



Shire of Cunderdin

Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

The Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting was held in the Cunderdin Shire Chambers, 37 Lundy Ave, Cunderdin, WA on Monday 20 April 2026 commencing at 5.00pm.

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.

Any plans or documents contained in this document may be subject to copyright law provisions (Copyright Act 1968, as amended) and the express permission of the copyright owner(s) should be sought prior to the reproduction.

Table of Contents

ITEM 1	ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES.....	3
1.1	Members	3
1.2	Administration	3
1.3	Invited Observers/Guests.....	3
1.4	Apologies	3
ITEM 2	DEPUTATIONS / PRESENTATIONS / SUBMISSIONS	3
ITEM 3	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING	3
3.1	Confirmation of Minutes – 4 th September 2025 (Copy attached).....	3
3.2	Business Arising.....	4
ITEM 4	REPORTS	4
4.1	CBFCO Report.....	4
4.2	DBFCO Report.....	4
4.3	CESM Report	4
4.4	FCO’s Reports	4
4.5	Shire Councillor/Staff Report(s).....	4
4.6	Other Agency Reports.....	4
5.1	Incoming.....	5
5.2	Outgoing.....	5
ITEM 6	DISCUSSION POINTS.....	5
6.1	Post Season Debrief	5
6.2	Restricted Burning Period/Prohibited Burning Period (RBT/PBT)	5
6.3	Burning Restrictions	5
6.4	Bush Fire Exercise/Training	5
6.5	Use of “Cunderdin Fire Alerts” WhatsApp messages.....	5
6.6	BART system (Broadcast, Activate, Response, Turnout).....	5
ITEM 7	FURTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION	5
ITEM 8	NEXT MEETING DATE	6
ITEM 9	CLOSURE.....	6

SHIRE OF CUNDERDIN

ITEM 1 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

1.1 Members

Allan Mills	Deputy Chief Fire Control Officer (via Teams)
Trevor Diver	Cunderdin Captain
Darren Jasper	Fire Control Officer – Cunderdin
Todd Harris	Fire Control Officer – Cunderdin
Jeff Snooke	Fire Control Officer – Meckering
David Fisher	Fire Control Officer – Meckering
Digby Willmott	Fire Control Officer – Ygnattering
Norm Jenzen	Fire Control Officer – Ygnattering
David Beard	Fire Control Officer – Ygnattering

1.2 Administration

Ms A Harris	Shire President, Chairperson
Mr S Hobley	Chief Executive Officer
John Idland	Community Emergency Services Manager
Kay Squibb	Deputy Chief Executive Officer

1.3 Invited Observers/Guests

Mr Kristan Lee	Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Ms Ceri Coetzer	Origo Ag
Mr Andrew Irving	

1.4 Apologies

Ashley Burges	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Nick Jenzen	Ygnattering Captain
Tim Ford	Captain – Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service
Malcom Patton	Fire Control Officer – Meckering
David Smith	Fire Control Officer – Cunderdin

ITEM 2 DEPUTATIONS / PRESENTATIONS / SUBMISSIONS

Ceri Coetzer, Origo Ag gave a presentation on the Origo Weather Stations and the network of users that has been established across the Cunderdin, Quairading and Tammin Shires. Ceri explained how the network can be utilised for monitoring of weather conditions in all sections of the Shire when considering harvest and vehicle movement bans.

ITEM 3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Confirmation of Minutes – 4th September 2025 (Copy attached)

Resolution 3.1

MOVED: Jeff Snooke

SECONDED: David Beard

That the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting Held on 4th September 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that Meeting.

CARRIED

3.2 Business Arising

- WhatsApp messaging – the WhatsApp groups for fire notifications had been merged and there is now one group for all contacts.
- Permits – the Shire approved permits being issued for up to 14 days.

ITEM 4 REPORTS

4.1 CBFCO Report

No report provided.

4.2 DBFCO Report

Nothing to report.

