



Shire of Cunderdin

Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

9th October 2023

Minutes of Meeting

9th October 2023

Dear Members,

The Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting was held at the Shire Council Chambers, 37 Lundy Ave, Cunderdin, WA on Monday 9th October 2023 commencing at 6.00pm.

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 T Harris	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
Mrs H Byrnes	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Mr B Davies	Community Emergence Services Manager

1.3 Invited Observers/Guests

Nil

1.4 Apologies

Mr A Burges	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (Chairperson)
Mr D Wilmott	Fire Control Officer

ITEM 2 DEPUTATIONS / PRESENTATIONS / SUBMISSIONS

Nil

3.1 Confirmation of Minutes – 18th October 2022 (Copy attached)

RESOLUTION: BFAC1– 22/23

MOVED: Mr D Beard

SECONDED: Mr N Jenzen

That the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting Held on 18th October 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 18th October 2022

D Beard raised the matter of roadside spraying and the concern for the amount of weeds particularly love grass having the ability to grow and being difficult to eradicate. S Hobley mentioned that we have done some spraying in the past but need to be careful as we have had incidents in the past where spraying has been undertaken when the weather conditions were not ideal. T Harris mentioned changing the chemicals to try and improve the residual of the chemical to prevent the love grass and other weeds. S Hobley mentioned at last years Meckering AGM it was raised about farmers spraying like they used to in the old days and members were advised the Shire would be happy to assist by way of chemical, nothing more came of this. N Jenzen said this needs to be put out there so that the farmers are aware of this, and they can then do this and come in for the chemical. A Harris asked about the need of a resolution and members discussed this needing to come from the Shire with a plan on how to facilitate this as chemical needs to be handed out post spraying.

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.

D Beard advised that he tracked this as previously discussed and there seemed to be no difference.

4.1 CBFCO Report

- Ash Burges advised that he is happy to continue his role as chief if no one else is wanting to step up, however he wished to make everyone aware that he will need to be completing parts of the role remotely due to a change in his circumstances and the location of his employment.
- Ash would like to thank the Shire for their support with Machinery availability throughout the previous season and hopes that this will continue moving forward.

4.2 DBFCO Report

- Not much to add apart from there seemed to be no issues or complaints with regards to the new system and from the tracking completed there was not much difference between it and the previous system.

4.3 CESM Report

- I'd just like to thank Ash Burges and Dave Beard for their hard work and dedication to the role of CBFCO and DCBFCO, I'd also like to thank all the other FCOs for all their work last season.
- LGGs – Funding approved for Ygnattering BFB Shed - \$60,000 dollars received. Shed Planned and Quoted.
- Water Bomber Reloading Training - 3rd of November - Cunderdin @1230.
- Meckering AGM held – Requests were received for a Pressure washer and Truck Wash – Purchased
 - Request received to wire fridge to by-passed isolator – Completed
 - Request received for Fuel Card Wallet – Purchased
- Cunderdin BSA, FFS and SFF completed – 8 Cunderdin BFB Vols trained, 3 VFRS vols trained.
- Meckering BSA training to be conducted on the 13th of October. Currently have 7 people interested.
- High potential this season with fuel loading and change in conditions, El Nino and weather patterns have already shown the heightened fire risk.
- Cunderdin BFB have got a new door
- Cunderdin BFB 3.4U has been tested and checked.
- I will email out FCO cheat sheet references for incident control, this will benefit the newer FCOs
- Digital Permits – 15 permits so far.
- Will be holding an FCO course early next year, possibly sooner should we have at least 4 people requiring it.
- Goomalling Fire – PPE requirements
- Training Requirements on a fire ground
- Foam supplies at depot – 2 pallets
- I'd also like just to remind everyone to be safe

4.4 FCO's Reports

- Can the standpipes please be opened again this year to save time from having to find someone with a key to open them should an incident occur. CEO said he is happy to have this happen and the FCO's will open there prior to the season.

4.5 Shire Councillor/Staff Report(s)

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

Do we know the date and time for the Ygnattering and Cunderdin AGM?

4.6 Other Agency Reports

Nil.

ITEM 5 ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

5.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Mr T Harris nominated Mr A Burges

Mr N Jenzen 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 T Harris nominated Mr D Beard

Mr N Jenzen 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 D Kelly, Mr (CESM) and Mr S Hobley (CEO), Mrs H Byrnes (DCEO).

Resolution Item 5

RECOMMENDATION: BFAC– 22/23

MOVED: Mr T Harris

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 D Smith, Mr T Harris, Mr D Wilmott, Mr N Jenzen, Mr J Snooke, Mr D Kelly, Mr P Arnold, Mr D Fisher, (CESM) and Mr S Hobley (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 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 2023 – 1st November 2023

Prohibited Burning Period:

- 2nd November 2023 – 14th February 2024

Restricted Burning Period:

- 15th February 2024 – 31st March 2024

6.3 Burning Restrictions

Friday 29th March – Sunday 31st March (inclusive) as per 2023 prohibition, the committee elected not to prohibit burning on Easter Monday.

6.4 Bush Fire Exercise/Training

Cunderdin BSA, FFS and SFF completed – 8 Cunderdin BFB Vols trained, 3 VFRS vols trained.

Meckering BSA training to be conducted on the 13th of October. Currently have 7 people interested.

Water Bomber Refilling Training

This has been scheduled and advertised for Friday 3rd of November @ 12:30pm.

When the training is completed can we please complete a one page refresher, that can be laminated and provided as an easy reference.

ITEM 7 FURTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

D Beard discussed receiving a request from a rate payer to have their block burnt by the fire brigade to ensure compliance with fire breaks, B Davies (CESM) will look into this.

D Beard raised concerns with regards to the WhatsApp groups and not having a singular group to be utilised to provide information across the entire Shire with regards to fires, as there has been times when there is a fire in Meckering the Meckering BFB WhatsApp has been utilised and if assistance is needed or could be provided from Cunderdin and Ygnattering brigades the volunteers that are not members of the Meckering Brigade do not receive the details.

Ben is going to contact Ash Teakle and discuss, the plan the BFAC would like to see happen is that the Meckering brigade members be added to the Cunderdin BFB WhatsApp group and this be used for all fire related information across the Shire.

D Beard would like to thank B Davies (CESM) for all his efforts and believes having this position raises awareness and ensures the brigades are formed and continue.

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

ITEM 8 NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled to take place Post Season April 2024 (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 7:39 pm.