

**SHIRE OF WEST ARTHUR
BUSHFIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting held Tuesday 10 April 2018, in the Council Chambers, Darkan.

1. Declaration of Opening/Announcement of Visitors

The Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, Duncan South, declared the meeting open at 7.26pm.

2. Record of Attendance and Apologies

Attendance

Duncan South	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Chris Cochrane	Fire Control Officer, Duranillin BFB
Rob Jefferies	Fire Control Officer, Duranillin BFB
Dave Mackie	Fire Control Officer, Duranillin BFB
Adrian South	Fire Control Officer, Duranillin BFB
Kim Hales	Fire Control Officer, Duranillin BFB
Brad Wooldridge	Deputy CBFCO/FCO, Arthur River BFB
Ben Robinson	Fire Control Officer, Arthur River BFB
Neil Morrell	Fire Control Officer, Arthur River BFB
Michael Meredith	BFAC Delegate, Shire
Trevor Bunce	Fire Control Officer, Darkan BFB
Simon Vogel	District Officer, DFES
Donna Morgan	Bushfire Risk Management Officer, DFES
Tim Hutton	Fire Operations Officer, Parks and Wildlife Service, DBCA (until 7.59pm)
Greg Hodgeson	Senior Forester Plantations, Forest Products Commission
Tim Sparks	Department of Water and Environmental Regulations
Graeme Blake	Department of Water and Environmental Regulations
Ray Harrington	President, Shire
Nicole Wasmann	Chief Executive Officer, Shire
Mesha Barritt	Customer Service Officer, Shire
Nicki Morrell	Works Administration, Shire

Apologies

Peter Lutz	Fire Control Officer, Darkan BFB
Peter Cupitt	Bushfire Risk Planning Coordinator, Shire
Kyle Hulls	Parks and Wildlife Service, DBCA

3. Confirmation of Minutes – 4 April 2017 BFAC AGM and 10 October 2017 BFAC committee

Moved: Adrian South

Seconded: Neil Manuel

That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Bush fire Advisory Committee held 4 April 2017 be confirmed.

That the minutes of the Bush fire Advisory Committee meeting held 10 October 2017 be confirmed.

4. Appointment of Officers for 2018-19 Fire Season

4.1 Chief, Deputy Chief and Fire Weather Committee

Officer/Role	Person Nominated	Moved	Seconded
Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	Duncan South	Rob Jefferies	Neil Manual
Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	No nominations received		
Fire Weather Officer	Tim Trethewie (to be confirmed)*	Brad Wooldridge	Ben Robinson
Deputy Fire Weather Officer	Geoff Holmes	Chris Cochrane	Trevor Bunce
Fire Weather Committee	Adrian South, Rob Jefferies, Tim Trethewie, Neil Morrell, Duncan South, James Campbell, Geoff Holmes	Kim Hales	Michael Meredith

* Following the meeting Tim Trethewie indicated he was not willing to accept the nomination.

4.2 Fire Control Officers

Moved: Brad Wooldridge

Seconded: Dave Mackie

That the Shire appoint the following as Fire Control Officers for the 2018-19 Fire Season.

Arthur River Brigade

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

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: Michael Meredith

Seconded: Rob Jefferies

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

Shire of Woodanilling	Neil Morrell
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: Adrian South

Seconded: Kim Hales

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	Sue Earnshaw
	President	John Rutherford

5. Reports

5.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

The Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, Duncan South, reported that it had been a very quiet season.

- Towards the end of the season there have been a few fires on our boundary with the shires of Collie and Boyup Brook, some deliberate.
- A new truck has been allocated for Arthur River.
- Appreciation to Brad for support as Deputy Chief
- Appreciation to Shire Office staff for their support since the loss of the CESM.
- Trial of once per week radio call ups this year. Did not improve responses. Some brigade officers still not doing radio checks.

5.2 Parks and Wildlife, DBCA

Tim Hutton, reported that

- aviation support had been extended to 20 April
- Parks and Wildlife have not started autumn burning as soil dryness is still a concern – looking for a bit more rain.
- Deliberate fires are not new, though seeing a change in location i.e. on the eastern boundary.

Including Parks and Wildlife in Whatsapp was discussed, for notification purposes for fire permits and Duncan indicated that he would have further discussions with Parks and Wildlife personnel.

7:59 - Tim Hutton left the meeting.

5.2 Arthur River Bush Fire Brigade

Very quiet, couple of fires just inside the Wagin Shire.

5.3 Darkan Bush Fire Brigade

Very quiet season.

5.4 Duranillin Bush Fire Brigade

Fires on western end of the Shire. Not many agriculture fires.

