



Minutes

BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HELD IN THE SHIRE OF DENMARK RECEPTION ROOM
953 SOUTH COAST HIGHWAY, DENMARK
THURSDAY, 12 MAY 2022.

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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

The Chairperson opened the meeting at pm.

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

MEMBERS:

Cr Ceinwen Gearon	Shire President, Council Delegate and Chairperson
Cr Clare Campbell	Council Delegate
Lez Baines	CBFCO
Nigel Marsh	DCBFCO
Shane Howlett	DCBFCO
Craig Hughes	Carmarthen FCO
Chris Hoare	East Denmark (proxy)
Ian Thompson	Harewood FCO
Alex Williams	Hazelvale FCO
Brian Vigus	Tingledale FCO
Craig Lilley	Kordabup FCO
Murray Brooker	Mt Lindesay FCO
Hank Alberts	Ocean Beach FCO
Trevor Brown	Captain Peaceful Bay
Callum Baxter	Somerset Hill FCO
Francis Amess	Parryville FCO
Lee Shelley	VFRS Captain, FCO
Paul Harbron	Denmark VFRS, FCO
Adrian Kranendonk	Fire Weather Officer
Neville Brass	Nornalup FCO
Simon Coppock	William Bay FCO
Geoff Bowley	Captain Mt Shadforth (proxy)
Paul Moncrieff	Mehniup FCO

STAFF:

Renee Wiggins	Manager of Community Services
Addas Gara	Community Emergency Services Coordinator
Claire Thompson	Governance Coordinator

APOLOGIES:

Bryce Edwards,	Owingup FCO
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ON LEAVE OF ABSENCE:

ABSENT:

VISITORS:

Blair Darvill,	Captain William Bay
Diarmuid Kinsella	DFES Area Officer
Tristan Farmer	DFES
Mal Parker	PF Olsen

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Name	Item No	Interest	Nature

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The mover of any motion to confirm previous Minutes needs to have been at the meeting.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION	ITEM 5
<p>That the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held on the 25th November 2021, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.</p>	

6. REPORTS

6.1 UPDATES FROM DEPARTMENTS AND POSITIONS

The Committee to be provided with an update on various matters from the departments and positions.

6.1.1 DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

6.1.2 DEPARTMENT OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION & ATTRACTIONS

6.1.3 AUSTRALIAN BLUEGUM PLANTATIONS

(NIL – apology from representative)

6.1.4 CHIEF BUSHFIRE CONTROL OFFICER

6.1.5 COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICES COORDINATOR

6.1.6 BUSHFIRE RISK PLANNING COORDINATOR

(NIL – commencing 01/06/22)

6.2 BURN PLANNING

Update on Water Corporation burn and any other planned burns.

6.3 TRAINING STANDARDS AND PPE/PPC STANDARDS

The Standard Operation Procedures have been reviewed by CBFCO and DCBFO, (P050112 and P050113). The new process will require endorsement from BFAC prior to the procedure being referred to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for approval.

6.4 PEER SUPPORT, MENTAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

In light of recent large incident and busy summer, it is worth noting the variety of support services available to volunteers. A starting point is the DFES Volunteer Hub <https://volunteerhub.dfes.wa.gov.au/home/support/mental-health-and-wellness>.

Further information can be obtained from Denmark Peer Support Officer Donald Clarke (SES) on 0402 839 587.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

Members are welcome to raise any items of general business at this point of the meeting. Items of general business must align with the Committee's Terms of Reference.

8. NEXT MEETING

It is recommended that the next meeting of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee be held on Thursday 21st July 2022 at the Shire of Denmark Reception Room commencing at 6.00pm.

9. CLOSURE

DENMARK CHIEF BFAC REPORT MAY 12th 2022**Incidents to date.**

As we are all aware we had the big one on Feb 4th Bayview Rise Fire.

Following the FCO debrief:

- All appliances to be issued with the male/female fittings as suggested.
- Contractor water carriers to have the ability to either deliver directly to appliances plus to have the correct fittings either fitted or capable of appliances being able to refill with water with no issues.

Other suggestions are being considered for actions.

Other incidents have been minor escapes or the public not realising that there were people in attendance and all was ok.

The Public still need to realise that at all times they have to have the means to control and extinguish if directed to do so.

I would like to see the Shire publish these requirements several times to try to educate our residents and owners.

Annual Skills Refresher 2021.

Whilst the Annual Skills Refresher was put out to FCO's, Captains and 1st Lieutenants only last year, this year (2022/2023) I would hope that all members complete the Annual Skills Refresher in order to stay current with their training prior to the next Fire Season.

This Refresher can be completed in stages in normal Brigade training. Please advise when your Brigade will be doing the training and either myself or a Deputy will also attend in order to sign off the completion record. The Annual Skills Refresher completion sheets will be issued to all Brigades within the next couple of weeks.

Nigel and Shane have put together a package which contains all of the relevant DFES training for the subjects we are looking at, these have been distributed to Brigades. This is a comprehensive standardised training resource for those subjects so that all Brigades are at the same DFES recognised standard.

