.5 Acting Community Emergency Services Manager**

Mr Lee Shelley provided the following report to the committee

**Community Engagement:**

**Preparedness**

- PPC and PPE are on order and awaiting delivery there has a long lead time for delivery of some items
- FCO's with any concerns with properties in their area regarding the lack fire preparedness and mitigation please liaise call and speak to one of the ranger team.
- Brigade AGMs are upon us, please forward your BFB updated committee contact details and AGM minutes through to me as soon as they are finalised, I will attempt to attend as many AGMs as possible
- LG BFB Monthly Report Membership details, please amend your BFB membership lists to reflect current members, The CBFCO and myself are happy to come out and go through the process with you
- DFES are promoting Bushfire Ready Groups and have upcoming workshops please promote this through your networks
- Fire Management Notice - an initial draft attached

- Hazard Reduction Burn the Water Corp Burn is scheduled for the late April weather permitting
- Burn Smart are launching the 2021 program this will include community workshops and a 4-part Video series. It accompanies the existing Burn SMART resources which include:
  - Burn SMART - A planned burning guide for small landholders (Burn SMART Guide) attached
  - Burn SMART Checklist
  - Burn SMART Leaf moisture method
  - Burn SMART Planned burning fact sheet

### **Training**

- Hay-Mazing race was well attended by the eastern zone brigades. Well done to Will Miller East Denmark FCO for putting on a great training exercise which was well received by the volunteers that attended
- Great to see some brigades increasing their training to monthly and some cases weekly
- Volunteer Hub and Eacademy. There is increasingly more course availability, all volunteers are encouraged to access the Hub and Eacademy to assist in their access to information and training.

### **Response**

- There have been no major incidents recorded in the shire of Denmark during the last reporting period

## **5.6 Bushfire Risk Planning Coordinator**

Ms Melanie Haymont provided the following report to the committee

- 85/90% of the \$500,000 2020/21 MAF program has been completed with the balance on schedule to be completed within this financial year. The 4 contractors engaged in these works have been working well.
- The Ocean Beach Rd component of the mitigation works have been well received by the public
- 2021/22 MAF program will be submitted in May 2021, \$500,000 of works have been identified and hopefully approved, predominately for retreatment work.
- Some positive learning outcomes were achieved with the BRIGS Program, a report is available on the Shire website

## **6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

### **6.1 Burning on Road Verges**

#### **Response**

Presently the Shire Sustainability Officer is progressing the Road Verge Policy once completed the Roadside Verge Burning Policy can be finalised. Shire officers are working through this complex issue once the internal process is developed it will need to go to council for endorsement.

### **6.2 Driveway Crossover Compliance**

Who is responsible for this section of driveway? It being Shire land, is the Shire responsible for seeing that the driveway comes up to the standard required for safe

access of a fire vehicle, does it have the clearance required as laid down in the Shire Fire Break Notice? If not the Shire's responsibility, can the property owner bring the driveway up to the Shires Firebreak Notice standard, that is can the property owner clear vegetation, cut down or fall trees & do earthworks to bring the driveway up to the Shires Firebreak Notice standard? If this is the case, is the property owner required to have a Clearing Permit to do this work on Shire owned land?

Is there a policy on this?

Neville Brass

Nornalup FCO

### **Response**

An authorised officer can request the property owner/occupier to comply under the Shire of Denmark Fire Management Notice which meets:

- Appendix 2, 3A of the State Planning Policy 3.7 Guidelines for Planning in Bushfire Prone Areas
- Regulation 5, Item 21A of the UNDER PART V OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT 1986 allows for clearing to construct a crossover.
- An Application for a Permit to Undertake Crossover Construction Works within a Council road reserve would need to be submitted to the shire for consideration

### **6.3 Volunteer Insurance**

- Question on notice. Mike Hills Harewood FCO requested further information on pre-existing medical conditions and legal support if needed around and incident. Response will be tabled at June 17 BFAC

### **6.4 Fire Management Notice 2021/22**

- Please see a revised DRAFT Fire Management Notice attached for discussion.
- It is proposed that the FMN will go before council for endorsement at the June council meeting

Discussion around the management notice ensued and it was resolved that

- A subcommittee to be convened to review Mike Hills, Lez Baines, Nigel Marsh, CESM, Senior Ranger, Renee Wiggins with the meeting to be arranged in the week of 27<sup>th</sup> April
- It is envisaged that FMN will be presented to June Council meeting for endorsement,
- The FMN will be sent out with the 2021/22 Rates Notice

## **7. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Paul Moncrief to talk to alternative road side fire Permit/Notification signage**

- The Shires engineering dept. is currently conducting a Shire wide sign audit
- CESM to investigate alternate Fire/Permit/Campfire signage and alternate funding streams

### **7.2 Neville Brass to talk to costs associated with Brigade burns on Private Property**

- Discussion ensued, the Request to conduct a Hazard Reduction Burn on Private Property Form allows for discretion on fees, ultimately the CBFCO has final say
- Training burns are to be shared around the community on a case-by-case basis with approval of the CBFCO

### **7.3 Lez Baines - Is it possible to compel rural land holders to have fire units on their property at all times? CESM, Table at next BFAC**

### **7.4 Adrian Kranendonk- is the Airport burn going ahead?**

CESM, Yes burned for 2021 spring MAF funded

- 7.5 Neville Brass- Will the CBFCO consider introducing Zones for altering burning times**  
CBFCO, No not at this time
- 7.6 Callum Baxter - Somerset Hill have a slip-on unit they lend to brigade members**
- 7.7 Brian Vigus - Requested information on the LGGS Shed and vehicle replacement program**  
CESM to research and report to June BFAC
- 7.8 Alex Williams- Raised concerns of the Shire of Denmark's endorsement of WA Forrest Alliance**
- 7.9 Craig Hughes – is there a possibility of a guide to accompany the FMN for FCO's**
- 7.10 Simon Coppock – compulsory water tank couplings for fire fighting**
- 7.11 Paul Harbron - a few people are not seeking permits but waiting until the season opens**  
CESM- this does not absolve them of their responsibilities under the Bush Fire Act 1954
- 7.12 Will Miller - Thanked those brigades that attended the Hay-Mazing Race, congratulations to Mt Lindesay who won the day**
- 7.13 Carl Wesley – A Bushfire Ready Group facilitators and coordinators sundowner will be held at the Shire offices on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2021 all FCO's and Captains welcome to attend, further details will be email at a later date**

#### **8. NEXT MEETING**

It is recommended that the next meeting of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee be held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at the Shire of Denmark Reception Room that will commence at 6.30pm.

#### **9. AGM BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Committee be held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at the Shire of Denmark Reception Room that will commence at 6.00pm.

#### **10. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

There being no further business to discuss the Presiding Person closed the meeting at 8.45pm.

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

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

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