

SHIRE OF WEST ARTHUR

Minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting held Tuesday 9 April 2019, in the Hawthorn Room in the West Arthur Health and Resource Centre.

1. Declaration of Opening/Announcement of Visitors

The Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, Duncan South, declared the meeting open at 7:09pm.

2. Record of Attendance and Apologies

Attendance

Duncan South	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Ray Harrington	President, Shire
Nicole Wasmann	Chief Executive Officer, Shire
Mesha Barritt	Customer Service Officer, Shire
Nicki Morrell	Customer Service Officer, Shire
Neil Morrell	Fire Control Officer, Arthur River BFB
James Campbell	Fire Control Officer, Darkan BFB
Adrian South	Fire Control Officer, Duranillin BFB
Trevor Bunce	Fire Control Officer, Darkan BFB
Jessica Newman	Parks and Wildlife Service, DBCA
Mark McQueen	Acting District Officer, DFES
Kim Hales	Fire Control Officer, Duranillin BFB
Chris Cochran	Deputy CBFCO/FCO, Duranillin BFB
Jamie Park	Fire Control Officer, Duranillin BFB
David Mackie	Fire Control Officer, Duranillin BFB
Ming Meredith	BFAC Delegate, Shire
Kohdy Flynn	Ranger, Collie Shire
Tristan Gulvin	CESM, Collie Shire
Ben Robinson	Fire Control Officer, Arthur River BFB (from 7:16pm)

Apologies

James Scanlon	Fire Control Officer, Arthur River BFB
Donna Morgan	Bushfire Risk Management Officer, DFES
Trevor Palfalman	Captain, Williams VFRS
Peter Cupit	Bushfire Risk Planning Coordinator, Shire

3. Confirmation of Minutes – 9 October 2018 BFAC committee

Moved: Adrian South

Second: Robert Jeffries

That the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held 9 October 2018 be confirmed.

3.1 Business Arising

4.3 Dual Fire Control Officers

Confirmation of dual appointments were received from Shire of Collie and Shire of Williams.

7.7 Mid Band and High Band Removal

With regards to removing the link between the Shire and DFES radio, Allan Brown from DFES has advised that it has been passed on to the Manager of Radio Communications for when DFES do maintenance otherwise they will need to mobilise separately to complete the task which would mean scheduling in the work. Some other considerations for the Shire is the continuing maintenance of the repeater, batteries and antenna systems i.e. do they wish to separate the systems so they can use the Mid Band for their own fleet and have the WAERN High Band for Emergency Services use. "

4. Appointment of Officers for 2019-20 Fire Season

4.1 Chief, Deputy Chief and Fire Weather Committee

Officer/Role	Person Nominated	Moved	Seconded
Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	Duncan South	Robert Jeffries	Ming Meredith
Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	Chris Cochrane	Neil Morrell	Kim Hales
Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	Ben Robinson	Adrian South	Neil Morrell
Fire Weather Officer	Adrian South	Trevor bunce	Ming Meredith
Deputy Fire Weather Officer	Robert Jeffries	Adrian South	Kim Hales
Fire Weather Committee	Duncan South Adrian South Robert Jeffries John Pascoe James Campbell	Neil Morrell	Adrian South

4.2 Fire Control Officers

Moved: Trevor Bunce

Seconded: Kim Hales

That the Shire appoint the following as Fire Control Officers for the 2019-20 Fire Season.

Arthur River Brigade

Ben Robinson
Neil Morrell
James Scanlon
Andrew Putland
Alan Manual
Brad Wooldridge
Neil Manuel
Sam burgess

Duranillin Brigade:

Robert Jefferies
Chris Cochrane
David Mackie
Kim Hales
Adrian South
Jamie Park

Darkan Brigade:

Duncan South
Trevor Bunce
Peter Lutz
Peter Lubcke
James Campbell
Matthew Telfer

4.3 Dual Appointments Fire Control Officers

Moved: Kim Hales

Seconded: Ming Meredith

That requests be made for the following Fire Control Officers to be appointed as dual FCOs with the neighbouring Shires.

Shire of Kojonup	Neil Morrell
Shire of Wagin	Ben Robinson
Shire of Williams	Trevor Bunce
Shire of Boyup Brook	Kim Hales & David Mackie
Shire of Collie	Peter Lubcke

4.4 Brigade Positions

Moved: Neil Morrell

Seconded: James Campbell

That the following brigade roles be endorsed:

Arthur River	Chairperson/Captain	Ben Robinson
	Secretary	Tracy Wooldridge
	First Lieutenant	Alan Manual
	Second Lieutenant	James Scanlon
	Equipment Officer	Scott Degaris
Darkan Brigade	Chairperson/Captain	Duncan South
	Secretary	David Gooding
	Equipment Officer	Peter Lutz
Duranillin Brigade	Chairperson/Captain	Chris Cochrane
	Secretary	Jason Earnshaw
	President	John Rutherford

5. Guests/Presentations

5.1 DFES – District Officer and Bush Fire Risk Management

Mark McQueen, who is relieving in the role whilst Simon Vogel is on leave, advised that the 2018-19 season was quiet although Shires have been busy with multiple

Forecasted

Foam	\$5,600
Eflares	\$2000
Fuel	\$1,000
Power/Utilities	\$400
Repairs	\$500

There was discussion regarding use of the remaining funds and it was agreed to purchase eflares and foam.

- Arthur River Brigade – 4.4 Broadacre Single Cab - \$412,000 approved waiting for supply.

8. General Business

8.1 Equipment

Nil

8.2 Training

Arthur River has a couple of people interested in basic training and they could possibly join with Collie Shire for training days.

8.3 Call ups

The meeting discussed the future of weekly call-ups, with low participation. It was agreed to occasionally put a reminder on WhatsApp prior to the call-up.

8.4 Mitigation Funding

The Shire has received \$67,000 for bushfire mitigation works around Bowelling and nine bridges within the Shire. There has been some difficulties with undertaken the works due to obtaining clearances. The Shire was advised that because the work at Bowelling had changed from prescribed burn to mechanical slashing (as required by DFES) we now needed to obtain a clearing permit. Further advice was sought and the mechanical slashing can be undertaken under Schedule 6 Clause 1 for Shire managed land and Schedule 6 Clause 12 for DFES managed land under the Environmental Protection Act. We are currently in the process of engaging a contractor to undertake this work.

The clearing around the bridges is proving to be more difficult as a number of the bridges are impacted by Aboriginal Heritage issues. All bridges across the Arthur River are now impacted by the Arthur River Waugal which was recently listed as a cultural heritage site. A number of bridges also have archeological sites and finally we have one bridge that is impacted by Threatened Ecological Community. We are still working through obtaining the required permits (Regulations 7 and 10 under the Aboriginal Heritage Act) to undertake this bushfire mitigation works. A survey of the Threatened Ecological Community may be required prior to undertaking the clearing around that bridge.

8.5 Map session

Revision of basic map reading for fire location.

8.6 Other

A discussion was held regarding the use of the triangle stickers that had been issued to brigade members in the past and had since expired. The matter had been discussed at the LEMC meeting earlier in the evening and the stickers would not be reissued.

If a road block is in place when there is a fire, the incident controller would liaise with the police officers regarding access.
Discussion was also held regarding coordination at fires and use of T-Cards.

9. Closure

Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 9:11pm