

# SHIRE OF JERRAMUNGUP

## BUSHFIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Jerramungup Bush Fire Advisory Committee held Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2013 in the Council Chambers, Jerramungup, commencing at 7:40 pm.

#### 1. **OPENING**

The Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Mr Wes Thomas declared the meeting open at 7.40pm.

#### 2. **PRESENT**

Mr Wes Thomas	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Mr Trevor Ross	Deputy Chief Fire Control Officer
Mr David Edwards	Deputy Chief Fire Control Officer
Mr Malcolm Turner	Needilup Brigade
Mr Quentin Brown	Needilup Brigade
Mr Darrell Crowley	Gairdner Brigade
Mr Alex Jones	Gairdner Brigade
Mr Phil Wishart	Boxwood Brigade
Mr Steve Wadsworth	Bremer Bay Brigade
Mr John Iffla	Bremer Bay VES
Mr Murray Hatton	DFES
Mr Vince Hilder	DEC Albany
Mr Anthony Armstrong	Jerramungup VES
Mr Kalan Bailey	Jacup Brigade
Mr Paul Hislop	Jerramungup Brigade
Mr Kim Parsons	Jerramungup Brigade
Cr Bill Bailey	Council Representative
Mr Brent Bailey	Shire of Jerramungup
Mr Peter Thurkle	CESM – Shire of Jerramungup
Mrs Charmaine Solomon	Shire of Jerramungup
Cr Robert Lester	Shire Councillor
Cr Rex Parsons	Shire Councillor
Cr Barry Atkin	Shire Councillor
Cr Carolyn Daniel	Shire Councillor

#### 3. **APOLOGIES**

Nil

#### 3. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the Bushfire Advisory Committee meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2012 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

**Moved: Anthony Armstrong**  
**Seconded: John Iffla**

**That the Minutes of the Bushfire Advisory Committee meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2012 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.**

**Carried**

## **5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

### **5.1 Shire of Jerramungup Fire Break Notice**

At the meeting held on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2012 the committee resolved to the following amendments to the Fire Break Notice which will be applied from 2013/14.;

**That the Jerramungup Bushfire Advisory Committee supports the following amendments to the Shire of Jerramungup fire break notice;**

- **requirement to provide a minimum of 400L per harvesting machine.**
  
- **addressing the rural lifestyle blocks on the Pallinup that are not being used for agricultural purposes.**

**The fire break notice to be applied from 2013/14.**

Peter Thurkle noted he is looking at Shire reserves and has spoken to contractors to provide written quotes to do mitigation works. Work has been done on Kokoda Road.

All fire trucks have been serviced by Barry Atkin & Bremer Bay Tyre and Mechanical.

### **5.2 Fuel Account**

Bushfire brigades can purchase fuel through the Shire's account at Tobruk Traders, Eastern Great Southern Fuels, Jerramungup Roadhouse and Boxwood Roadhouse, when signing the account please print name and which brigade you are with, accounts will not be paid if this information is not noted.

### **5.3 Vacant Land – Jacup Bushfire Brigade**

At BFAC held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2012, Trevor Ross advised the Committee that Mark Siviour had approached him re the possibility of subdividing a section of his land for the Jacup fire truck. Bill Parker informed Trevor Ross that a lease agreement of approximately 1500 square metres would be sufficient. Bill Parker to make contact with Mark Siviour to discuss.

Following the meeting the Shire commenced negotiations with Mark Siviour and a draft lease agreement was established. The property was then sold to Lawson Grains Limited in February 2013, the Shire contacted Lawson Grains Limited and they were more than happy to sign the agreement. The lease agreement was presented to Council at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held 20<sup>th</sup> March, where Council resolved the following;

**That Council;**

1. **Endorse the terms of the proposed lease being \$1 rent for a period of 20 years with the expiry date being the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2032.**
2. **Authorise the Chief Executive Officer and Shire President to execute a lease between the Shire of Jerramungup and Lawson Grains Limited for a portion of Lot 301 on Deposited Plan 33122 for use as a bushfire brigade shed and truck storage.**

Lawson Grains Limited advised that they would be more than happy to provide gravel for the site works from a nearby gravel resource/pit that they have on the farm for the project.

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE**

Nil

## **7. REPORTS**

### **7.1 DEC Report for Summer 2012-13**

Vince Hilder advised that DEC Albany District had recorded 16 bushfires so far with 30 fires across the Region. The major fires were early in the season with "Black Cat Creek" fire at two People Bay and the "Swamp Road" fire at Bremer Bay.

Vince Hilder thanked the Shire of Jerramungup Bushfire Brigades for their assistance with the Swamp road fire it was a great team effort. Vince especially thanked Wes Thomas for his dedication and efforts not only through this fire but over the previous 8 seasons.

The majority of the season was heavily involved with the aftermath of the "Black Cat Creek" fire. These included a number internal and external reviews and resulting so far with 10 improvement notices from Work Safe. It has been a quite season after Christmas with only a few small fires locally and only involvement in few of the bigger fires such Bridgetown-Balingup.