5.5 DFES – District Officer

Simon Vogel reported that DFES is waiting on the announcement of the new Rural Fires Services structure.

Simon trained 9 people in the Fire Control Officer course in Darkan recently.

5.6 DFES – Bush Fire Risk Management Officer

Donna Morgan reported on the Bush Fire Risk Management Plan and in particular the treatment plan.

- West Arthur has been successful in gaining \$45,000 for mitigation works. Mitigation Activity Fund has strict criteria – town sites and crown land.
- Most works are on ground mechanical works. Fire access tracks and three burns in Bowelling. Works to be completed by 30 June. Local brigade members can attend burns which are being carried out by contractors.
- The programme that Donna and Peter are involved with is due to finish at 30 June. Will know when Rural Service announcements are made whether there will be an ongoing programme.

FPC indicated that they would like to be involved with the burns.

There was some discussion regarding the potential for Arthur River and Moodiarrup sports grounds to be included in future mitigation works.

5.7 Forrest Products Commission

- Honey property has now been planted.
- Political pressure to plant for pines on ex blue gums sites.
- Still very active in this Shire and going through a growth phase.
- New lease for grazing the Moodiarrup property will be advertised in the near future.
- Strategic asset protection branch - will be putting together fire management plans for plantations. Will start to build their own response structure.

5.8 Department of Water

- Two fires in plantations in the Shire of West Arthur this year. DoW used Working with Fire to assist this year with mopping up etc.
- Department of Water is undertaking fire management planning. First management plan – concentrating on plantation and protection of farming.
- Hoping to do prescription burn near Cordering and mechanical works.

6 Financial Report

2017/18 ESL Allocation \$31,500

Expended to date:

Insurance – vehicles	\$6,688
Other	\$10,538
Synergy	\$111
Power Arthur River	\$200
Vehicle licensing	\$475
Parts and repairs	\$1,067
Mechanics time	\$400
Total expended	\$19,479

Funds remaining \$11,781

Forecasted

Foam	\$5000
Fuel	\$1000
Power/Utilities	\$100
Other goods (freight)	\$300
Clothing and Accessories	\$4,500
Repairs/misc	\$1,000

The insurance other includes \$10,248.00 LGIS Bushfire cover (based on 183 members) and \$290.20 LGIS Property cover for Arthur River Fire Shed, Darkan Fire Shed, Dura Fire Shed.

Please send requests for clothing and accessories to Mesha or Nicole at the Shire Office.

Action

Follow up with DFES regarding eligibility criteria of pumps as a number of fast fill pumps are aging and require renewal or maintenance.

Shire to arrange for the Duranillin truck to be serviced before year end.

8:15 pm Tim Sparks and Graeme Blake left the meeting.

7. General Business

7.1 ESL Allocations

2017-18 Arthur River Brigade – 4.4 Broadacre Single Cab - \$412,000 approved waiting for delivery.

2018-19 - Operating grant of \$31,670 offered. There are no inclusions in the capital 2018/19 replacement program.

No additional request for a light tanker was submitted as the information provided by DFES stated, "New and additional appliance/vehicle requests will again not be considered for approval" This is due to the number of current reviews/projects such as light fleet review, crew cab protection initiatives and future fleet project.

7.2 Training

Fire Control Officer's Course held 23 March 2018.

Western Power training was discuss and the Shire will investigate whether we can have a Western Power Training Session in the Shire similar to what was available in the region last year.

7.3 Call up

Call Up changed to once per week this year.

Discussed that when Monday is public holiday perhaps call up Tuesday instead or change all call ups to Tuesday. Will continue with once per week.

7.4 Monthly Automatic Vehicle Testing

Follow up to ensure that it is happening. Noted.

7.5 Mitigation Funding

As reported by Donna Morgan.

7.6 New Spot Forecast

Noted.

7.7 Mid Band and High band

Removing the link between mid and high band was discussed. This would mean that Shire radios would not be heard on the bush fire network.

Moved: Brad Wooldridge Seconded: Trevor Bunce

That the Shire investigate removing the link between mid and high band.

7.8 Bushfire Notice

Minor changes noted

- Brad Wooldridge – removal of home number.
- Increase the distance for notification to the Forest Officer to 10km for burning during the restricted period near a State Forrest.

7.9 Radios

Moved: Neil Morrell Seconded: Trevor Bunce

That the Shire allow for \$500 annual maintenance for hand held radios.

It was also noted that Darkan brigade only has four WAERN radios and that other brigades had significantly more. More radios are need for Darkan.

8. Other

Nil.

9. Closure

Chairperson declared the meeting closed. 9.44pm.