

SHIRE OF JERRAMUNGUP

Bushfire Advisory Committee

MINUTES

A General Meeting of the Jerramungup Bush Fire Advisory Committee held on Tuesday 23rd September 2014 in the Council Chambers, Jerramungup, commencing at 7:35pm.

1. OPENING

The Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Mr David Edwards declared the meeting open at 7.35pm.

2. PRESENT

Mr David Edwards	Chief Fire Control Officer
Mr Trevor Ross	Deputy Chief Fire Control Officer
Mr Alex Jones	Deputy Chief Fire Control Officer
Mr Malcolm Turner	Needilup Brigade
Mr Darrell Crowley	Gairdner Brigade
Mr Anthony Armstrong	OIC Jerramungup VES
Mr Stacey Francis	OIC Bremer Bay VES
Mr Wes Thomas	Bremer Bay Brigade
Mr Peter Masters	DPaW
Mr Peter May	DPaW
Cr Bill Bailey	Council Representative
Mr Bill Parker	CEO – Shire of Jerramungup
Mr Phil Wishart	Boxwood Brigade
Mr Kim Parsons	VES Jerramungup
Mrs Charmaine Solomon	Shire of Jerramungup

3. APOLOGIES

Mr Damian Buswell	DFES
Mr Stephen Wadsworth	Bremer Bay Brigade
Mr Vince Hilder	DPaW
Cr Rex Parsons	Shire Representative
Mr Kalan Bailey	Jacup Brigade
Mr Rohan Murdoch	Boxwood Brigade
Mr Quentin Brown	Needilup Brigade
Mr Rob Wright	Boxwood Brigade
Mr Mark Tapscott	Needilup Brigade

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 Jerramungup Bush Fire Advisory Committee Annual General Meeting held 15th April 2014.

Moved: Anthony Armstrong
Seconded: Cr Bill Bailey

That the Minutes of the Jerramungup Bushfire Advisory Committee AGM held on 15th April 2014 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Carried

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

5.1 Training for Volunteers

At recent Bushfire Advisory Committee Meetings, minimum training standards were discussed which has resulted in a review being undertaken.

Various concerns have been expressed in relation to older brigade members, the implementation time frame and the availability of training personnel.

Feedback received suggests that older brigade members are very resistant to undertake the training. The reasons for this resistance are varied and inconclusive. For this reason it is suggested that brigade members over 60 years of age are exempt from the training requirements. This was supported by attendees.

In relation to the proposed timeframe of implementation, it has become apparent that training all volunteers is a time consuming task that will take a number of years. This is compounded by a current shortage of trainers at a State Government level.

For these reasons, it is recommended that the training requirement in order to attend the fire ground is applied from the 2017/18 fire season. This was supported by all attendees.

Council adopted at the August 2014 Ordinary Meeting the amended Human Resources Operational Policy in relation to training requirements for volunteer fire brigade members. A table of the minimum training requirements is listed below.

Fire Training Minimum Standards

To ensure the health and safety of employees and volunteers who conduct fire operations for the Shire of Jerramungup, the following minimum training competencies apply to attend the fire ground from the 2017/18 fire season;

Position	Induction	Introduction to Fire Fighting	Bush Fire Fighting	Fire Control Officer	AIIMS
Volunteer Brigade Members	✓	✓	✓		
Volunteer Brigade Members over 60 years of age					
Shire of Jerramungup Employees	✓	✓	✓		
Fire Control Officers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chief and Deputy Chief Fire Control Officer	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

The Committee raised concerns over seasonal employees and the minimum training requirements for this group. Many arrive only a few days before harvest and a formal training session in fire awareness is not possible.

Damien Buswell, Area Officer for DFES provided the following advice in his report;

“There has been continued reports from most Shires regarding employees of farmers becoming exposed and involved in the suppression of fires on their properties. Inexperience of any employee in fire related matters is an issue and employees who have English as a second language are especially at risk.

If you get the opportunity, it may be beneficial, to remind farmer employers that it is their responsibility under The Occupational Health and Safety Act, to ensure that the appropriate Training, Education, Equipment and assistance is given to those employees to conduct all parts of their designated job, safely.

In the event of any workplace related accident, Worksafe will be involved in investigating and as part of that investigation look at all aspects of employee work engagement issues, as part of the overall accident investigation. If your LG decides to run information sessions, both Employer and the Employee attendance is important and should be in the presence of a responsible member of your bush fire network, either the CBFCO, DCBFCO and FCO’s”.

The Committee agreed that it was the employers (farmer) responsibility to train/induct their seasonal workers on all facets of the business including fire.

If a seasonal worker was not skilled in this area, they should not attend the fire ground.