DEC had a visit from the Office of Bushfire Risk Management (OBRM) and the review of current mitigation methods and the "Prescribed Fire Plan" (Burn Prescription). There was some good discussions on the type of burning and the types of fuels we have on the South Coast eg open edge burning in mallee, heath.

There has been a complete changes to the Prescribed Fire Plan to accommodate all of the requirement post Margaret River Fire and to meet OBRM requirements. This has caused same delays in the production of and approvals of prescriptions.

The strategic access program has almost been completed with 80km of fire break up grade within the Fitzgerald National Park. These have been areas along the northern boundary, southern fire line and the old barrier fence buffer.

## **7.2 DFES Report**

Murray Hatton tabled his report and provided current training records for the Shire's volunteer brigade members. A full copy of Murray Hatton's report is attached to the minutes. Contact the Shire for training records

**7.55pm** Mr Kim Parsons and Cr Rex Parsons entered the meeting.

**8.00pm** Cr Robert Lester entered the meeting.

Murray Hatton noted that the Emergency Services Act is currently being reviewed and provided a feedback form for Shire comments.

Murray Hatton advised that some Shire volunteers had not completed the Basic Introduction to Bush Fire Fighting course.

John Iffla raised concerns that on the second day of the Swamp Road Fire workmen had turned up in a fire fighting unit with no experience at all.

John Iffla suggested that the Shire look at educating farmers on the importance of training their employees.

Murray Hatton advised that the intro course should be for all farm workmen and employers should be encouraging them to attend the course.

Murray Hatton congratulated Wes Thomas, Brigade Volunteers and Shire Staff for their response and involvement in the Swamp Road Fire.

**8.10pm** Cr Carolyn Daniel entered the meeting

## **7.3 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Report**

Wes Thomas updated the Committee on the fires attended over the Summer period and mitigation works completed.

Wes Thomas thanked all local brigades and the two Deputy Chief's David Edwards and Trevor Ross for their assistance during his time as Chief Bush Fire Control Officer.

Wes Thomas acknowledged and thanked the close working relationship he has established with Murray Hatton, Vince Hilder, Bill Parker and Shire staff over the years, Wes also thanked his wife for her support.

#### **7.4 Community Emergency Services Report**

Mr Peter Thurkle tabled his report to be attached to the minutes. A copy of the report is attached.

### **8. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

#### **8.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer**

Mr Wes Thomas announced the vacancy for the CBFCO position and left the chair.

Mr Brent Bailey took the chair for the purposes of conducting the CBFCO election and called for nominations for the position of Chief Bush Fire Control Officer.

Mr Kim Parsons nominated Mr David Edwards.

Mr David Edwards accepted.

There being no further nominations, Mr David Edwards was elected to the position of Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for a one year term.

Mr David Edwards assumed the position of Chair and thanked the members for their support.

#### **8.2 Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officers**

Mr Anthony Armstrong nominated Mr Trevor Ross, who accepted.

Mr Trevor Ross nominated Mr Alex Jones who accepted.

There being no further nominations, Mr Trevor Ross and Mr Alex Jones were declared elected to the positions of Deputy Chief Fire Control Officer.

#### **8.3 Chief Fire Weather Officer**

Mr Wes Thomas nominated Mr David Edwards, who accepted.

There being no further nominations, Mr David Edwards was declared elected to the position of Chief Fire Weather Officer.

#### **8.4 Deputy Chief Fire Weather Officer**

Mr Kim Parsons nominated Mr Paul Hislop, who accepted.

There being no further nominations, Mr Paul Hislop was declared elected to the position of Deputy Chief Fire Weather Officer.

#### **8.5 Brigade Fire Weather Officers**

Jacup Bushfire Brigade - Mr Micheal Lester

- Gairdner, Needilup and Boxwood Brigades to notify Shire of brigade fire weather officers.

#### **8.6 Authorised Radio Broadcaster of Harvest Bans**

It was resolved at the Bushfire Advisory Committee AGM held 19<sup>th</sup> April 2012 that the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer assume the responsibility as authorised radio broadcast harvest ban officers.

Mr David Edwards was declared elected to the position of Authorised Radio Broadcaster of Harvest Bans.

#### **8.7 Dual Fire Control Officers**

Jerramungup / Ravensthorpe	Peter Wisewould
Jerramungup / Kent	Quentin Brown
Jerramungup / Lake Grace	Paul Hislop
Jerramungup / Gnowangerup	Ray Trevaskis
Jerramungup / Albany	Rohan Murdoch
Jerramungup /Ravensthorpe	Andy Duncan

**Moved: Anthony Armstrong**

**Seconded: Trevor Ross**

**That the following appointments for the Shire of Jerramungup be gazetted;**

#### **8.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer**

Mr David Edwards

#### **8.2 Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officers**

Mr Trevor Ross and Mr Alex Jones

#### **8.3 Chief Fire Weather Officer**

Mr David Edwards

#### 8.4 Deputy Chief Fire Weather Officer

Mr Paul Hislop

#### 8.5 Brigade Fire Weather Officers

Jacup Bushfire Brigade - Mr Micheal Lester

Note: Gairdner, Needilup and Boxwood Brigades to notify Shire of brigade fire weather officers.