Pre Season Zone training.

The Annual Skills Refresher will replace the Pre Season Zone Training from this point on.

Minimum Standard Training in order to active on a fireground.

The Shire of Denmark is now following the DFES minimum suggested training completion.

In the event of any incident it is the decision of the Incident Controller as to whether to allow Brigade members who have not completed their Annual Skills Refresher to attend or not due to their current skills not being validated.

Covid Vaccination Mandate.

At this stage there is still a mandate in place regarding the need to have received vaccinations as previously stated.

Hazard Reduction Burns.

Water Corp burn is on hold so that a meeting can be held in person between all parties in order to move forward without confusion.

Airport burn second stage is still to be completed.

Whilst investigating the above it was confirmed that Brigades cannot "charge" and invoice for any Hazard Reduction Burns on Private Property. To do so would invalidate any insurance cover for equipment and personnel.

However, "donations" are considered to be normal Brigade activity.

Because of this the paper work will need to be changed along with any wording that we may use when preparing for Hazard Reduction Burns on Private property.

Addas will advise the acquirement of a new staff member in his report.

I am anxious to compile a proper burn plan for the Shire of Denmark so could FCO's please let me have a list of burns that they would like to see done within their Brigade area.

Thank You:

Once again I would like to pass on the many thanks I am receiving from the public in regards to the work done at the Bayview Rise Incident.

New Fire Danger Rating System.

This new system is being introduced on September 1st 2022.

The new Fire Danger Rating framework will now be a 4 rating system.

Fire Behaviour Index Range Community Messaging

Moderate 12-23 Plan and be prepared to act

High 24-49 Be ready to act

Extreme 50-99 Fires will be extremely dangerous

Take action now



DFES
Department of Fire and Emergency Services

FOR A SAFER STATE

Australian Fire Danger Rating System

Fire Danger Rating References to Bush Fires Act 1954 and Bush Fires Regulations 1954 – Current and aligned to AFDRS

Current Fire Danger Ratings (Fire Danger Index)	LOW-MOD (0-11)	HIGH (12-31)	VERY HIGH (32-49)	SEVERE (50-74)	EXTREME (75-89)	CATASTROPHIC (100+)
New Fire Danger Ratings (AFDRS) (Fire Behaviour Index)	No rating (0-11)	MODERATE (12-23)	HIGH (24-49)	EXTREME (50-99)	EXTREME (75-89)	CATASTROPHIC (100+)
Bush Fires Act 1954, section 24D						Burning of garden refuse is prohibited.
Bush Fires Act 1954, section 25(e)						Lighting of a fire for the purpose of camping or cooking is prohibited unless the local government has provided written approval.
Bush Fires Act 1954, section 18A(17)						A permit holder shall not set fire to the bush unless authorised by a fire weather officer.
Bush Fires Regulations 1954, r. 15B(7)						A BFCO may issue a direction that, notwithstanding any permit to burn clover, clover shall not be burnt in the district.
Bush Fires Regulations 1954, r. 21B						During a TFB a BFCO must impose a ban (H/W/B) on off-road activity for business, industry and agriculture if the Fire Danger Index exceeds 35. The FDI must be worked out using the CSIRO McArthur method. (Corresponding FBI value to be determined. Investigating development of online tool to calculate FBI from observed conditions using applicable CSIRO Grassland Model).
Bush Fires Regulations 1954, r. 24C						Hot work excepted from total fire ban under BF Regulations prohibited unless part of urgent works on essential services.
Bush Fires Regulations 1954, r. 24F						Hot work excepted from total fire ban under BF Regulations prohibited unless part of urgent works on essential services.
Bush Fires Regulations 1954, r. 24I						Volume of firefighting water required to carry out hot work during a total fire ban under an exception in the BF Regulations according to forecast FDR.
Bush Fires Regulations 1954, r. 24ZA						Road work excepted from total fire ban under BF Regulations prohibited unless part of urgent works on essential services.
Bush Fires Regulations 1954, r. 24ZE						Volume of firefighting water required to carry out road work during a total fire ban under an exception in the BF Regulations according to forecast FDR.
Bush Fires Regulations 1954, r. 24ZJ						Off-road activity excepted from total fire ban under BF Regulations prohibited unless part of urgent works on essential services.
Bush Fires Regulations 1954, r. 24ZN						Catering activity excepted from total fire ban under BF Regulations prohibited.
Bush Fires Regulations 1954, r. 33(13)						A person who has received a permit to burn proclaimed plants must not burn a proclaimed plant
Bush Fires Regulations 1954, r. 39CA						Operation of bee smoker devices in the open air prohibited.

Catastrophic 100+ Fires will be deadly.

It is not safe to be in a Bushfire Risk area

This information needs to be prioritised in order to go out with the Firebreak and Fuel Management Notice in a timely manner.

Regarding the point at when are all permits cancelled. It was very convenient that we were able to cancel all permits when we reached a Very High FDR.

This cut off point has been suggested in the attachment below.

Once again, I feel that a strong constant publication is required to educate the public on what the new signage and regulations are and what they mean.

Lez Baines