

Shire of Denmark Minutes



BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HELD AT THE SHIRE OF DENMARK RECEPTION ROOM
THURSDAY, 2ND SEPTEMBER 2021

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Bush Fire Advisory Committee

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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Presiding Person opened the meeting 6.38 pm.

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

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Lez Baines | CBFCO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Nigel Marsh | DCBFCO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Shane Howlett | DCBFCO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Cr Mark Allen | Council Delegate / Chairman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Cr Roger Seeney | Council Delegate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Craig Lilley | Kordabup FCO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Trevor Brown | Peaceful Bay Captain |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Lee Shelley | VFRS Captain |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Paul Harbron | Town FCO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Adrian Kranendonk | Fire Weather Officer |
| <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 Joe Baker | Ocean Beach FCO (proxy) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr William Miller | East Denmark FCO |

MEMBERS: (Non-Voting)

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Pat Dowling | Acting DFES Area Officer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Tristian Farmer | DBCA |

STAFF: (Non-Voting)

| | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ms Gina McPharlin | Director Corporate and Community Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Will Miller | Acting Community Emergency Services Manager |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ms Charmaine Shelley | Senior Ranger |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ms Melanie Haymont | Bushfire Risk Planning Coordinator |

VISITORS: (Non-Voting)

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Richard Stanley | Denmark Bushfire Support |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|

APOLOGIES:

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Alex Williams | Hazelvale FCO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Hank Alberts | Ocean Beach FCO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Wes Bailye | DFES Area Officer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Murray Brooker | Mt Lindesay FCO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Paul Ashton | Australian Bluegum Plantations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Callum Baxter | Somerset Hill FCO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Brian Vigus | Tingledale FCO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Ian Thomson | Harewood FCO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Francis Amess | Parryville Captain |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Neville Brass | Nornalup FCO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Mr Simon Coppock | William Bay FCO |

ABSENT:

Nil

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Nil

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING

Cr Mark Allen announced: *“This could be my last meeting if he is not chosen to represent council in the forthcoming elections. Thank you to everyone for the hard work by all members of the committee for facilitating brigade training throughout the year and having brigades ready to turn out at a moments notice; I extend my respect to you all. Thank you to Denmark Chief Lez Baines for all of your hard work and best wishes to all.”*

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

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| COMMITTEE DECISION & OFFICER RECOMMENDATION | ITEM 4.1 |
| Moved: Mark Allen | Seconded: Roger Seeney |
| That the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held on the 17 th June 2021, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings. | |
| Carried: Unanimously | |

5. OFFICER REPORTS**5.1 Department of Biodiversity Conservation & Attractions**

Mr Farmer provided an update on the following matters.

Fire Mitigation

2021/22 Prescribed Burn Program has been approved and is now available. Burns planned for the Shire of Denmark are:

- FRK_009 Nornalup Foreshore – 8 ha
- FRK_039 William Bay – 125.2 ha
- FRK_061 Parry Inlet – 423.8 ha
- FRK_062 Styx – 3,657.7 ha
- FRK_073 Tingle View – (400.5 ha total)
- FRK_075 Irwin – 709.4 ha
- FRK_082 Quickup Dam – 2,192.8 ha
- FRK_085 Scotsdale UMR – 219.8 ha
- FRK_086 Clear Hills – 3,885 ha (9,342.7 ha total)
- FRK_087 Surprise – 1,490 ha (2,534.3 ha total)
- FRK_090 Thames FCA – 308.4 ha

Neighbour notification letters will be sent out in the coming month.

Fire Resource Availability

- Seasonal firefighting crews commence 4 Oct 2021.
- Fire Roster will commence 7 Oct 2021 (Currently a Principal Point of Contact is available via phone out of hours over winter. Phone number is 0437 692 518)
- Mt Frankland fire tower will commence approx. first week of December

Fire Training

- No information yet on Water Bombers training dates or start dates but will let Will/Les know when they are available.
- Mandatory Pre-Season fire training will be conducted in Walpole on 6 October 2021. Invitation forthcoming to local brigades.

Mr Baines asked what burns were planned for Spring?

Mr Farmer advised that *most burns are available to be completed in Spring, however the only constraint might be the access around the blocks, given the volume of rainfall over winter.*

5.2 Australian Bluegum Plantations

There was no representative in attendance to provide an update.

5.3 Chief Bushfire Control Officer

Mr Baines provided the following report.

Incidents

- 1) Chimney flue Fire,
- 2) Shed Fire,
- 3) Caravan Fire,
- 4) Chief provided assistance with traffic on a truck roll over McLeod Road.

Appliances

- 1) Only 1 Appliance with issues at this moment (William Bay 2.4) with its pump pressure relief valve, Shire workshops are investigating to see if the pressure can be lifted slightly without endangering the crews. Rotating other appliances with William Bay over the Summer period could be an option.
- 2) Seasonal servicing of Appliances has already commenced.

Training

Safety is the first priority. Introduction of a Skills Refresher Assessments programme for all FCO's, Captains and Crew Leaders. Assessments ensure a consistent and up to date level of basic safety requirements.