#### 8.6 Authorised Radio Broadcaster of Harvest Bans

Mr David Edwards

#### 8.7 Dual Fire Control Officers

Jerramungup / Ravensthorpe	Peter Wisewould
Jerramungup / Kent	Quentin Brown
Jerramungup / Lake Grace	Paul Hislop
Jerramungup / Gnowangerup	Ray Trevaskis
Jerramungup / Albany	Rohan Murdoch
Jerramungup /Ravensthorpe	Andy Duncan

Carried

### 9. GENERAL BUSINESS

#### 9.1 Restricted burning permit / Black Cat Creek Fire

David Edwards suggested that a steering committee be formed to consider the online application being trialed for restricted burning permits and the outcome of the Black Cat Creek Fire and the effects this will have on our volunteers.

The Committee agreed that the online permit could be applied for rural residential areas but not to be imposed on broad acre.

**Action: Shire to consult with the Chief and the two Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officers regarding the permit and outcomes once they have reviewed all the information, then respond to DFES.**

#### 9.2 Training dates for Volunteer Fire Fighter Training

The Committee resolved to set dates and enforce commitment from volunteers to attend courses especially the Intro to Bush Fire Fighting.

**The following training dates were resolved:**

Jerramungup – Monday nights 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> August  
(6:00pm to 9:30pm)

**and;**

Gairdner Hall – Wednesday nights 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> August  
(6:00pm – 9:30pm)

**and;**

October course for Farm Workmen - Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October at the Gairdner Town Hall. Introduction to Bush Fire Fighting.

**Action: Shire to write a letter to all land owners raising awareness of training requirements and encouraging volunteers to attend training.**

**9.3 House Fire**

David Edwards discussed the issues that have been raised from the house fire at Graham Jones property. Paperwork was incorrectly completed which has resulted in discrepancies from the report.

David Edwards reminded FCO's that paperwork needs to be completed accurately and all reports need to be submitted.

Peter Thurkle has created a booklet with FormA1 for FCO's to complete and advised members that any property fire / structural fire needs to be reported to the Police.

Cr Carolyn Daniel reiterated that police should be called at fires especially structural fires as the outcome of the report has affected the owner and family of the property through insurance and Department of Immigration.

John Iffla suggested FCO's take photos during and after a fire to include in their reports.

Malcolm Turner queried if a harvest and movement ban was in place as a neighbouring farm continued harvesting whilst the fire was still burning.

David Edwards advised there was no harvest ban on at the time and the farmer was not required to stop harvesting.



#### 9.4 Signage

John Iffla queried Peter Thurkle on the progress of new fire signs to be displayed in Bremer following the last general meeting.

Peter Thurkle provided some designs on signage displayed in neighbouring Shires that he has been looking into to.

John Iffla would like a sign noting restricted burning period (permits required) and fire restriction applies signs. The fire signs within the Shire need to be upgraded.

Brent Bailey advised he would take the feedback to Council for consideration in the 13/14 draft budget.

#### 9.5 Campfires within the Shire

Peter Thurkle raised the issue of no campfire restrictions in place within the Shire. Murray Hatton recommended that the Advisory need to provide Council with recommendations for campfires within the Shire.

Brent Bailey asked Murray Hatton to provide the Shire with information and stats on the amount of fires that have been caused by campfires within the Shire of Jerramungup. This can then be discussed at the next meeting.

**Action: John Iffla to work with Peter Thurkle and provide draft signage to David Edwards and the Shire for comment. Peter Thurkle to advise Brent Bailey on the costs associated for the signage.**

#### 9.6 Restricted Period

Trevor Ross discussed lifting the restricted period. The Committee resolved to leave the restricted burn time.

#### 9.7 Needilup Shed / Boxwood Fire Shed

Peter Thurkle advised that the progress on the shed has come to a halt at the moment due to the building requirements and further costs associated with the project.

Charmaine Solomon informed the Committee that the building structure recommended by DFES does not comply with fire and disability access requirements so an Engineer needs to be sourced.

Quotes have been obtained from building engineers to redesign the shed to meet building requirements.

Peter Thurkle advised he will be contacting Peter Raykos (DFES) to ask for an extension on the project.

John Iffla advised that Wes Thomas will remain as a FCO for the Bremer Bay Brigade.

David Edwards ended the meeting by thanking Wes Thomas on behalf of all the Volunteers for his work, advice, dedication and support over the years as Chief Bush Fire Control Officer.

**10. CLOSURE**

Meeting closed at 9.40pm.



