



Shire of Cunderdin

Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

18th October 2022

Minutes of Meeting

18th October 2022

Dear Members,

The Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting was held at the Meckering Sporting Club, 25 Dempster St, Meckering, WA on Tuesday 18th October 2022 commencing at 6.10pm.

Disclaimer

Members of the public should note that in any discussion regarding any planning or other application that any statement or intimation of approval made by any member or officer of the Shire of Cunderdin during the course of any meeting is not intended to be and is not to be taken as notice of approval from the Shire of Cunderdin. No action should be taken on any item discussed at a Council meeting prior to written advice on the resolution of the Council being received.

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SHIRE OF CUNDERDIN

ITEM 1 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

1.1 Members

Mr D Wilmott	Fire Control Officer
Mr N Jenzen	Fire Control Officer
Mr J Snooke	Fire Control Officer
Mr D Beard	Deputy Chief Fire Control Officer
Mr D Fisher	Fire Control Officer
Ms A Harris	Shire President

1.2 Administration

Mr S Hobley	Chief Executive Officer
Ms H Byrnes	Deputy Chief Executive Officer

1.3 Invited Observers/Guests

Nil

1.4 Apologies

Mr A Burges	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (Chairperson)
Mr T Harris	Fire Control Officer
Mr B Skinner	Cunderdin VFRS Captain
Mr D Graham	Department of Fire and Emergency Services

ITEM 2 DEPUTATIONS / PRESENTATIONS / SUBMISSIONS

Australian Fire Danger Rating System

PowerPoint Presentation- This was presented at the meeting on the 20th of September and will be circulated to members for their review.

The website link for the new AFDR system was emailed to all members with the agenda. We will be using the new AFDT system and comparing it with the old system to show where the greatest differences can be seen. The North Meckering weather station will be used.

3.1 Confirmation of Minutes – 29th June 2022 (Copy attached)

RESOLUTION: BFAC1– 22/23

MOVED: Mr N Jenzen

SECONDED: Ms A Harris

That the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting Held on 29th June 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that Meeting.

CARRIED

3.2 Business Arising

Item 4.2 – BFAC Minutes of Meeting Held 29th June 2022

Mr T Harris' recommendation for implementing a Harvest Vehicle Movement ban with a Fire Danger Index (FDI) of 25 or greater, upon the outbreak of a fire within the Shire of Cunderdin using the Meckering North Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) weather station.

- This was discussed and it was also questioned that if a particular day is looking like it will exceed the standard 32 FDI can a ban be put on earlier than when it meets the trigger.

-This comment was considered and informed that decisions are made on a case by case basis dependant on other circumstances on a particular day.

This item was further discussed and it was agreed that this will remain in place as the use of the North Meckering Weather Station was beneficial as readings are more realistic.

Due to the changes to the AFDRS and the calculations no longer providing a Fire Danger Index, but instead providing a Fire Behaviour index, these numbers will now be required to be modified to align with the new system.

With Harvest Vehicle Movement and Hot Works Bans recommended to be implemented at an FBI of 40, potentially utilising an FBI of 30+ to automatically implement a HVMB upon the outbreak of a fire within the Shire of Cunderdin.

4.1 CBFCO Report

Nil.

4.2 DBFCO Report

It will be interesting to see how the new index works, and the DBCFO has advised he will keep a record at how the new system compares to the previous system.

4.3 CESM Report

TIC - FLIR Installations

The Meckering and Cunderdin Appliances are now fitted with Thermal Imaging Cameras for use at incidents. These were not applied for, but were handed out by DFES, unsure as to how brigades were selected for the receipt of these cameras.

Should the Ygnattering Brigade like to acquire a TIC, an application can be made through the 2023/24 LGGs Application.

Forward Basing Water Bombers

Discussions are currently underway of the forward basin of water bombers for the Harvest period (6- 8 weeks similarly to last year). There is a potential they will be based in Cunderdin this year, although this has not yet been decided.

Water Bomber Training

Water Bomber reloading training has not yet be scheduled by Parks and Wildlife Service although it is anticipated dates will be similar to last year (first Friday in November) further information and advertising will be undertaken upon the Receipt of the schedule from PaWS.

Comment: Can we please try and get this training done earlier in the year (September). This will increase the attendance.

Local Government Grant Scheme Application

The Shire of Cunderdin applied for an additional Light Tanker for the Meckering brigade during the last application round. This application was rejected by DFES due to the amount of committed funds to the replacement program of the 4.4B's and being so far behind schedule. There is still no word as to when Ygnattering will be receiving their appliance.

4.4 FCO's Reports

MBFB had 16 people complete the training, no new members they were all existing members.