The committee requested that all brigades take this information back to their members.

5.2 Needilup Fire Shed

Needilup Brigade have reviewed their requirements for a fire shed and have decided on a smaller two bay shed minus toilet and shower facilities. Request for quotes have been prepared and will be emailed out to perspective builders this week.

Boxwood Brigade have also agreed to a similar shed.

5.3 Radio

David Edwards advised brigade members of the radio repairs that will be carried out by Esperance Communications.

David Edwards requested a radio check on Friday 26th September at 7.15am.

David Edwards advised scheds will commence first roll call on 1st October and will be 3 days a week.

David Edwards will email out scheds sheets and permit registers.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was noted, Officer in Charge Appointment Mr Stacey Francis OIC Bremer Bay VES.

7. REPORTS

7.1 DPaW Report

Separate report attached to the minutes.

7.2 DFES Report

Separate report attached including seven circulars attached to the minutes.

7.3 Chief Bushfire Control Officer Report

First of all welcome back for another bushfire season, it only seems like yesterday we stopped doing roll calls and here we are ready to start again. As nothing much has happened since my report at the AGM I would like to concentrate my report on the coming season. Based on the season and rain the current grass and fuel levels are going to be quite high which potentially poses us a big risk. With that in mind please make sure all your volunteers have their protective gear and if they come to a fire they use it.

All the trucks should have been serviced or are about to be, and I would appreciate it if you keep me posted as to where they are situated over the summer.

The Jacup emergency water supply is now up and running, all we need is a bit more water in the dam. There is a 2" and 3" outlet on the tank and hopefully we can base the fast fill unit at the tank.

The Shire keep a register of all fire permits written, and for that reason if you are running the sched for the week and if you should get permits please write them down and please fax through to the Shire each day you get a recording. The public are far more vigilant these days so we need to have the records to check on.

The 2015 restricted burning period promises to have its challenges, I believe we will see even more stubble row burning to contend with and I think when the time comes we will have to access conditions and put the appropriate restriction in place as we did this year. I think because we were prepared to make those decisions last year meant we didn't have the problems other Shires experienced.

Last Sunday (in the Albany Shire) was a good reminder to people who are burning tree heaps or grass to keep an eye on the approaching weather conditions and burn appropriately, or at least attend them when conditions are going to be bad. I think it is important to discuss with people wanting permits for burning heaps they are mindful of how long they can continue burning underground.

All in all I think our Shire has a great bushfire network and I look forward to working closely with you all this season.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 PPE / Overhead standpipes

David Edwards has suggested purchasing 2 overhead standpipes for the Needilup and Jacup Brigades.

Moved: Phil Wishart

Seconded: Wes Thomas

Shire to purchase 2 overhead standpipes for the Needilup and Jacup Bushfire Brigades.

Carried

Note: The remaining funds to be used to purchase PPE.

8.2 Signage – Restricted Burning Period

Malcolm Turner informed the Committee that the Needilup Hall is listed as a free camp site and camp fires in the summer period can be problem.

Malcolm Turner queried if a sign could be erected advising of the restricted burning season.

David Edwards advised there are conflicting signs located in the Shire about the restricted/prohibited season and he is looking at a simpler sign, ie fire restrictions apply please contact the Shire.

David Edwards to email Bill Parker the wording and design to be placed on the signs.

Bill Parker will arrange to pull the old ones down and put on the new format.

8.3 Boxwood Brigade

Phil Wishart queried if boots could be purchased and kept in the fire truck for volunteers who do not have adequate footwear. The Committee agreed that the boots were not necessary; volunteers have the responsibility to wear appropriate footwear when attending fires.

Phil Wishart queried if a fire weather meter could be purchased for their FCO. Charmaine Solomon advised ESL only covers purchase of fire weather meters for the Chief and the two Deputies. Bill Parker will discuss with Brent Bailey an alternative options to purchase an additional metre for the Boxwood Brigade.

8.4 Jacup Dam Opening

Bill Parker invited Committee members to the opening of the Jacup Dam, invites will be sent out this week.

8.5 Bremer Bay VES

Stacey Francis OIC Bremer Bay VES advised the Committee that they have just taken ownership of a 3.4 urban tanker.

9. NEXT MEETING

To be advised.

10. CLOSURE

David Edwards declared the meeting closed at 8.30pm.



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Parks and Wildlife**
Regional and Fire Management Services, South Coast Region,
Albany District

Your ref: DPaW BFAC Report
Our ref: September 2014
Enquiries: Peter Masters
Phone: 98381967 0488919598
Email: peter.masters@dpaw.wa.gov.au

To Ms Charmaine Solomon, Shire of Jerramungup

Parks and Wildlife, Report, BFAC Jerramungup Shire, 23 September 2014

- ❖ 0 bushfire was reported within the Jerramungup Shire, on Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) managed estate.

