



BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING

Tuesday 23 February 2021

MINUTES



M I N U T E S

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1 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Chairperson B Bell declared the meeting open at 7:02pm and made the following Acknowledgement of Country:

'The Shire of Capel acknowledges the Traditional Custodians, the Wadandi people, and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all members of the Aboriginal communities and their cultures; and to Elders, past, present and emerging.'

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES

PRESENT

Chair / Elgin Bush Fire Brigade	B Bell
Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	C Scott
Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	M Scott
Boyanup Bush Fire Brigade	D Wetherell
Capel Bush Fire Brigade	T James
Gelorup Bush Fire Brigade	N Rowlandson
Stirling Bush Fire Brigade	M Roberts
Elgin Bush Fire Brigade	P Allen
Council Delegate	Cr D Kitchen
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Representative	H Holzheur
Department of Fire and Emergency Services Representative	G Stevens
Shire of Capel, Emergency Services Coordinator	A Ciric
Shire of Capel, Acting Director Infrastructure and Development	M Maharaj

GUESTS

Deputy Council Delegate	Cr D Clews
Gelorup Bush Fire Brigade Captain	G Malatesta
Boyanup Fire Control Officer	C Ward

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

APOLOGIES

Nil

In accordance with section 5.21 (4) of the Local Government Act, the vote of all members present were recorded following each vote at this Committee meeting of the Council.

3 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

BF001/2021 - COMMITTEE DECISION – 3.1

Moved T James, Seconded C Scott.

That the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held on 9 September 2020 be confirmed a true and correct record of proceedings.

Carried 8/0

*For – B Bell, C Scott, M Scott, D Wetherall, T James, N Rowlandson, M Roberts and Cr D Kitchen
Against – Nil.*

BF002/2021 – COMMITTEE DECISION – 3.2

Moved P Allen, Seconded D Wetherall.

That the minutes of the Special Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held on 15 December 2020 be confirmed a true and correct record of proceedings.

Carried 8/0

*For – B Bell, C Scott, M Scott, D Wetherall, T James, N Rowlandson, M Roberts and Cr D Kitchen
Against – Nil.*

4 MATTERS ARISING

Nil

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDING MEMBER WITHOUT DISCUSSION

The Chair thanked the Bush Fire Brigades for the dedication in their volunteer role as well as the support they provide to the community and each other.

The Chair also thanked the Acting Chief Executive Officers, Mark Chester and Robert Stewart for the assistance provided in relation to bushfire matters.

5 BRIGADE REPORTS

5.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer – C Scott

- 29 incidents since last BFAC on 9 September including 3 significant fires
- Thank you to volunteers and specifically Phil Allen for support provided

See Attachment to 5.1 for full report.

5.2 Boyanup Bush Fire Brigade - D Wetherell

- D Wetherell advised that 2 deployments by Boyanup Bush Fire Brigade over summer.

5.3 Capel Bush Fire Brigade – T James

- T James advised a few new members have joined Capel Bush Fire Brigade and completed training since last year.

5.4 Elgin Bush Fire Brigade – P Allen

- M Scott noted there has been some high wind days over summer and lucky no fires on these days.

5.5 Gelorup Bush Fire Brigade – N Rowlandson

- N Rowlandson queried the replacement of Gelorup light tanker. A Ciric advised that it remains as an approved appliance on the 17/18 LGGs capital replacement program.

5.6 Stirling Bush Fire Brigade – M Roberts

- No fires in Stirling area although have assisted other brigades.

5.7 Training Coordinator – A Ciric / P Allen

- A Ciric raised the possibility of each brigades hosting two brigade level training sessions a year that is open to all brigade members to attend (round robin approach), for a general refresher of skills with the coordination of the brigade level training calendar to be coordinated by P Allen.

5.8 Emergency Services Coordinator – A Ciric

- During December/January a full membership review was conducted including PPC requirements
- Update on LGGS 21/22 Operating and Capital Grant offers
- Outcomes from Western Power Grant and WA Recovery – Water Tank initiative applications
- Bush Fire fighting training conducted since last meeting
- Facility maintenance
- Reports to Council
- Shire of Capel compliance program report

See attachment 1 to 5.8 for full report.

See attachment 2 to 5.8 for Firebreak Inspection Record.

5.9 Department of Fire and Emergency Services - G Stevens

- BoM Seasonal Outlook
- High season fleet – the High season LT ordinarily situated in Elgin is currently deployed to Collie whilst their appliance is offline
- State aerial fleet
- Covid operational considerations
- Volunteer Welfare & Resource Officer role opportunity
- Volunteer ID Cards
- Deployment register & process
- BurnSMART campaign and resources
- Training and new training TRK and products
- Thank you to volunteers supporting deployments
-

See attachment to 5.9 for full report.

5.10 Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions Report – H Holzheur

- H Holzheur provided a presentation on current prescribed burning program.