4.5 Shire Councillor/Staff Report(s)

Interviews have been completed for the CESM position and a preferred applicant has been offered the position. We are hopeful they will be able to commence in 4 weeks time.

In the meantime if a harvest ban needs to be put in place please contact the Deputy CEO and they will send out the notification on WhatsApp, Facebook and text message.

It was great to see the training happening this year and the number of attendees that completing them.

The CEO attended the MBFB and gave them an update on the workplace OH&S responsibilities and the associated liabilities. The CEO also will attend the Ygnattering AGM and provide the same information.

The Shire will work with DFES to organise the Vehicle ID numbers and get them out to the members as soon as possible.

4.6 Other Agency Reports

Nil.

ITEM 5 ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

5.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Mr D Fisher nominated Mr A Burges

Mr D Beard seconded this nomination

Mr A Burges accepted nomination

There being no further nominations, Mr A Burges was elected unopposed

5.2 Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Mr D Wilmott nominated Mr D Beard

Mr D Fisher seconded this nomination

Mr D Beard accepted nomination

There being no further nominations, Mr D Beard was elected unopposed

5.3 Fire Control Officers

Current FCO's:

Mr A Burges (CBFCO), Mr D Beard (DCBFCO), Mr M Burges, Mr T Harris, Mr D Wilmott, Mr N Jenzen, Mr J Snooke, Mr D Fisher, Mr S Bell (CESM) and Mr S Hobleby (CEO), Mrs H Byrnes (DCEO).

Resolution Item 5

RECOMMENDATION: BFAC– 22/23

MOVED: Mr D Fisher

SECONDED: Mr N Jenzen

That the Meeting recommend to Council that

1. Mr Ashley Burges be appointed as Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for the forthcoming year.
2. Mr David Beard be appointed as Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for the forthcoming year.
3. The following persons, subject to their acceptance be elected as Fire Control Officers for the Shire of Cunderdin for the forthcoming year:-

Mr A Burges (CBFCO), Mr D Beard (DCBFCO), Mr M Burges, Mr T Harris, Mr D Wilmott, Mr N Jenzen, Mr J Snooke, Mr S Mussared, Mr D Kelly, Mr D Fisher, (CESM) and Mr S Hobleby (CEO), Mrs H Byrnes (DCEO).

CARRIED

6.1 Pre Season Synopsis

Fuel Loadings – There is an extreme fuel load all around the place. The meeting discussed the possibility of the Shire providing chemical in the future for farmers to assist with roadside spraying to reduce the fuel load.

Seasonal Weather Outlook – Hot dry and the possible chance of more cyclones coming down.

6.2 Restricted Burning Period/Prohibited Burning Period (RBT/PBT)

Listed for discussion on current Restricted and Prohibited Burning times.

Restricted Burning Period:

- 20th September 2022 – 1st November 2022

Prohibited Burning Period:

- 2nd November 2022 – 14th February 2023

Restricted Burning Period:

- 15th February 2023 – 31st March 2023

6.3 Burning Restrictions

Friday 7th April – Sunday 9th April (inclusive) as per 2023 prohibition, the committee elected not to prohibit burning on Easter Monday.

6.4 Bush Fire Exercise/Training

Water Bomber Refilling Training

This has been scheduled and advertised for Friday 4th of November @ 12:30pm.

Bushfire Safety Awareness

Courses have been run in Cunderdin with so far approximately 40 volunteers having completed the training. A another course was held in Meckering on the 16th September with approximately 15 people in attendance.

Rural Firefighting Awareness Course

This is a basic course designed for use by seasonal workers/backpackers. DFES are currently working on having this course put online to be more readily available following feedback from farmers and other organisations that may have seasonal workers that most times seasonal workers only arrive a day or two before harvest begins and there is no time for them to take half a day off to complete the training.

When the course becomes live, information will be distributed as required to the community via WhatsApp.

ITEM 7 FURTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Ygnattering AGM and a truck walk around was scheduled for Tuesday 25th October at 5pm. Mr D Wilmott mentioned the need for the diesel tank to be refilled, some more masks in the shed and some goggles replaced. The AGM was advertised on WhatsApp at the conclusion of the meeting.

Mr D Fisher brought up the need for fire retardant Balaclavas for the members, other brigades expressed an interest in these also.

Cr A Harris took the opportunity to thank all members for their time and contribution doing the jobs they do.

ITEM 8 NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled to take place Post Season April 2023 (Date to be finalised), commencing at 5.30 pm at the Council Chambers, Lundy Ave Cunderdin.

ITEM 9 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Chairperson closed the Meeting at 7:36 pm.