4.3 CESM Report

Refer to John Idland's report in attachment 4.3.1

Discussion over the dates for inclusion in the fire break order. It was agreed that the following dates apply for the 2026-2027 fire season –

Prohibited burning	1 November 2026 to 28 February 2027
Restricted burning	1 to 31 October 2026 and 1 to 15 March 2027
Open burning	16 March 2027 to 30 September 2027

Sundays – no restriction on burning (when permitted)

Easter – No burning on Good Friday or Easter Sunday. Permits are required for Easter Saturday.

Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans imposed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day.

4.4 FCO's Reports

Nothing to report.

4.5 Shire Councillor/Staff Report(s)

Stuart Hoble reported that the evacuation centre in Cunderdin had been activated in November 2025 in response to the fire in Tammin.

Both Cunderdin and Meckering evacuation centres have generators installed, which was funded by grants from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

4.6 Other Agency Reports

Kris Lee, Department of Fire and Emergency Services reported that all positions in the region are filled. Garth Civil has been appointed as Regional Superintendent.

The WA Fire and Emergency Services conference is being held on 4-5 September 2026, and brigades have the opportunity to put forward names of interested volunteers to attend.

A Goldfields/Midlands leadership day is being held in June, all FCO's and captains are encouraged to attend.

ITEM 5 CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 Incoming

Western Power grants for equipment for the Meckering and Ygnattering brigades.

5.2 Outgoing

Nil.

ITEM 6 DISCUSSION POINTS

6.1 Post Season Debrief

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

6.3 Burning Restrictions

6.4 Bush Fire Exercise/Training

6.5 Use of “Cunderdin Fire Alerts” WhatsApp messages

6.6 BART system (Broadcast, Activate, Response, Turnout)

The above items have been covered in the CESM's report.

ITEM 7 FURTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

7.1 Remote controlled water cannons

Norm Jenzen stated that DFES should be installing remote controlled water cannons in fire trucks primarily for the safety of volunteers, rather than them being exposed to fire and embers while using equipment on the back of the trucks. The cannons would be controlled by volunteers from inside the cab.

Resolution 7.1

MOVED: Norm Jenzen

SECONDED: Darren Jasper

That a motion be put forward to the District Operations Advisory Committee (DOAC) requesting that the Department of Fire and Emergency Services investigate installation of remote-controlled water cannons on the back of fire trucks to improve safety of volunteers and better distribution of water on the fire ground.

CARRIED

7.2 Volunteer duty of care

Discussion was held over duty of care towards volunteers being on the fire ground for long shifts and manning of the fire trucks, and that there needs to be backup to take over for mopping up once the fire is under control. The CESM advised that it is difficult to get volunteers to assist with mopping up and that landowners are responsible for monitoring fires on their property.

7.3 Deployment of fire trucks

Discussion was held over sending the brigade fire trucks to assist other Shires when requested, and a general consensus was that they should not leave the Shire if there is an extreme or high weather rating in the Cunderdin Shire.

7.4 End of season meeting

It was agreed that the end of season meeting be held earlier, either the last week of March or first week of April to avoid conflict with seeding.

7.5 Local Government Grants Scheme

A query was raised as to what the LGGS funding is spent on, and if a breakdown could be presented to the next meeting for information.

7.6 Period of notice to notify neighbours

Discussion over the requirement to give neighbours not less than 4 days notice, prior to burning as per section 15B(3)(b) of the Bush Fires Regulations 1954. It was agreed that 1 days' notice is sufficient.

Resolution 7.6

MOVED: Jeff Snooke

SECONDED: Digby Willmott

That a motion be put forward to the District Operations Advisory Committee (DOAC) requesting that they advocate to amend Regulation 15B(3)(b) of the Bush Fires Regulations 1954 to change the period of notice from 4 days to 1 day.

CARRIED

ITEM 8 NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting will be scheduled to take place prior to the 2026/2027 Spring/Summer Bushfire Risk Season in September 2026 commencing at 5pm, at the Shire of Cunderdin Chambers.

ITEM 9 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Chairperson thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the Meeting at 7.03pm.