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**Shire of Esperance**

**BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**WEDNESDAY 28 JUNE 2023**

**MINUTES**

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### **ETHICAL DECISION MAKING AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Council is committed to a code of conduct and all decisions are based on an honest assessment of the issue, ethical decision-making and personal integrity. Councillors and staff adhere to the statutory requirements to declare financial, proximity and impartiality interests and once declared follow the legislation as required.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Please be advised that in order to save printing and paper costs, all attachments referenced in this paper are available in the original Agenda document for this meeting.

## Table of Contents / Index

ITEM NO.	ITEM HEADING	PAGE
1.	OFFICIAL OPENING	5
2.	ATTENDANCE	5
3.	APOLOGIES & NOTIFICATION OF GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE	6
4.	DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS	6
4.1	Declarations of Financial Interests – Local Government Act Section 5.60a	6
4.2	Declarations of Proximity Interests – Local Government Act Section 5.60b	6
4.3	Declarations of Impartiality Interests – Admin Regulations Section 34c	6
5.	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	6
6.	BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES	6
6.1	Work Health & Safety	
7.	REPORTS	6
7.1	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	
7.2	DFES District Officer	6
7.3	DBCA Esperance Officer	6
7.4	Community Emergency Services Manager	7
7.5	Association of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades	7
8.	HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT	7
8.1	Incident & Safety Report	7
9.	ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS	7
9.1	Election of Chief & Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officers	7
9.2	Election of Senior Fire Control Officers	8
9.3	Election of Deputy Senior Fire Control Officers	8
9.4	Confirmation of Fire Weather Officers for 2023/24 Season	9
9.5	Confirmation of Brigade Fire Control Officers for 2023/24 Season	9
9.6	Confirmation of Brigade Permit Issuing Officers for 2023/24 Season	9
10.	GENERAL BUSINESS	9
10.1	Esperance Bush Fire Fleet Mobility Working Group	9
10.2	Australian Fire Danger Rating System	10
10.3	Fuel Load Observers	10
10.4	Fire Hazard Reduction Notice	11
10.5	Mitigation	11
10.6	Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act	11
10.8	Current Trials	11
10.9	Training & Vehicle Servicing Schedule	12

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10.10 Southern Mallee Bush Fire Brigade – Change of Name	12
10.11 Communications with Police	12
10.12 Incident Control Vehicle	12
11. CLOSURE	12

## **SHIRE OF ESPERANCE**

### **MINUTES**

#### **BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON 28 June 2023 COMMENCING AT 6:00 PM**

#### **1. OFFICIAL OPENING**

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 6:01pm.

#### **2. ATTENDANCE**

##### **Brigade Delegates**

Cr W Graham	Shire of Esperance (Deputy)
Mr P Longmire	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Mr A Perks	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Mr W Carmody	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Mr R Doney	Salmon Gums Bush Fire Brigade
Mr D Sanderson	Southern Mallee Bush Fire Brigade/Bush Fire Volunteer Assoc.
Mr R Longbottom	Southern Mallee Bush Fire Brigade
Mr C Hallam	Southern Mallee Bush Fire Brigade
Mr R Chambers	Quarry Rd Bush Fire Brigade
Mr J Durdin	Quarry Rd Bush Fire Brigade
Mr C Scott	Six Mile Hill Bush Fire Brigade
Mr P Rowe	Six Mile Hill Bush Fire Brigade
Mr L Mickel	Beaumont Bush Fire Brigade
Mr B South	Beaumont Bush Fire Brigade
Mr S Schlink	Howick Bush Fire Brigade
Mr K Lawrence	Pink Lake Bush Fire Brigade
Mr C Hines	Mt Merivale Bush Fire Brigade
Mr B King	Mt Merivale Bush Fire Brigade
Mr D Vandenberghe	Scaddan Bush Fire Brigade
Mr A Reichstein	Neridup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr P Luberd	Dalyup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr P Harkness	Emergency Support Unit

##### **Ex Officio**

Mr R Greive	Director External Services
Mr A Peczka	Manager Community Emergency Services
Mrs K Naylor	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
Mr D Kinsella	DFES District Officer

##### **Guests**

Mr John Kagis	DFES Superintendent Fleet Services (MS Teams)
Mr Craig Richards	DFES Operational Research & Development (MS Teams)
Mr Garry Kravainis	DFES Manager Asset Services (MS Teams)

### **3. APOLOGIES & NOTIFICATION OF GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Mr L Palmer	Quarry Rd Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Toby Dhue	Quarry Road Bush Fire Brigade
Mr N Ruddenklau	Condingup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr T Walter	Cascade Bush Fire Brigade
Mr T Carmody	Cascade Bush Fire Brigade
Mr N Norwood	Scaddan Bush Fire Brigade
Mr M Ietto	Southern Mallee Bush Fire Brigade
Mr K Scott	Coomalbidgup Bush Fire Brigade
Mr S Lloyd	Coomalbidgup Bush Fire Brigade
Cr I Mickel	Shire of Esperance
Mrs M Ammon	Manager Community Support
Mr S Peterson	District Officer for Department of Fire and Emergency Services

