



# SHIRE OF JERRAMUNGUP

## JERRAMUNGUP BUSHFIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Held at the Council Chambers  
Jerramungup  
Monday, 15 April 2024

### MINUTES

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# Jerramungup Bushfire Advisory Committee

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Monday 15 April 2024

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## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

### 1.0 DECLARATION OF OPENING, ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

Alex Jones, Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, declared the meeting open at 7.30pm.

### 2.0 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

#### 2.1 ATTENDANCE

Alex Jones	Gairdner BFB	Anthony Thomas	Boxwood Hill BFB
Craig Hall	Gairdner BFB	Stuart Hocking	Boxwood Hill BFB
Brad Shelton	Gairdner BFB	Peter Buckenara	Bremer Bay VFES
Cr Neil Foreman	Shire of Jerramungup	Anthony Armstrong	Jerramungup VFES
Martin Cuthbert, CEO	Shire of Jerramungup	Paul Hislop	Jerramungup VFES
Dan Biddulph, BRMC	Shire of Jerramungup	Wade Brown	Needilup BFB
Russell Palmer, CESM	Shire of Jerramungup	Ron Pocock	Needilup BFB
Michael Lester	Jacup BFB		

#### 2.2 APOLOGIES

Kyle Lawrence	Pink Lake BFB (Esperance)
Stephen Petersen	DFES
Mark McQueen	DFES
Charmaine Solomon, DCEO	Shire of Jerramungup
Jye Duggan	Needilup BFB
Matt Prophet	DBCA

### 3.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Jerramungup Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting held 16 October 2023.

**That the Minutes of the Jerramungup Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting held on 16 October 2023 be CONFIRMED.**

<b>MOVED: Ron Pocock</b>	<b>SECONDED: Anthony Thomas</b>
<b>That the Minutes of the Jerramungup Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting held on 16 October 2023 be CONFIRMED.</b>	
<b>CARRIED</b>	

### 4.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

4.1 Local Law – ongoing. Russell to work with Charmaine on her return. Also discussed SOPs as per CESM report.

4.2 Training

4.2.1 Calendar and training updated – No set Brigade training dates at present. A new blended learning model available as of last Friday. Russell to roll out Brigade training opportunities after seeding complete throughout the Shire. Russell also reminded Brigades of possibilities of practical training sign off via the packages sent out pre-season.

- 4.3 On Road Driving, AIIMS, IC Level 1, Workplace TA. – Most happening shortly as Regional Training. On Road Driving discussed as required if Brigades are responding under P1 conditions. Protection of the CEO.

## **5.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

- 5.1 Protection of Private Vehicles at Fires – re-send to FCOs
- 5.2 Regional QR Codes
- 5.3 Dangerous Traffic Incident – General safety reminder
- 5.4 Fuel Loads
- 5.5 Association Newsletters and Announcements
- 5.6 Letter of Appreciation City of Albany – Green Range fire
- 5.7 Letter to Caravan Parks re camp fires – Discussed in general Business
- 5.8 DFES WHS online Induction
- 5.9 GRDC – Back Pocket Guide – Reducing Harvest Fires

## **6.0 REPORTS**

### **6.1 CHIEF BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICER REPORT**

Tabled and discussed. Attached at 6.1a).

### **6.2 DBCA**

No report. The meeting expressed disappointment that DBCA were not in attendance.

### **6.3 CESM**

Tabled and discussed. Attached at 6.3a).

### **6.4 DFES**

No report. DFES representatives sent apologies and had nothing specific to report.

### **6.5 BRMC**

Tabled and read. Attached at 6.5a). Prescriptions are available for viewing.