Assessments will filter down to all Brigade members by next year.

The aim is to ensure that crews are current with their training and up to date with new SOP's, especially when we have mixed Brigade crews deployed on the same appliance.

Brigade training has already commenced.

Chief and senior IMT staff are encouraging multi-Brigade training days to help boost moral on the Brigades.

Administration

Acting CESM was deployed to Canada to assist with their wildfires and is currently in hotel quarantine in Sydney for the next two weeks before returning to WA.

In closing, the Chief extended his thanks to the Shire's "acting, acting" CESM who had risen to the challenge in an extremely capable manner.

Questions Arising:

Mr Kranendonk asked what the situation was with the green waste passes that were just realised with rates.

The Director Corporate & Community Services advised that the intent was to reduce the green waste going to the tip where it has been expensive to manage. Ms McPharlin added that the Shire was looking to other avenues to fit with the Shire's sustainability stance, other than just burning the waste.

Mr Baker stated that the free green waste dumping was bought in by the Shire, on recommendation from the Committee, to reduce smoke nuisance issues around the built-up areas, prevent illegal dumping and reduce the number of permits and callouts.

Cr Allen: "Commercial use of the free dumping is why the tip pass has been introduced."

5.4 Acting Community Emergency Services Manager

Mr Miller provided the following points.

Preparedness

- Firebreak and Fuel Management Notice has been sent out with the rates this week.
- Mitigation Activities request for quote is live until 6th September 2021, works to begin over the next few months.
- Large PPE/PPC order to be sent off by the end of the month. Uniform order forms attached.
- Fleet maintenance underway, Shire workshop will advise when the brigade vehicle need to head in for service, usually via radio.
- Radio servicing over next few months. Installs to be included as far:

Training

- Initial training courses for new members – Bushfire Safety Awareness and Firefighting Skills to have dates set soon. This will be advertised on Eacademy site and an email will be circulated once the dates have been confirmed. (Bushfire Safety Awareness 16 and 17 October and Firefighting Skills (Intro) Friday evening 22 (if required), Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 October 2021.)
- Brigades should begin regular training as the season approaches, if you need help getting resources (printouts etc) please let the CESM know, assistance is also available through Chief and Deputy to help with training or activities.

Response

- Three incidents involving BFB over the reporting period.
 - Chimney fire.
 - Shed fire.
 - Caravan fire.
 - A/CESM Lee Shelley was deployed to Canada on 26th July, now back in the country and doing two weeks hotel quarantine.

5.5 Bushfire Risk Planning Coordinator

Working two days a fortnight in the Shire of Denmark and the role is now in more of an advisory capacity.

The 21/22 round of MAF work is to be underway in coming weeks, the Shire is part way through the tender process. The Mitigation Working Group meeting was a great success, FCO's that are zone reps are encouraged to attend when available.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES.

6.1 Brigade area boundaries

CESM will follow up and distribute shortly

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Amended BFAC Charter

On 20 July 2021 Council voted to amend the BFAC charter, the only notable change is the voting status of a second Council delegate.

The delegated member is Cr Roger Seeney.

Noted.

7.2 Rural Urban Interface Exercise at Goode Beach

There is a RUI exercise at Goode Beach in Albany on the 3rd of October, FCO's are encouraged to attend.

Noted.

7.3 Burn-Smart Presentation

Mr Bains said that he thought it would be beneficial to run another Burn-Smart presentation in Denmark this year.

Noted.

7.4 Mt Lindesay BFB to Host Training Exercise – Nigel Marsh

Mr Marsh advised that Mt Lindesay Brigade would be hosting a training games exercise similar to *Hay Mazing* race on the 20th November.

Noted.

7.5 Handheld WAERN Radio Upgrades – Joe Baker

Ocean Beach FCO has asked if there is any news on spare parts and upgrades to the current vertex handheld radios.

Mr Miller advised that the Shire *has spare parts for the radios.*

Outcome

DFES Area Officer Pat Dowling to follow up on upgrades of handheld radios.

7.6 Green Waste Passes to be Re-considered

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION MOVED: ADRIAN KRANENDONK That Council revisit the new scheme to charge residents for disposal of green waste at the tip. M CARRIED: UNANIMOUSLY</p> | <p>ITEM 7.6 SECONDED: CR ROGER SEENEY</p> |
|---|--|

Mr Kranendonk said that as per a previous recommendation from BFAC, free dumping of green waste was introduced to lower the demand for permits from FCO’s, curb the smoke nuisance caused by backyard burning in built up areas, reduce false alarms and callouts caused by escaped burns on private property and to see the burning of this waste was done in a safe manner whilst being supervised by brigades.

7.7 Burning of Road Verges

Mr Kranendonk asked if there had been any progress on the burning of road verges.

The Bushfire Risk Planning Coordinator advised that a draft verge policy was underway and would have to be adopted.

8. NEXT MEETING

It is recommended that the next meeting of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee be held on 25 November at the Nornalup Community Hall that will commence at 6.30pm.

10. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business to discuss the Presiding Person closed the meeting at 7:30pm.

These minutes were confirmed at the meeting of the _____

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