### **4. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS**

**4.1 Declarations of Financial Interests – Local Government Act Section 5.60a**  
Nil

**4.2 Declarations of Proximity Interests – Local Government Act Section 5.60b**  
Nil

**4.3 Declarations of Impartiality Interests – Admin Regulations Section 34c**  
Nil

### **5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Moved: Mr C Hallam**  
**Seconded: Mr A Reichstein**

**BFA0623-128**

**That the Minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting of the 19 September 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record.**

### **6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

#### **6.1 Work Health & Safety**

Mr Phil Longmire advises that this is still on-going in relation to farm workers attending incidents or staying at the house block.

### **7. REPORTS**

#### **7.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer**

- 1st year of AFDRS has gone and the full impact of the new system has not played out with it being a relatively mild season.
- Working with DPIRD to have the FBI figure displayed on their weather sites, which hopefully will be ready by this summer.
- Meeting next week to hear more about how the ACH Act will have any impact to our operations.

#### **7.2 DFES District Officer**

Nil to Report

#### **7.3 DBCA Esperance Officer**

- Attended 10x fires within the region and assisted LG with couple of their fires.

- 2022/23 Strategic Fire Break Program saw 200km of mechanical works completed.
- 2022/23 UCL/UMR MAF program saw 115km of track maintenance completed.
- 2023/23 Prescribed Burns program saw 860ha completed.
- Proposed works for the 2023/34 period approx. 86km of mechanical works across the Strategic Fire Break Program. UCL/UMR program approx. 35kms of mechanical works. MAF program approx. 226km of mechanical works and programmed prescribed burns.

#### **7.4 Community Emergency Services Manager**

- Thanked all volunteers and their families for allowing everyone to do what is needed to support our communities in times of need.
- 21/02/2023 saw major lightning go across the Shire generating approx. 26 incidents. 19x logged with DFES Comms and 7x were not. Major incident being Neds Corner Rd fire.
- Shire has resubmitted capital grant request for the Southern Mallee Shed. Shire has received tenders for the Condungup shed build which will be reviewed next week.
- MAF works saw 35 out of 50 treatments completed and approx. \$22,000.00 paid to volunteer brigades for their assistance across the various burns.
- Provided overview of ESL expenditure to the Committee.

#### **7.5 Association of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades**

- Lorraine Webster is the new President, after Dave Gossage decided to step down and Dan is the Vice President
- Have office space made available for WA Farmers, as they are struggling for funding to support the association.
- Dan Sanderson has been appointed to the minister's Volunteer Advisory Council committee.
- Some parts of the state are having issues in getting warranty work done to new appliances and repairs done to existing fleet.

### **8. HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT**

#### **8.1 Incident & Safety Report**

- Gibson 2.4B was involved in a collision at the Boydell Rd fire, where a private farm unit collided with the appliance in zero visibility due to the smoke. Nil injuries reported from the crews involved. Insurance assessors have assessed the damage and we are waiting for their reports.
- Driving standards - it has been noticed that vehicles are travelling at excessive speeds post the response phase and not using the appropriate warning devices when responding. When responding to incidents drivers have exemptions under the traffic act to exceed the posted speed limits by no more than 20km and must have the emergency beacons on, as a minimum. If you are driving back to the incident the following day or travelling to and from places you are to obey by the road rules.

### **9. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

#### **9.1 Election of Chief & Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officers**

Chairperson Cr Graham declared all positions vacant at 9:13pm and assume the role Returning Officer to carry out the election of Office Bearers;

- Chief Bush Fire Control Officer  
Nominated: Phil Longmire  
Seconded: Dave VanderBurghe

***Elected: Mr Phil Longmire***

- Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (West)  
Nominated: Will Carmody

Seconded: Ron Chambers

***Elected: Mr Will Carmody***

- Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (East)  
Nominated: Adrian Perks  
Seconded: Peter Lubberda

***Elected: Mr Adrian Perks***

## **9.2 Election of Senior Fire Control Officers**

- West Zone  
Nominated: Tom Carmody  
Seconded: Phil Longmire  
***Elected: Mr Tom Carmody***
- West Coast Zone  
Nominated: Kingsley Scott  
Seconded: Will Carmody  
***Elected: Mr Kingsley Scott***
- North Zone  
Nominated: Chris Hallam  
Seconded: Phil Longmire  
***Elected: Mr Chris Hallam***
- East Zone  
Nominated: Simon Schlink  
Seconded: Phil Longmire  
***Elected: Mr Simon Schlink***
- East Coast Zone  
Nominated: Adrian Perks  
Seconded: Ron Longbottom  
***Elected: Mr Adrian Perks***
- Urban Rural Zone  
Nominated: Peter Rowe  
Seconded: Phil Longmire  
***Elected: Mr Peter Rowe***