## 7.0 WHS

- 7.1 Reportable Incidents/Near Misses – Peter Buckenara outlined the incident near miss on the Bremer-Borden Road. Implications discussed. Russell reiterated the importance of safety and outlined some of the elements as per Section 6 of the LGIS audit he received recently.
- 7.2 Training (refer to 4.2)
- 7.3 PPE/PPC

## 8.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

- 8.1 Guest Speaker – Kyle Lawrence – Fire Mapper presentation – Apologies, last minute cancellation. Still very keen to come across and present.
- 8.2 Seasonal Review – W.W.W. – Most issues already discussed or in reports.
- 8.3 Brigade Meetings – Most have held their AGMs.
  - 8.3.1 Some changes to Needilup executive, Ron Pocock stepped down as Captain, Wade Brown succeeded him. Clint Pocock is back as an FCO. Question raised at their meeting as to whether there could be a two tier system for HVMBs for heavy and light vehicles. BFAC commented that this would be too difficult to manage and that emergency feeding of stock was permitted.
  - 8.3.2 Question asked as to whether Brigades could have the hot stick electricity detectors that the VFES Brigades have. Russell to investigate and price.
- 8.4 Fire Control Notice – updates as attached. Draft to be sent out to FCOs to check.
  - 8.4.1 Include Contractor List – Russell to contact contractors on the list to update. Perhaps send out notice via Shire Facebook to ask if there are others wanting to be on the list.
  - 8.4.2 FCOs not updated until after tonight.
  - 8.4.3 Fire Control Notice FAQs – to be updated on Shire website.
- 8.5 Caravan Park Fire Pits in Bremer Bay – general discussion
  - 8.5.1 Do Parks register their fire pits and are they up-to-date? Size of pits allowed, time of day that use is permitted, general standards need to be reviewed. Parks have been sent a letter reminding them of their responsibilities. Parks could make it part of their rental agreement for customers.
- 8.6 Question from the floor, do we still inspect firebreaks? Ranger carries these out.
- 8.7 Needilup Brigade – Ron Pocock thanked everyone for their support while he was Captain.
- 8.8 Point Henry – Some concern regarding the unofficial function centres and caravan parking in Point Henry. This is being addressed at a Shire level.

8.9 Sched Procedures – Peter Buckenara asked if the new sched procedures are working. Consensus was that it is, but regular radio checks need to be carried out by holders of radios.

8.10 Boxwood Tatra – Concern regarding the fuel consumption and the fire pump cutting out at a quarter of a tank of fuel. Tattras designed to cover very rough terrain and this exacerbates the issue with the pump starting to cut out under a half a tank. Brigade to try to get more accurate records of fuel economy to check if it is an issue with the Tattras or just this truck. Russell to refer the issue to the Volunteers Association for their information and possible action later if required.

## 9.0 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.

These minutes were confirmed at a meeting held

.....

Signed: .....

Presiding Person at the meeting at which these minutes were confirmed

Date: .....

**Attachment 6.1 a)**

**CBFCO Report to BFAC – 15 April 2024**

Good evening and welcome everyone. Since October last year we have had a reasonably quiet summer and autumn but it has been peppered with quite a few small incidents in the shire of Jerramungup ranging from simple paddock fires to complex running ones in difficult terrain or fires crossing roads creating dangerous situations for volunteers. All of which have been contained and extinguished with professionalism.

We had concurrent fires at Stream Beach and lightning strikes in the park. We have had crews attend Formby South Road and Ongerup in the Shire of Gnowangerup. Header fires at Ongerup, Jerramungup North, and South.

An Albany crew took the Gairdner truck to Esperance a day after the tragic death of a volunteer. A shocking loss- so I urge everyone to consider that safety is of the highest priority at any incident.

A hoax call at 10pm on Christmas night was not deemed funny by the half dozen or so people who went looking for a fire near Needilup.

A great part of volunteering is being able to help your neighbours and we had a large commitment to the Green Range fire with Bremer Bay, Boxwood and Gairdner crews attending. All other Brigades were on standby to cover areas that had crews and trucks away. This was very pleasing to see their willingness.

Fire bomber reloader training attracted 15 or so participants at both locations. Recently about 10 people completed the FCO course in Jerramungup and 8 followed on with the Ground Controller course-a great result as we have relied on too few to be able to perform this task.

I would like to congratulate Arms on receiving the Australia Day award in recognition of his efforts with the Jerramungup VFES.

We are pretty excited to have Dan Biddulph taking over as our new Mitigation Officer. It will be valuable having someone here who is hands on, with the aim of having our communities better protected and prepared.

To everyone-Thank you for your efforts to protect our Shire.

Alex Jones

CBFCO

Shire of Jerramungup



## **Attachment 6.3 a)**

### **CESM Report to BFAC – 15 April 2024**

Summer has been relatively kind to us this year as far as fires are concerned. Although extremely hot on occasions prompting heat wave warnings, we have just experienced our most uneventful summer in the past 3 years.