## **DFES COUNTRY OPERATIONS REPORT TO SHIRE OF JERRAMUNGUP BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2013.**

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Fellow Fire Fighters,

The following report has been compiled in order to draw Brigade members' attention to some issues which may be of interest.

### **TRAINING.**

#### **Volunteer Fire Fighter Training**

I am currently trying to construct my training calendar for the spring 2013. Should you require any training or require training tailored to a specific Brigade need, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I will refer to the Black Cat Creek fire later in this report and, I believe, the outcome of this fire will have training implications for Shires right across the state.

### **COMMUNITY FIRE SAFETY.**

#### **Appointment of Community Engagement Officer**

The DFES Great Southern Region has recently employed a Community Engagement Officer. Ms Sarah Matthews has been appointed to the position and is keen to assist the Shire and its Bush Fire Brigades with any community safety issues.

Sarah is working with a group in Point Henry to establish a Bush Fire Ready program in the area.

### **OPERATIONS**

#### **BLACK CAT CREEK FIRE**

As you are no doubt aware, DEC fire fighter Wendy Bearfoot was tragically killed as a result of injuries sustained at the Black Cat Creek fire in October 2012.

The resulting series of reviews and investigations are still ongoing, however, there are some outcomes resulting from the fire that are likely to have implications across the state.

Worksafe have issued Improvement Notices on both the City of Albany and DEC.

A summary of the issues addressed in these notices covers the following items:

#### **Training:**

- AIIMS – Requiring all employees and volunteers who perform senior roles at incidents are to be appropriately trained in AIIMS.
- Entrapment/Burn Over – Provide entrapment/burn over training to staff and volunteers.
- Scenario Based Training – For entrapment/burn over.
- Fire Blankets - Training in the correct use of Fire Blankets.
- Procedures - Ensure Staff and Volunteers are trained in procedures relevant to the duties they perform at an incident.
- Spot Fire Weather Forecasts - Ensure Staff and Volunteers are trained and qualified to interpret and act upon critical information contained within a Spot Fire Weather Forecast.

#### **Provision of Plant:**

- Requirement to provide appropriate plant such as fire truck window heat shields.

#### **Provision of PPE:**

- Fire Blankets – Provide PPE such as Fire Blankets and appropriate storage of same to allow ready access in an emergency situation such as a burn over.

#### **Systems of Work:**

- Notification of Wind Change - Ensure safe working systems are in place so that staff and volunteers who perform senior roles, interpret, identify and act upon critical information received in order to mitigate or eliminate hazards on the fire ground.

### **DFES CIRCULARS**

From time to time DFES issues Circulars which have relevance to Bush Fire Brigades. Attached are copies of some selected circulars which I consider have relevance to you and your Brigade members. The attached Circulars cover issues including:

- Burnover Crew Protection and Burnover Blankets
- Review of the Emergency Services Acts
- Spot Forecasts

### **Fire Season**

Whilst this fire season has been comparatively quiet in our Region, the Swamp Road Fire late last year tested the Shire's response capacity.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Shire, its brigade network and Wes Thomas, in particular, for the professional manner in which this fire was fought.

Please keep yourselves safe and thank you for your continuing efforts.

Regards,

MURRAY HATTON  
AREA MANAGER – ALBANY CENTRAL  
GREAT SOUTHERN REGION

Att.



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**OPERATIONAL CIRCULAR 91/2012**  
File: 00479

**NOVEMBER 2012**

**CREW AND APPLIANCE PROTECTION AT BUSHFIRES – BURNOVER PROCEDURES – PHASE 1**

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It is critical that operational crews avoid dangerous situations whilst firefighting, however, situations may arise where crews could be overtaken by a bushfire. DFES has, therefore, developed the attached procedures.

The Burnover Drill is derived from DFES's Entrapment at Bushfires SOP 3.5.11 and best practice procedures from other agencies around the country. Because of the difference in appliances across the state it is important the drill is customised to fit individual brigade appliances.

These procedures are to be incorporated into, and practiced as part of, pre-season skills maintenance training, periodically during the bushfire season and as part of pre-deployment preparations for strike teams.

"Crew and Appliance protection at Bush Fires and Drill – How to avoid or survive a burnover" pamphlet is available through both the DFES extranet (Ops Resources/Station Resources/DFES Burnover Drill) and DFES regional offices. A "Burnover Survival Actions" dashboard sticker can be ordered through DFES stores. This printed material assists with the education of crews in the best practise techniques and is to be read in conjunction with the Entrapment at Bushfire SOP.

Although all crew members will be dressed in PPC purpose designed to protect them against radiant heat, our procedures do prescribe the use of burn over blankets in accordance with best practice. There will be phased implementation of burnover protection resources to ensure safety during bushfire operations).