## **9.3 Election of Deputy Senior Fire Control Officers**

- West Zone  
Nominated: Will Carmody  
Seconded: Wes Graham  
***Elected: Mr Will Carmody***
- West Coast Zone  
Nominated: Peter Lubberda  
Seconded: Adrian Perks  
***Elected: Mr Peter Lubberda***
- North Zone  
Nominated: Perrin Guest  
Seconded: Chris Hallam



***Elected: Mr Perrin Guest***

- East Zone  
Nominated: Lyndon Mickel  
Seconded: Simon Schlink

***Elected: Mr Lyndon Mickel***

- East Coast Zone  
Nominated: Nic Ruddenklau  
Seconded: Dave Vanderburghe

***Elected: Mr Nic Ruddenklau***

- Urban Rural Zone  
Nominated: Ron Chambers  
Seconded: Phil Longmire

***Elected: Mr Ron Chambers***

#### **9.4 Confirmation of Fire Weather Officers for 2023/24 Season**

**Committee Decision**

**The Committee decided no changes were required to the current Fire Weather Officers list.**

#### **9.5 Confirmation of Brigade Fire Control Officers for 2023/24 Season**

The committee thanked the following FCO's for their service to the Shire; Daniel Moon (Cascade), Rowan Chalmers (Condingup) and Cody Govans (Gibson) who decided to depart their respected brigades for further opportunities.

**Committee Decision**

**The Committee endorses the Current Fire Control Officer list and that the Community Emergency Services Manager follows up with brigades that were not present to confirm their listings.**

#### **9.6 Confirmation of Brigade Permit Issuing Officers for 2023/24 Season**

**Committee Decision**

**The Committee endorses the current Permit Issuing Officers list and that the Community Emergency Services Manager follows up with brigades that were not present to confirm their listings**

### **10. GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **10.1 Esperance Bush Fire Fleet Mobility Working Group**

- Supt John Kagis provided an overview to the Esperance Bushfire Mobility Working report with the following recommendations presented to the DFES Operational Service Delivery Committee;
  1. Progress CTIS for adoption in new tanker fleet builds (variation to build contracts). Adoption to include:
    - failure mode effect and criticality analysis (FMECA) to ensure system does not result in vehicle disablement in bushfire application
    - field service kit
  2. Notify existing fleet owners of availability of approved CTIS for voluntary adoption
  3. Identify engine performance re-map and DPF product packages for in scope cab models which maintains the ADR emissions for the vehicle age

- 4. Notify existing fleet owners of support for engine performance product packages for voluntary adoption
- The report in its entirety was not supported by the Operational Service Delivery Committee with further information required to recommendations 1 & 2 seeking details as to what other areas are likely to require CTIS to be retrofitted and recommendations 3 & 4 was not supported as it goes against Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) specifications to its engineering and emission standards.

#### **10.2 Australian Fire Danger Rating System**

- It has been raised at ROAC that the current wind height readings at 10 metres on Total Fire Ban days need to be brought down to 2 metre heights as that is the level where the activity is occurring.
- If we maintain Harvest & Vehicle Movement Ban figure similar to the states total fire ban requirements, we will see more bans being influenced by the coastal winds experience locally pushing limits over.
- At a Fire Behaviour Index (FBI) figure of 45; FCO's should be checking conditions amongst the group, but at FBI 50 is the maximum limit where a Harvest & Vehicle Movement Ban will need to be imposed.

#### **MOTION**

**Moved: Mr P Longmire**  
**Seconded: Mr A Reichstein**

**BFA0623-129**

#### **Committee Decision**

**Committee moves that Harvest & Vehicle Movement Ban (HVMB) on non-Total Fire Ban days be implemented in the Shire of Esperance at a Fire Behaviour Index (FBI) of 50 (Grassland Scale), if not earlier at the request of Fire Control Officer's to the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer or to his/her delegate.**

**CARRIED**

#### **10.3 Fuel Load Observers**

- To help reduce the amount of Total Fire Bans days as well maintaining mild as Fire Danger Ratings there is an opportunity to update fuel loads within the Shire to a more realistic figure rather than the standard 4.5tn/ha parameter.
- DFES have offered place fixed cameras at key locations to use observations to provide fuel load inputs, but the only problem is that it only focuses to that one paddock which maybe grazed to bare earth and not take in the surrounds as a whole, as the next paddock could have barley crop at 6tn/ha.
- A matrix to how it will work to be develop and presented to the next BFAC meeting.