Chris Scott left the room at 7:53pm.

Chris Scott returned to the room at 7:55pm.

Trevor James left the room at 7:55pm.

Chris Scott left the room at 7:56pm.

6 GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 Bush Fire Prevention Order

Attachment 1 to 6.1 Bush Fire Prevention Order for recommendation to the Council.

Attachment 2 to 6.1 Bush Fire Prevention Order as adopted by the Council on 29 July 2020.

The role of the BFAC is to advise Council on bush fire matters as such the Bush Fire Prevention Order (BFPO) is referred to Council each year generally in June.

A Ciric has raised the BFPO for 2021/22 to the committee at the February meeting to improve timeliness for Council adoption, community education, printing of materials and updating software for the compliance program.

Furthermore, A Ciric suggested that the annual dates be removed from the BFPO and that the agreed BFPO remain in place until it is determined that changes to the order are needed. This will provide more certainty to the community and Council and reduce the costs associated with the minor changes (i.e. dates on the BFPO).

The Committee recommended the same version of the BFPO that was provided to the Council last year, although not endorsed. The requirements on this version was discussed at length last year and the position of the committee has not changed on the requirements that should be included in the BFPO to ensure a reasonable level of bushfire prevention measures are taken by landowners to reduce their bushfire risk.

B Bell suggested to adjust the first dot point under the heading 'Rural zoned properties must:' to say 'Maintain a twenty (20) metre wide low fuel zone or a two (2) metre wide firebreak around all haystacks'.

BF003/2021 – MOTION / COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved D Wetherell, Seconded M Roberts.

Bush Fire Advisory Committee adopts the 2021/22 Bush Fire Prevention Order as attached, with the amendment to the first dot point under the heading 'Rural zoned properties must:' to say 'Maintain a twenty (20) metre wide low fuel zone or a two (2) metre wide firebreak around all haystacks'. Additionally, to remove dates throughout the Bush Fire Prevention Order to only have the respective day and month applicable.

Carried 6/0

For – B Bell, M Scott, D Wetherall, N Rowlandson, M Roberts and Cr D Kitchen

Against – Nil.

6.2 Harvest Bans – B Bell

B Bell advised that more community education on the terminology of fire bans particularly Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans and that a Harvest Ban does not always result in a Vehicle Movement Ban. A Ciric clarified that a Total Fire Ban automatically results in a Vehicle Movement Ban

6.3 Incidents – B Bell

B Bell reminded the committee that when turning out to an incident to notify the incident controller by radio or phone.

Murray Scott left the room at 8:00pm.

Murray Scott returned to the room at 8:02pm.

Chris Scott returned to the room at 8:07pm.

6.4 BART system – C Scott

The DFES communication system is an effective way to be notified about a fire, consideration needs to be taken into whether the BART system is necessary.

A Ciric noted that the BART system has features and functionalities that are useful that are not included in the DFES comms system.

The feasibility will be reviewed in the October 2021 Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting.

Trevor James returned to the room at 8:27pm.

6.5 Turnout shirt – N. Rowlandson

Discussion on the possibility of brigades getting shirts for attending different functions, training etc. Other Local Government brigades are using them, and it looks professional.

A Ciric will consider issuing shirts in the available funding or seek additional funding if required. Although these shirts are eligible under the LGGs scheme, currently the focus is on the provision of PPC in the operational budget.

6.6 Fire breaks on road verge – N Rowlandson

Public education is needed on the placement of fire breaks on properties. Some residents are putting fire breaks on the outside of their property and this needs to be raised during the compliance program.

A Ciric agreed to refer the matter to Ranger Services for response.

6.7 First Aid Courses – C Scott

C Scott advised that an offer has been made to support volunteers with First Aid Training. G Stevens advised that he will also follow up with DFES Regional Office on what First Aid courses are available.

6.8 Bushfire Prevention Order – B Bell

Barry noted that the Bush Fire Prevention Order will need to be updated with correct Bush Fire Officer names and positions.

A Ciric advised this information will be included but not available until after brigade hold their AGM's

6.9 Fire Control Officers – M Roberts

Fire Control Officers need to start getting involved with the running of fires in their own areas where possible.

6.10 Fire Water associated with the BORR, South West Gateway Alliance (SWGA) – A Ciric

An urgent response is required on comments for the proposal of water tank storage on Ducane Road and Yalinda Drive, Gelorup. The current site at Yalinda Dve would not accommodate a 12.2 appliance and be problematic even for a 3.4 appliance.

The committee suggested that the possibility of using an acquired MRWA property on Yalinda drive as a site.

A Ciric will provide the suggestion to K McKeachie (Shire of Capel Manager Technical Services), with advice that it is preferable to have the two sites.

7 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee is scheduled for Tuesday 8 June 2021, commencing at 7.00pm.

8 CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8:45pm.