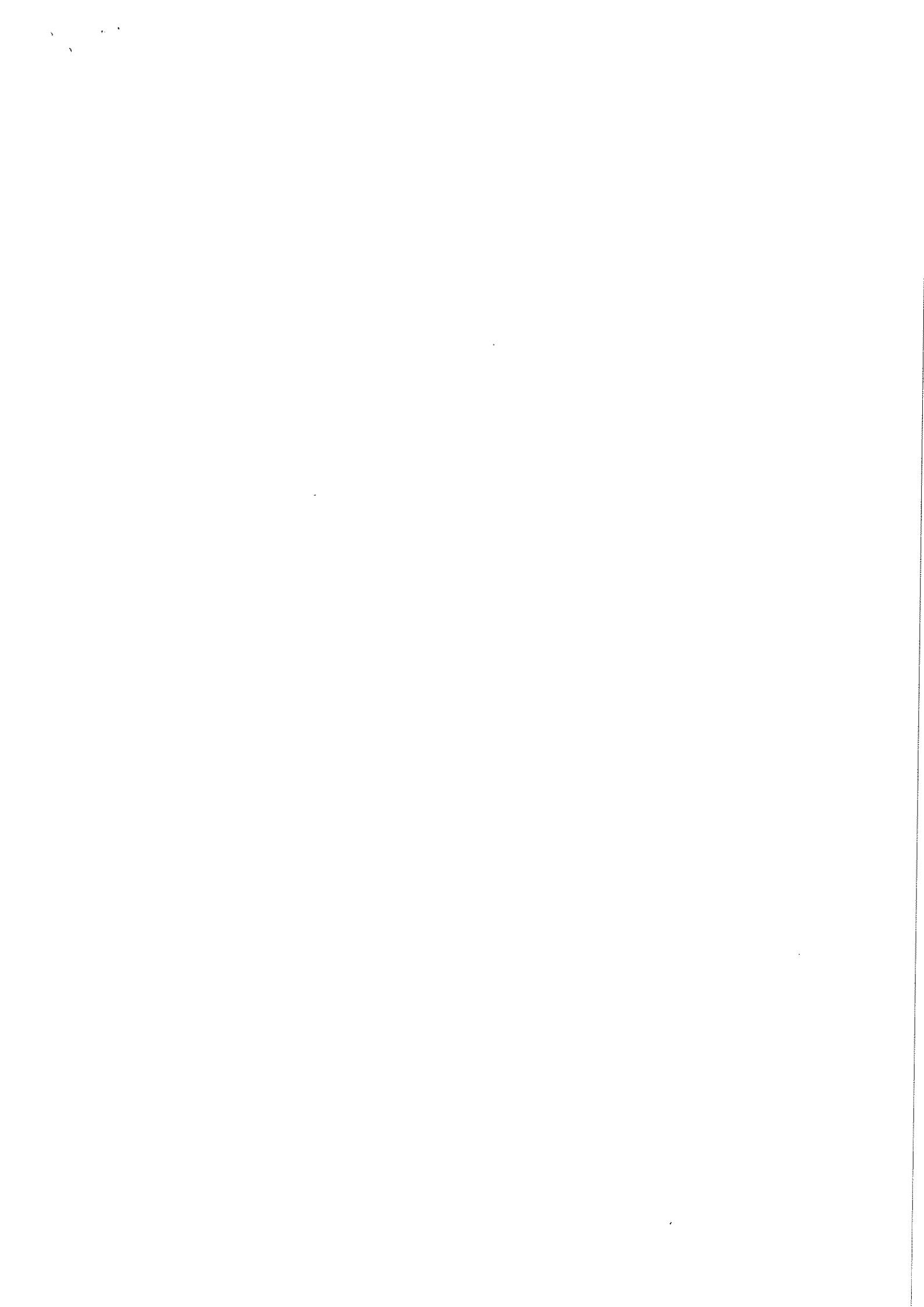
Phase 1 – burnover procedures and training resources (To be supplied in November 2012)

Phase 2 – Phase 2 – provision of burn over blankets as soon as stocks become available (Anticipated to be December 2012)

Phase 3 – installation of engineered solutions on fire appliances (New Tankers built in 2013)

Personal Protective Clothing offers thermal protection for firefighters and in conjunction with SOP 3.5.11 Entrapment at Bushfires, it will provide adequate protection until Phase 2 – burn over blankets can be issued.

**LLOYD BAILEY AFSM**  
**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OPERATIONS**





**OPERATIONAL CIRCULAR 97/2012**  
**File: 00479**

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**NOVEMBER 2012**

**BURNOVER CREW PROTECTION (PHASE 2 AND 3)**

DFES has several projects underway to review and increase the level of protection for firefighters and vehicles that may be compromised in a burnover situation.