#### **MOTION**

**Moved: Mr P Longmire**  
**Seconded: Mr W Carmody**

**BFA0623-130**

#### **Committee Decision**

**Committee moves to utilise Fire Control Officer's knowledge to quantify fuel loads within the Shire of Esperance, for updating fuel load parameters.**

**CARRIED**

#### **10.4 Fire Hazard Reduction Notice**

- Mr Ash Peczka advised the Shire is planning on extracting the hazard reduction notice from the rates notice to be single A4 page where it can appropriately be seen by landowner/occupiers. The notice has also been expanded from 2 board points to key specific requirements for landowner/occupiers to adhere too, based upon the zoning of the land under to town planning scheme. The notice itself has exemption under the environmental and the new aboriginal cultural heritage legislations to allow landowner/occupiers to comply with, hence the need to provide clearer requirements.
- The committee reviewed Prohibited and Restricted Burning Times and it was noted for the Prohibited Burning Time end date for the urban-rural zone to be expanded to cover the long weekend in March rather than having to extend the period every year by public notice.

#### **MOTION**

**Moved: Mr C Scott**  
**Seconded: Mr P Rowe**

**BFA0623-131**

#### **Committee Decision**

#### **Committee moves;**

- 1. To support the draft 2023/24 Fire Hazard Reduction Notice, and**
- 2. To extend the Prohibited Burning Time for the Urban-Rural zone to end 10 March**

**CARRIED**

#### **10.5 Mitigation**

Mr Ash Peczka advised the committee that the Shire has put in another submission for the 2023/24 Mitigation Activity Fund (MAF) and majority of treatments completed in the 2022/23 period will become maintenance zones, carrying over incomplete prescribed burns as well as additional mechanical works around the camp grounds near Quagi Beach.

#### **10.6 Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act**

Mr Phil Longmire advises the committee there is a meeting next week for the emergency management sector and we'll report back any outcomes from that meeting that may influence how things are run this summer.

#### **10.8 Current Trials**

- Mr Phil Longmire advised the committee of the current trials of hand held satellite radios. The hand held are ideal in remote areas where there is no mobile or WAERN coverage, but does have its limitations that a radio protocol is required as only 1 can speak across the network. Trials are still continuing.
- Mr Ash Peczka advised the committee the Shire is looking at funding options to purchase a number of licences for members to utilise Fire Mapper, in particular the Urban-Rural brigades and if any of the Rural brigades are wanting to utilise the program that can either work from your smart phones or ipads and act as a AVL tracker for those who have access to it. Mr Kyle Lawrence provided a run down on how it works.

**MOTION**

**Moved: Mr R Chambers**

**Seconded: Mr P Luberda**

**BFA0623-132**

**Committee Decision**

**Committee moves to support the Council in pursuing a trial of Fire Mapper request for 6 licences allowing 10 users per licence.**

**CARRIED**

**10.9 Training & Vehicle Servicing Schedule**

Mr Ash Peczkka presented the upcoming BFB training schedule and schedule for servicing of the BFB fleet. It is known that due to current bans in place by the United Professionals Firefighters Union of WA some courses may not proceed due to instructor availability.

**10.10 Southern Mallee Bush Fire Brigade – Change of Name**

The Southern Mallee Brigade voted at their last meeting to change the brigade name to Grass Patch BFB. Reason being no one really knows where Southern Mallee is, when referenced. It is easier to recognise Grass Patch as a name and as a location.

**MOTION**

**Moved: Mr C Hallam**

**Seconded: Mr R Longbottom**

**BFA0623-133**

**Committee Decision**

**Committee moves to support Southern Mallee request to change the brigade name to Grass Patch Bush Fire Brigade.**

**CARRIED**

**10.11 Communications with Police**

Mr Peter Luberda raised a concern with the communications to police manning road blocks, it was advised that police have limited UHF capabilities to speak to fire crews at an incident and police are working to rectify this situation.

**10.12 Incident Control Vehicle**

Mr Peter Harkness advised the committee that he would bring out the ICV to visit brigades to attract more volunteers from outside town. The ICV crew has undertaken a series of training during the prescribed burns and now has more qualified members to operate the ICV. He would like to attract volunteers from outside town, so the ICV can travel to the incident and call in the relevant volunteers nearby to operate the ICV.

**11. CLOSURE**

The Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 9:25pm.

The next meeting of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee is scheduled for Tuesday 12 September 2023, commencing at 6pm in the council Chambers

**These Minutes were confirmed at a meeting held on \_\_\_\_\_**

**Signed \_\_\_\_\_**

**Presiding Member at the meeting at which the Minutes were confirmed.**

**Dated \_\_\_\_\_**