



Bush Fire Advisory Committee

Minutes

16 February 2022

Committee Members (Voting):

Chair – Elgin Bush Fire Brigade	B Bell
Deputy Chair – Boyanup Bush Fire Brigade	D Wetherall
Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	C Scott
Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer	M Scott
Capel Bush Fire Brigade	T James
Gelorup Bush Fire Brigade	N Rowlandson
Stirling Bush Fire Brigade	M Roberts
Council Delegate	Cr D Kitchen

Acknowledgement of Country

We wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on, the Wadandi people. We wish to acknowledge and respect their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all members of the Aboriginal communities and their culture; and to Elders past and present, their descendants who are with us today, and those who will follow in their footsteps.

Our Vision

A future focused and resilient community that benefits from good governance, responsive services and appropriate facilities to deliver positive social, environmental and economic outcomes for everyone.

Our Values

Respect

We are respectful in all that we do, and all interactions we have, while being inclusive and mindful of differences.



Honesty

We are truthful, trustworthy and genuine in all that we say and do.



Teamwork

We are cooperative, collaborative and united while working towards common goals of our Shire.



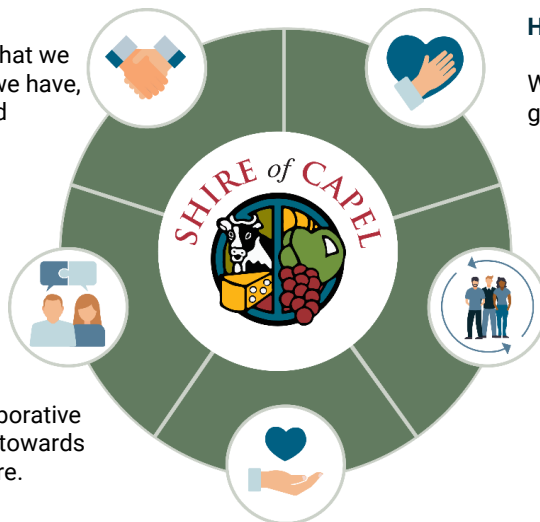
Accountability

We are transparent in all that we do, and stay true to our word by taking responsibility for our actions.



Empathy

We are kind and show understanding of people's circumstances, perspectives and differences.



SHIRE OF CAPEL

Bush Fire Advisory Committee

MINUTES

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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

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The meeting was declared open at 7.10pm

In accordance with Shire of Capel Policy 4.1, the Chief Executive Officer called for nominations for Chair of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee for the next 2 years. Mr Barry Bell was nominated and appointed unopposed. Mr Don Wetherell was nominated as Deputy Chair and appointed unopposed.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE

PRESENT

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

GUESTS

Shire of Capel, Chief Executive Officer	G MacMile
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LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

APOLOGIES

DFES Representative	R Southgate
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3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

BF001/2022 - COMMITTEE DECISION – 3.1

Moved C Scott, Seconded M Roberts.

That the Minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held on 28 September 2021 be confirmed a true and correct record of proceedings.

Carried 8/0

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

BF002/2022 - COMMITTEE DECISION – 3.2

Moved D Wetherall, Seconded N Rowlandson.

That the Minutes of the Special Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held on 8 December 2021 be confirmed a true and correct record of proceedings.

Carried 8/0

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

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Correspondence received from Phil Allen regarding fuel loads in rural areas.

Gordon MacMile advised that a response to Phil Allen has been made with points including that fuel loads are naturally higher in the areas of Gelorup and Stratham and therefore the Bushfire Mitigation Notice focuses on the low fuel zone surrounding buildings. Residents of these areas are not charged a green-waste service fee, have previously been surveyed, didn't see the need for FOGO or green waste collection due to cost implications and have a reasonable expectation they can compost and / or deal with green-waste on site. There is also significant implication for the Shire and its landfill capacity, licensing and cost (capital and operational) to treat additional green waste.

4.2 Policy review

A Ciric advised that there is a new policy framework that is being developed by the Shire of Capel and therefore the Policy review has been postponed until the next BFAC.

4.3 Vaccination mandate

A Ciric thanked brigades for the support in promptly providing Covid vaccination statuses and requested that members continue to provide further documentation as they receive booster vaccinations.