These projects are part of a holistic strategy that will deliver both short and long term solutions and include:

**Burnover Blankets:**

A tender process is underway which will provide for the procurement and installation of burnover blankets for all CFRS, VFRS, BFS, VES, VFS and SES 4 x 4 vehicles that are likely to be involved in a bush firefighting role, with allocation as follows;

Vehicle Type	Blanket Quantity
Light Tanker	2
District/Area Officer	2
SES (Ground Support)	2
1.4 - 4.4 Single Cab	3
1.4 - 4.4 Crew Cab	6
UT & HSR Single Cab	3
UT & HSR Crew Cab	6

The provision of burn over blankets is viewed as the first phase of increasing the level protection for firefighters. This strategy is supported through a training module on how to use the burnover blankets. The training module will be released shortly and will be the subject of a separate circular.

Due to the time involved to undertake a full tender process from evaluation/testing to supply of a large quantity of burnover blankets the role out is not expected to commence until March 2013.

If brigades wish to purchase additional burn over blankets prior to this they are encouraged to ensure that the blanket is fit for purpose. As there is no national or international specification for burnover blankets DFES has developed specifications based on national and international research. The specification for the DFES burnover blankets is available for all brigades at Ops Resources/Equipment Resources/[DFES BURNOVER BLANKETS specifications](#).

The use of Fire Blankets designed to meet AS/NZS 3504:2006 for the suppression of small oil based cooking fires is discouraged as they do not afford the appropriate level of radiant heat protection.

#### **Burn over Risk Assessment:**

DFES has gone to tender to engage the services of an experienced safety professional skilled in safety risk assessment processes relating to fire safety risks to conduct and document a formal risk assessment of fire appliances used within operational response activities. The project relates to DFES fire appliances and includes all medium and heavy duty tankers (Rural, Urban and Broad Acre) and Light Tankers. The scope will cover;

- Review of current vehicles in service within the WA firefighting community,
- A full review of research documentation and industry trends both nationally and internationally including consultation with other fire agencies this will also cover deluge systems, fire blankets, heat curtains and in cab breathing systems,
- Conduct Workshops with a wide selection of stakeholders from all areas of WA to review, operational conditions, vehicles, procedures and end user requirements.

The outcome of this risk assessment in conjunction with other research will guide DFES's strategies moving forward.

#### **Current Bush Firefighting Builds:**

All new 4 x 4 bush firefighting vehicles under build are being fitted with in cab radiant heat curtains and burnover blankets; currently 10 vehicles have been outfitted. These vehicles will be fitted with the burnover blankets post tender to ensure continuity of product. A training module is currently under development to support this initiative.

If you require any further information please contact Mr Graham Milton 9395 9576

**STEVE FEWSTER  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CAPABILITY**





File No: 00478  
12 November 2012

**DFES General Circular No: 200/2012**

## **REVIEW OF THE EMERGENCY SERVICES ACTS**

I am pleased to announce the commencement of the Department's *Review of the Emergency Services Acts* project. The aim of this project is to comprehensively review and consolidate the *Fire Brigades Act 1942*, the *Bush Fires Act 1954* and the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998*.

Our organisation is well on its way along the pathway of dynamic change. As our structure and culture have evolved to enhance frontline operations it is fitting that we embark on developing modern legislation which reflects how we do business and supports us operationally.

The legislation review project team has been established to facilitate extensive consultation required to develop a new Emergency Services Act, but the project team needs the help of the staff and volunteers who operate under the legislation to advise on how we can make the new legislation work for us. By consulting extensively we can draw on the knowledge and experiences of staff and volunteers from across the services and for all aspects of our business.

To kick start the project a Legislation Review webpage has been launched. This will be a central information point open to all staff and volunteers. To get to the webpage [click here](#) or follow the button link "Legislation Review" on the front page of the Volunteer Portal and the DFES Intranet. I encourage you all to visit the page and submit your comments via the online comment form.

The first few months of the project is an information gathering stage where we want you to tell us your experiences with the current legislation and what the future legislation should look like to best support you in your service field. Initial consultation has already commenced with the Assistant Commissioners and Directors. The project team will be approaching business unit managers, volunteers and stakeholders shortly, and as the project continues a consultation roadshow will commence where staff, volunteers and other relevant stakeholders will be welcome to attend information forums in their regions.

This project is separate to the volunteer support initiative recently announced by the Minister for Emergency Services. That initiative has a much shorter timeline for implementation and a much narrower scope; however it is intended that those changes will be reflected in the new legislation when it is completed.



# EMERGENCY SERVICES LEGISLATION REVIEW

*Share your thoughts*

The aim of the legislation review is to consolidate the current emergency services legislation and make it easier to use. The review is separate to the volunteer support initiative dealing with volunteer insurance, prescribed illness and the volunteer welfare fund.

Use this form to share your thoughts on our current legislation: the *Fire Brigades Act 1942*, the *Bush Fires Act 1954* and the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998*. We will use the issues and comments you share to help develop options to improve the new legislation.

Name:

Organisation / Brigade/ Group / Unit:

Phone number:

Email:

Address:

Preferred method of contact if the project team wish to discuss your comments further:

Phone  
 Email  
 Mail

What issues are there with the current Acts and Regulations?

What would you like to see kept?

What do you think is missing?

