

Meckering Bush Fire Brigade

Annual General Meeting

25TH August 2025

Meeting Start: Jeff Snooke opened the meeting at 4.05pm.

Attendance: Darren Morrell, Jack Morrell, Jeff Snooke, Hayden Fisher, Reece Fisher, Phil Arnold, Mal Patton, Cam Snooke, Anthony Snooke, Neville Burgess, Pete Reynolds, Trent Reynolds, Steve Smith & John Inland.

Apologies: Ash Burgess, David Fisher, Dave Smith, Nathan Leeson, Rich Leeson, Russell Burgess & Allan Mills.

Minutes: Read. Moved that they be a true and accurate record by Darren Morrell. Seconded by Mal Patton. Carried.

Business Arising from Previous Minutes:

Jeff Snooke: Stickers for utes? Not renewed. 12-month expiry

John Inland: Looking into getting new stickers.

-With stickers you will still have to be in full PPE to get through road blocks.

Captains Report: Ashley Burges

Not in attendance.

Correspondence:

IN:

N/A

OUT:

N/A

Election of Office Bearer's:

Nominated as a block by Darren Morrell with all positions the same as last year. Seconded by Pete Reynolds. Carried.

Captain: Ashley Burgess

Secretary: Hayden Fisher

FCOS North: Dave Smith

FCOS Central: Dave Fisher

FCOS South: Mal Patton

4th FCO Jeff Snooke

General Business:

Steve Smith: Burning permits? 15th October

Hayden Fisher: Standpipe in Meckering not working when power is out in town.

John Inland: Will run through and check all standpipes.

Steve Smith: Training for all new members.

John Inland: September-October looking at doing Firefighting Skills to drive the white truck & Rural Fire Awareness for farm appliance.

- Record keeping not going that far back for previous certificates.

Jeff Snooke: Organise more people to do the firefighting skills course.

- Definitely do a course mid-September for the Firefighting skills course.

John Inland: Thanking everyone for the work that they do.

- Diesel mechanic at the shire will now maintain the fire truck.
- Fire truck has been fixed.
- Reminder to minimise risk.
- Need to keep up with reporting (Need to call 000)
- No claim if there is no incident report.
- SMS added if needed for volunteers who do not get messaged.
- Comcen needs to be notified.
- Comcen also needs to be notified when fire is finished.

Darren Morrell: Can members going to fire truck call 000?

John Inland: Yes.

Darren Morrell: Is there an easier way to get someone to call 000 and not for the people on the frontline.

John Inland: WhatsApp works well.

Jeff Snooke: Sticker on truck windscreen with Comcens number.

- Get in trouble if Comcen is not rang when truck has left.

John Inland: You must ring Comcen.

Darren Morrell: Should not need Comcen to release truck, Ash Burgess release?

- Can Ash and John release truck?

John inland: Yes. Let Ash know about release.

Jeff Snooke: If you are attending a fire, who needs to know?

John Inland: John or Ash need to know every time truck leaves.

- 000 forgets to be called.

Jeff Snooke: Policy or procedure for truck leaving ring 000

- Can we ring John to ring Comcen?

Pete Reynolds: No reception in Meckering.

John Inland: Returning out normal road can be said if turning out with truck without DFES text message.

Anthony Snooke: Contact 000, they ring Comcen to send message for truck to leave

John Inland: Ring Comcen for burning off as well.

Jeff Snooke: Has to be manageable whoever gets in truck rings Comcen and someone must ring 000.

- Thanks John.
- Brang meeting forward so was before BFAC meeting
- Motion from Dave Beard Cunderdin Watsapp to tell people they are burning.

Darren Morrell: Meckering WhatsApp not needed?

Jeff Snooke: Is app needed?

Darren Morrell: 15kmph wind for permit burn.

- Parameters too high.

John Inland: 20kmph is the normal permit.

- Will consult with Ash about permit parameters.
- Bring to BFAC to change back to 20kmph.

Jeff Snooke: Is it up to the captain or CEO to change permit?

John Inland: It is both.

- DFES is high fire danger and 20kmph.

Darren Morrell: Rating is only 24 hours so can't burn when conditions are better later in the afternoon.

John Inland: Because it is based on a district, won't happen this year, wont change to sub-districts.

Jeff Snooke: Recommend to BFAC.

Darren Morrell: Forward a motion that going forward the wind speed for permits will be raised to 20kmph.

- Neville Burgess seconded.

Jeff Snooke: Process to get a permit is too hard.

- Only 7-day permits
- Other shires (York) issuing a 28-day permit.

John Inland: Have to follow the act the FCO's control the permit.

Jeff Snooke: Recommend to BFAC to extend burning permits beyond 7 days.

John Inland: New emergency WA app shows where burn-offs and fire are.

Jeff Snooke: York using WhatsApp to tell of burning off, is this something we can do?

John Inland: Maybe extend from 7 days to 14 days?

Jeff Snooke: Do we want to increase permits to 28 days?

Darren Morrell: Moves a motion to extend burning permits to 28 days.

- Reece Fisher seconded.

Darren Morrell: Where is the fuel load taken from?

John Inland: All comes through satellite imagery which is not accurate.

Mal Patton: Instead of opening burning earlier, why not close the permit period earlier?

- **Motion to shorten the back end of the burning permit season to the 15th of March, two weeks prior to the open season.**
- **Seconded by Pete Reynolds.**

Jeff Snooke: Harvest ban for when there is a fire is the shire not mandatory?

Cam Snooke: Put one on to be revised earlier rather than later.

Jeff Snooke brought to the meeting a motion by David beard at the last BFAC meeting.

The motion was "all burning permits are to notify everyone Via the whatsapp Group"

This was voted on and was unsuccessful

General discussion on motion

All motioned to keep it the same, not use WhatsApp for permits.

General Consensus Was to Notify neighbour and CEO by SMS as stated on the back of current permits

Course for driving truck. Weekday course. Mid-September. Thursday-Friday.

Use of weather stations on farms to help put on harvest ban.

Meeting Closed: 6.17pm

C.F.C.O

Ashley Burgess

Secretary

Hayden Fisher