4.4 Radios in shire plant

A Ciric responded to question on notice that there are radios with WAERN frequencies in Shire plant.

4.5 Brigade shirts

A Ciric advised that brigade shirts are eligible and will be purchased before the end of the financial year. Brigade Captains are to send any orders to A Ciric.

4.6 Stirling water tank

A Ciric advised that the Stirling water tank has been installed however there are a few issues with its operational capacity including that the pump has not been able to be connected due to electrical considerations that need to be resolved.

5. BRIGADE REPORTS

5.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

C Scott spoke to his report making special mention of M Scott being awarded Freeman of the Shire.

C Scott commented on fires in the district and the bushfire risk in railway reserves, Three Bears and Five-mile brook that requires attention.

A Ciric advised that the contractor to complete firebreaks at Three Bears is organised for the 8 March 2022 if the Work order issued is not complied with.

C Scott also raised the concern of the Shire of Capel not being included in Total Fire Ban areas on bad fire days as the shire does not meet the trigger points.

Total Fire Bans and vehicle movement bans seem to be causing confusion and need to be explained better.

Finally, there are several volunteers eligible for service medals and looking to hold a dinner similar to previous years.

5.2 Boyanup Bush Fire Brigade

D Wetherell advised that the Boyanup brigade has been busy on deployments including Collie, Bridgetown and providing support to the Australia Day breakfast.

5.3 Capel Bush Fire Brigade

T James advised that Capel has also supported deployments to Bridgetown and have had several pole top fires over the past couple of months caused by possums.

5.4 Elgin Bush Fire Brigade

B Bell advised that Elgin brigade had a good turnout to both Railway Rd fire and Southwest Highway

5.5 Gelorup Bush Fire Brigade

N Rowlandson advised that Gelorup brigade has supported community events including Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School colour run and Santa lolly run.

New LT has arrived, and training provided.

5.6 Stirling Bush Fire Brigade

M Roberts advised that there had been several car fires and a fire at the Western Power Depot since the last meeting.

- 5.7 Training Coordinator
A Ciric advised no training during fire season although recruitment during volunteer week and recommencement of brigade level training following the fire season.
- 5.8 Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)
Nil
- 5.9 Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)
H Holzemer provided overview of burn program for autumn and Spring 2022 (attached)
- 5.10 Emergency Services Coordinator

6. LGGS CAPITAL AND OPERATING GRANT OFFER

A Ciric advise d the Shire of Capel has been offered just over \$105,000 for the operating grant with several appliances including the Elgin LT, Capel LT, Elgin 1.4 Gelorup 3.4 and Stirling 2.4 all coming up in the indicative program however no definitive timelines are available on their delivery.

The Gelorup Bushfire facility is progressing.

7. NON-ELIGIBLE LGGS CAPITAL AND OPERATING REQUESTS BY BRIGADES

A Ciric requested any items for consideration such as brigade facilities cleaning be submitted to the Shire for consideration in the budget.

Request was made by Elgin Brigade to investigate replacement of Engel fridge on 1.4.

8. MITIGATION ACTIVITIES INCLUDING MITIGATION ACTIVITY FUND

A Ciric advised that the Shire has received a total of \$428,000 for bushfire mitigation under the MAF funding program, predominately to mitigate risk in Dalyellup due to the high value assets in the locality with other areas to be considered in subsequent rounds.

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

- 9.1 Australian Warning System and Australian Fire Danger Rating System update
A Ciric provided information regarding the new fire weather districts and Australian Warning System (AWS) that will both be implement prior to next season.
- 9.2 Work health and Safety legislation
A Ciric advised that there will be more requirements on the shire in managing volunteers due to the WHS legislation implications for Bushfire Brigade volunteers. G MacMile commented that he has ultimate responsibility for the legislation, officers and BFB volunteers.
- 9.3 Air Support over dairy farms
C Scott commented that he had a meeting with Ricky Southgate and that it is not possible to provide a list of areas for air support to avoid when flying.
- 9.4 High season
C Scott High season LT should arrive next Monday 21 February.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday 15 June 2022.

11. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.56pm