General comments or issues:

For hand written comments, please attach additional paper if required and post to:

DFES LEGISLATION REVIEW  
PO BOX P1174  
PERTH WA 6844

For electronic copies of this form please email [legislation@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:legislation@dfes.wa.gov.au) or look for our button on the DFES Volunteers Portal.





**OPERATIONAL CIRCULAR 13/2013**  
**File: 00479**

**FEBRUARY 2013**

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**SPOT FIRE WEATHER FORECASTS – CRITICAL INFORMATION**

"Spot Fire Weather Forecasts" are site-specific forecasts issued in response to a request from a fire agency. The Bureau of Meteorology treats Spot Fire Weather Forecasts for ongoing incidents with a very high priority. They may be requested to assist with tactical decision making in operations for either an uncontrolled fire or controlled burn. Spot forecasts are only provided to designated fire agencies and are only provided for fire and HAZMAT operations.

The weather forecast and significant wind change and uncertainties associated with the forecast section is extremely important as it may contain significant weather and significant wind changes which may not appear in the table of forecast weather elements. This section may also articulate alternative weather scenarios in critical fire weather situations. As an example:

**Weather Forecast starting 0200 hours Tuesday 12 February 2013**

Some cloud though rain unlikely during the morning. The chance of thunderstorms Tuesday afternoon.

**Significant wind changes and uncertainties associated with the forecast**

Sea breeze expected in area around 2 pm.

12 Hour Forecast									
Curing value (%): 100									
Local Time	Temp (C)	Dewpt (C)	RH (%)	10m Wind (km/h)			1000m AGL Wind (km/h)		GFDI
				Dir	Speed	Gust	Dir	Speed	
0200	28	7	27	E	15	20	ENE	30	8
0500	26	7	30	E	20	30	NE	30	11
0800	29	6	23	NE	25	40	NE	30	20
1100	37	5	14	NE	15	25	NE	20	15
1400	41	5	11	W	10	15	SE	10	12

AGL - Above Ground Level, RH - Relative Humidity, Dir - Direction, Dewpt - Dew Point

All "**Significant wind changes and uncertainties associated with the forecast**" information issued through the Spot Fire Weather Forecasts are to be:

- repeated back to Comcen/RDC/SHOO/sender to indicate that the receiver understands and acknowledges the information;
- recorded in incident diaries, and where applicable Web EOC;
- confirmed to all members of the IMT;
- if within the timeframe of the current shift, communicated through a RED FLAG WARNING to all personnel on the operational incident ground, or if it falls within the next shift period, included in shift briefings pre field deployment.

Observed weather conditions, including location, time, temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and direction and weather, from the fire site will improve the quality of the forecast. If a nearby automatic weather station is deemed to represent conditions at the fire site then it will be included on the Spot Fire Weather Forecasts, but the forecast conditions are always for the fire site itself and not the observation location (unless the observation is from the fire site).

Spot Fire Weather Forecasts can be requested by either using the Spot Fire Forecast Request Form (available on the DFES Registered Users page) or through COMCEN. Before requesting a spot forecast check whether one already exists for a nearby location.

Short term Spot Fire Weather Forecasts are closely monitored by forecasters to ensure their accuracy, so there is no need for an update after three (3) or so hours (unless the forecast is at variance with observed conditions). Forecasters will issue an update (without being requested to) if they determine that observed or expected conditions are significantly different from the forecast. If the forecast needs to be extended beyond its validity time, a request can be made through the methods outlined above 3 to 6 hours before the end of the validity period.

For further details please refer to Guidelines for requesting Spot Forecasts (which can be found on the registered users web page) or speak to the State Operations Centre Meteorologist (SOCMET) on 9395 9637.

**LLOYD BAILEY** AFSM  
**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OPERATIONS**



IDW31600  
Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology  
Western Australia

### Spot Fire Weather Forecast for Fitzroy Crossing

Issued at 8:27 am WST on Tuesday 16 April 2013.

Incident Type: Prescribed burn	Website Form No: 013
Spot Forecast Location: Fitzroy Crossing	Request No: 1
Latitude/Longitude: -18.11 125.34	Fax Number: 91936744
Elevation (metres ASL): ##	Contact Ph: 0407779100
Fuel Type: Not required	Contact Name: Lee Vallance

### Weather Forecast starting 0900 hours Tuesday 16 April 2013

Sunny.

### Significant wind changes and uncertainties associated with the forecast

Trough in the vicinity. Winds may be variable to 10km/h at times.