We have had a tragic reminder on Boxing Day of how dangerous firefighting is. This combined with two deaths in the state last season and rumours of a near miss in another shire recently, has again highlighted the need for adequate training, wearing of correct protection and following of protocols. It is encouraging however to see many brigades investigating contemporary practices and procedures in order to help mitigate risk to firefighters and therefore you as employers.

It may be time to investigate updating our Local Laws and compiling SOPs/SAPs for our brigades. These help to outline specifics for operations of brigades and also stipulate safe working practices when operational. Used effectively, they will assist us all in fulfilling our roles and should lead to increased operating efficiency of our brigades. If required, I am keen to hold workshops and information sessions involving each of the committee and management positions if they are requested or you feel they are needed.

Thanks to the brigades that managed to hold their brigade AGMs before tonight. I know it's difficult to fit them in but this allows the BFAC to ratify any changes to FCO lists in time for Regional Directories and FCN printing.

New online training is available for seasonal workers and the initial training required by new volunteers has just, last week, been rolled out as a blended learning package. I have yet to fully investigate the details of this but am excited at the possibility of our basic training being more readily available for new volunteers. I will keep you all updated as I know more. This will fast track the qualifications of new volunteers. I have prepared and sent out training packages for brigades to be able to run their own drills if they wish, to keep up to speed with the skills we need and to help getting experienced members without qualifications to be signed off.

I have managed to negotiate with parents of some private schools and the Bushfire Centre of Excellence to roll out basic training for students while they are at school so they don't miss out. Most brigade training is usually held during school terms.

All volunteers should now have at least ordered the PPE/PPC they need. Most orders have been filled and delivered to members. The most recent orders placed with me are waiting to be filled. Order forms have been sent out several times to brigades to facilitate this. I managed to negotiate with DFES an increase in funding from the LGGS for PPE for this financial year so we can fill some of the perceived gaps throughout the shire. In future, I would like all orders in on a couple of set dates to reduce the amount of time it takes to organize these and to reduce freight costs to our LGGS budget.

I know there are differing opinions amongst the volunteer members of who should be issued PPE/PPC. I am legally not permitted to issue spares for trucks and cupboards and issue to non-members, PPE purchased with the LGGS budget. Official PPE/PPC should only be issued to qualified members if someone is seen in that clothing, it could be assumed that they are qualified competent and insured. I can assist farmers source suitable PPE for workers by providing contact details of suppliers for farmers to purchase their own tax-deductible PPE.

Thanks again for all your dedication and hard work this year. I look forward to moving ahead again in the next year.

Russell Palmer

CESM

### **Attachment 6.5 a)**

#### **BRMC Report to BFAC – 15 April 2024 – Dan Biddulph**

Shire of Jerramungup were successful with their Bushfire Mitigation Grant application and received a sum of \$365,500 in the 2023 Round 2 grants program. The Tender for the implementation of these works was advertised back in January with the outcomes from the selection process of the tender being rewarded to Indiji Flora from Hopetoun.

These funds are to be spent on:

- Road reserves on the Pt Henry peninsula,
- Road reserve in the Bremer Bay townsite,
- Maintenance of the existing strategic low fuel zones around Bremer Bay,
- Chemical control of the regrowth peppermints and mallee suckers around Bremer Bay,
- Strategic breaks to be established at Millers Point,
- Strategic breaks to be established at Gairdner town site,

Indiji Flora will commence work in the next two weeks.

Prescribed burning at Bremer Bay to consolidate the works undertaken last year and continue with the establishment of a low fuel zone between the Bremer Bay townsite and Pt Henry peninsula.

Eight burn prescriptions signed off at the moment.

1. Bremer Bay Caravan Park-Progress Drive Burn
2. North of White Trail Rd Burn
3. Bog Arm Burn
4. Small Block East of Bremer School.
5. Point Henry Burn
6. West of Wellstead Rd
7. Old rubbish dump East of Wellstead
8. Cell 12 East of Wellstead, north of Beachside CP- Yate woodland.

Bushfire Mitigation information session held in Bremer Bay 3<sup>rd</sup> April- Not a lot attended.

Will need brigade support if the burning window opens.