



Shire of Cunderdin
Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Minutes of Meeting

22nd April 2024

Dear Members,

The Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting was held at the Shire Council Chambers, 37 Lundy Ave, Cunderdin, WA on Monday 22nd April 2024 commencing at 5.00pm.

Disclaimer

Members of the public should note that in any discussion regarding any planning or other application that any statement or intimation of approval made by any member or officer of the Shire of Cunderdin during the course of any meeting is not intended to be and is not to be taken as notice of approval from the Shire of Cunderdin. No action should be taken on any item discussed at a Council meeting prior to written advice on the resolution of the Council being received.

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SHIRE OF CUNDERDIN

ITEM 1 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

1.1 Members

Mr T Harris Fire Control Officer
Mr D Wilmott Fire Control Officer
Mr D Beard Deputy Chief Fire Control Officer
Mr D Fisher Fire Control Officer

1.2 Administration

Ms A Harris Shire President
Mr S Hobley Chief Executive Officer
Mrs H Byrnes Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Mr B Davies Community Emergence Services Manager

1.3 Invited Observers/Guests

Nil

1.4 Apologies

Mr A Burges Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (Chairperson)
Mr N Jenzen Fire Control Officer
Mr J Snooke Fire Control Officer
Mr S Davies Department of Fire and Emergency Services

ITEM 2 DEPUTATIONS / PRESENTATIONS / SUBMISSIONS

Nil

ITEM 3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Confirmation of Minutes – 9th October 2023 (Copy attached)

RESOLUTION: BFAC1– 23/24 3.1

MOVED: Mr D Beard

SECONDED: Mr T Harris

That the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting Held on 9th October 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that Meeting.

CARRIED

3.2 Business Arising

Item 3.2 – BFAC Minutes of Meeting Held 9^h October 2023

D Beard asked if there were minutes or notes taken at the debriefing meeting after the Meckering Fire and if so could these please be circulated.

D Fisher asked if the Ygnattering shed and truck were going ahead?

B Davies has an update with regards to this included in his report.

D Fisher asked about the Fridge in the Meckering Truck.

B Davies advised he will follow up the status of this with Trent.

4.1 CBFCO Report

- Nil

4.2 DBFCO Report

- D Beard – had no written report however would like to make mention that he was pleased to see the willingness of the acceptance to the changes over the last little while with regards to the safety procedures.
- That he feels the debrief after the Meckering Fire was a worthwhile exercise and reiterated the need to circulate the notes.
- It was an eventful season and the communications have been great, everyone is keeping in touch and it went well.

4.3 CESM Report

- Thank you to the Shire (Works and Office) for your support throughout this Summer with assistance with Machinery, Welfare and Waterbomber Ops.
- Thank you to the FCO officers, including the Chief and Deputy, for their continued commitment to the community of Cunderdin
- Thank you to the Volunteers who have attended incidents this year, either in a Truck or Private Vehicle
- The Shire of Cunderdin has had 57 Incidents this year, which is more than double what a typical Summer entails, a breakdown below:
 - 23/24 – 57
 - 22/23 – 32
 - 21/22 – 21
 - 20/21 – 23
 - 19/20 – 20
- I'd like to note both the Cunderdin BFB and Cunderdin VFRS have been a lot more active this year, with Cunderdin BFB turning out to all incidents they were dispatched to with a minimum crew.
- We are looking at the leadership of Cunderdin BFB with an attempt to hold an AGM to see if there are people keen to step up. The AGM will most likely be around September TBA
- Ygnattering Update
 - Station has been approved and is in the process of being built
 - Truck is complete and awaiting handover and delivery
- The Cunderdin BFB Cadets will be running again this year, with good numbers last year.
- We have seen an increase in PPE since the Meckering Fire (Good to see), Shire is now restocked
- Online Permits worked okay, however, a few permits were delayed due to active incidents, weather or other factors.
- Training to be held in September for BFB members prior to Harvest
- BSA Training can now be completed online (4 hours), with a face to face component
- Respirator now in all trucks for Members riding on the back in smoke.

4.4 FCO's Reports

- Emergency services day was held again. While this was a successful event again there seemed to be lower numbers, do we feel this should be an annual event or held every 2 years?
- Can a Water Tanker and Loader list please be put together for when needed in the future.
- Reported that the Water bombers being housed in Cunderdin are an invaluable resource. We should endeavour to do anything necessary to ensure we can keep them coming back each season.

4.5 Shire Councillor/Staff Report(s)

Nil

4.6 Other Agency Reports

Nil.

ITEM 5 CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 Incoming

Nil

5.2 Outgoing

Nil

ITEM 6 DISCUSSION POINTS

6.1 Post Season Debrief

BFB Truck Sizes – We get what we are supplied.

6.2 Restricted Burning Period/Prohibited Burning Period (RBT/PBT)

Listed for discussion on current Restricted and Prohibited Burning times.

Restricted Burning Period:

1st October 2024 – 1st November 2024

Prohibited Burning Period:

2nd November 2024 – 14th February 2025

Restricted Burning Period:

15th February 2025 – 31st March 2025

Open Burning Period:

1st April 2025 – 19th September 2025

6.3 Burning Restrictions

Christmas Dates – Movement Bans.

No Burning on ANZAC Day (25th April 2024) – B Davies will advertise on WhatsApp and send through for circulation on Facebook.

6.4 Bush Fire Exercise/Training

Water bomber training – Dates will be provided closer to the season as these are unknown until the Water bombers have moved as per the season.

Bushfire Safety and Awareness training is scheduled for September.

The provision of Driver and Two Way Operations training is being investigated.

Members voiced concerns that volunteers may not be willing or be able to be utilised for DFES call outs in the near future due to the requirements to complete the varying numbers of different training.

ITEM 7 FURTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Cr T Harris raised concerns with digital permit signing and the occasional time that it has been delayed when the authorised person was unavoidably unavailable, could there be a better process.

It was decided that the system would be set up with the addition of S Hobley and H Byrnes as authorised persons to allow sharing of the responsibility to sign off on permits, thus allowing the permits to be completed in a timely manner when any one authorised person is unavailable.

Also mentioned was the invaluable member of our community in that of Trevor Diver.

D Beard raised the need to assist and promote the Cunderdin Bush Fire Brigade and getting it set up ready for the next season. Scheduling an AGM, Training, Preseason catch up.

Members raised the use of WhatsApp to advise when burning permits were in place and being utilised and that this was advantageous in the sense that everyone was aware of burns being undertaken and not an emergency. It was discussed that this be included as part of the procedure moving forward.

The utilisation of the Merged WhatsApp group now known as “Cunderdin Fire Alerts” worked great ensuring everyone is aware of what is going on.

Cr A Harris took the opportunity to thank all members for their time and contribution doing the jobs they do and to wish them a safe season.

ITEM 8 NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting is scheduled to take place Post Season Monday 9th September 2024, commencing at 5.00 pm at the Council Chambers, Lundy Ave Cunderdin.

ITEM 9 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Chairperson closed the Meeting at 6:41 pm.