24 Hour Forecast									
Curing value (%): 40									
Local Time	Temp (C)	Dewpt (C)	RH (%)	10m Wind (km/h)			1000m AGL Wind (km/h)		GFDI
				Dir	Speed	Gust	Dir	Speed	
0900	30	15	40	NNW	10	15	ENE	5	0
1200	37	8	17	NE	10	15	NNE	5	0
1500	37	5	14	E	10	15	ESE	5	0
1800	32	5	18	ESE	10	15	SE	10	0
2100	27	9	32	E	10	15	ESE	15	0
0000	24	12	47	NNE	10	15	ENE	15	0
0300	22	12	53	NNW	10	15	E	15	0
0600	22	14	60	NNE	10	15	ENE	15	0
0900	31	15	38	NNW	15	25	NNE	15	0

AGL - Above Ground Level, RH - Relative Humidity, Dir - Direction, Dewpt - Dew Point

WEATHER OBSERVATIONS for / /							Time:	Name:
Temp/RH Instrument:			Wind Instrument:			Height of wind observation:		
Local Time	Temp (C)	Dewpt (C)	RH (%)	Wind (km/h)			Weather	Location
				Dir	Speed	Gust		

## Community Emergency Service Manager

### BFAC Report Monday 16-4-2013

First and foremost I wish to thank all members of the Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade's, Volunteer Emergency Services combined, Shire of Jerramungup Staff, and all family members for their continuing support and commitment over this year's fire season. The season I believe has been an overall mild one, but with one larger incident, but also sad with the loss of important members from within both career services and volunteers, but certainly our thoughts are with their families.

The Shire of Jerramungup fire services has developing this year and I am proud to be a small party to this development, but we must continue to try and improve with the advancement in all new legislative and policy organisational requirements (Please Comment to this paperwork when sent out), they cannot be overlooked and should provide some clear guidelines in the future for operation policy.

I say the above because it is not How or Where but more a case When, these requirements will be implemented at all levels.

#### Overview

My office is within the shire office.

Can all concerns relevant to administration of bush fire brigades please be addressed to myself to save time confusion and unwarranted unrest. For information my weekly work schedule consists of two/ three days alternatively both shires as well as attendance at meetings out of area.

- Provided public awareness, resilience advice and some acceptance of ownership to existing and possible risks, hazards within the community in our areas through one on one visits, through periodical publications in local papers, provided DFES publications of (Prepare Act, Survive & all other hand outs) Community Engagement. I to suggest conducting two combined agencies Stop & Go information opportunities in near future where possible.
- My Brigade Training has been minimal, due to my Cert IV qualification, but require assessment by Albany to upgrade, the inability to successfully achieve participation to training by volunteers and auspicious coordination of such has been an issue, a training schedule for requirements at the shire should be programmed and discussed tonight for confirmation of dates July/August/ Sept. Training as a whole is under review and certainly past RPL and experience should be considered with evidence to show completion of such.
- Progression has in relation to introduction of brigade structure been slower than I would like or are accustomed to, but is constantly developing slowly which I must say I appreciate and a credit to brigades in LG areas. We are in process of still reviewing existing arrangements and are developing relevant ones i.e., Local or Support documents, Officers Roles & Responsibilities if accepted.
- Working on ESL allocations and acquittals of Shire, and the process recording ESL documentation which will be of benefit for local government and DFES. A meeting to discuss your Brigade budgets will be scheduled around September /October.
- Attended some brigades meetings other areas when meetings occur.
- At this time I am continuing to work with Planning Officer and DFES to develop Local Planning and Development Plans (in utilizing FESA guidelines) for LG to adopt. I will

continue to be working closely with planning officer to Shire. And also attend schedule meetings to assist where possible to advise local planning and development.

- We need to use the new AIMMS documentation, the acceptance of which will be ongoing at our local level undoubtedly for a while. But as the paperwork is utilized and observed I believe an appreciation will be forthcoming.
- Development Projects - there is three projects being processed to construction very soon, the Boxwood and Needilup Fire Station, plus allocation of land towards Jacup Fire station which has local volunteers eager to start developing their facilities. Funded by DFES ESL capital grants, and Shire of Jerramungup fire station site work funded ( Boxwood Hill & Needilup).
- Emergency Water Supplies: At Bremer Bay airport is being looked at with some funds established and managed by shire though development
- Fire prevention planning - Ongoing LG works ;Require written planning of majority of such council vested reserves to this stage
- Fire Plans are being developed for Point Henry by consultant at this time and consultation will occur with all stakeholder as this progresses. Some development has commenced on new strategic breaks on Point Henry and the FMP will be adjusted to reflect such works.
- Bush Fire Brigade fire appliance fleet- Service schedule has been developed around FESA vehicle servicing and has been completed this year. Records maintained by both contractor and Shire.
- Attend incidents within the shires or neighbouring shires- Liaison at incidents Attend as required or requested this has developed over season as incidents are identified and receive notification  
Registered for 000 call out - Currently monitored turnouts continuously 24/7.  
Development of use of fire management good most areas,  
Brigade development of Formal documentation still needs consideration.

Once Again,

*Thanks & Best Regards*

**Community Emergency Service Manager ( GREAT SOUTHERN)**

**Peter Thurkle**

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**The CESM position is proudly supported and is jointly sponsored by the Shires of Jerramungup /Ravensthorpe and DFES**