Fire Management Services

- ❖ Spring 2014 program, prescriptions are nearing final approval process, for spring for the Albany District.
Some prescribed fire was initiated within ALB_004 Telegraph Track, Aircraft Burn FRNP 25580 ha, priority 1, with the rest of the burn to be carried over to autumn 2015.
- ❖ FRNP Fire Advisory Committee, meeting was held in Ravensthorpe on the 12TH of June.

Other DPaW operational work

- ❖ Summer bushfire FEA roster will commence late October, with the Albany Duty Officer on call 24/7, 98424500.
- ❖ The annual DPaW/BFB, fire training breakfast will take place in October at a venue and date yet to be determined.
- ❖ New winter 24/7 phone contact for DPaW Officer on 98424500, will continue, between fire seasons as PPOC and can be contacted on the DPaW Albany number 98424500.
- ❖ 2 Water Bomber aircraft based in Albany, will be on call over the ANZAC commemoration week, and then again from December onwards, if there are fire's within the Shire of Jerramungup aircraft requests can be made through DFES duty officer in Albany on 98455000.
- ❖ Helicopter dieback surveys of the FRNP, will be completed late spring
- ❖ Herbicide spraying of strategic fire breaks within the shire, to spray out mallee regrowth, etc has been completed for this season.
- ❖ The new FRNP Advisory Committee, met in August to discuss issues within the park at Bremer B.
- ❖ The next round of Arial Fox baiting will commence on the 25TH of September, and ground baiting is still ongoing with around 1,500 baits being laid each month by hand.
- ❖ Work is complete on the Point Ann redevelopment and the new coastal walk trails are open.
- ❖ All DPaW staff have been issued with the new fire uniforms, and is now the standard uniform all year round for all staff, except Rangers.
- ❖ Strategic slashing program should be completed by late September, with only some sections of Pabelup Drive needing completion.
- ❖ Building protection zones around the Jacup ranger's residence have been completed.
- ❖ All FRNP heavy duties have had the crew protection deluge systems fitted to the trucks.
- ❖ The Southern fire line between Hamersley Drive and Quiss road will be upgraded using a DPaW dozer form the Southern Region, this work will be completed by early October.
- ❖ Hygiene Road works Old Ongerup Road were commenced with initial drainage works completed.
- ❖ Twertup Filed Study Centre rebuilding program is continuing with the Spongolite blocks are due to be relayed late September.
- ❖ All DPaW staff have completed their preseason, fire briefings, training and fitness testing.

Staff Changes

- ❖ The new Dieback Ranger Peter may has commenced work, and has moved into the Gairdner rangers Residence, with his wife Sara and their 2 children. Peter has previously worked as park ranger with the Albany District, and is currently the Albany Overseer and has been seconded to this position, and has a broad bushfire experience.

Yours sincerely.

PMasters

Peter Masters
Senior Operations Officer
Parks and Wildlife, Ravensthorpe Work Centre
18 September 2014



DPaW Ravensthorpe Work Centre

PO Box 307, Ravensthorpe, Western Australia 6346

Phone: (08) [98381967] Mobile [0488919598] Fax (08) [98381965] Email: peter.masters@dpaw.wa.gov.au
www.dpaw.wa.gov.au



DFES OPERATIONS REPORT TO Shire of Jerramungup BUSH FIRE ADVISORY MEETING

Fellow Fire Fighters,

Unfortunately I have a prior arrangement that is unavoidable and as a consequence I cannot attend your BFAC meeting with you. I wished to catch up and meet you all personally and as the year progresses towards the fire season I will do so. As you are aware Murray Hatton has gone to work in Kununurra and for the interim period I will be filling this vacancy. Due to a number of other positions being vacant at this time my Superintendent (DFES Great Southern) will write to your Shire which will outline the person who will be filling this vacancy as a permanent arrangement in the very near future.

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

Western Power Infrastructure- Power Poles

There is a view from those involved in L.G's, Bush Fire Network and the general farming community of an increase in the number and frequency of power pole top fires or stubble fire started as a consequence of pole top fires, particularly associated with the new poles currently being installed in and around the region.

There is also anecdotal evidence to suggest a significant reason is the type of pole being installed.

In view of those concerns expressed by many in the region, this issue has been raised in a formal sense at both DOAC meetings in Narrogin on the 20/03/14 and Mt Barker 27/03/14.

As a consequence a letter has been draughted to the relevant agencies to respond to the questions being raised.

I am unaware of the progress of this so far, but the process is continuing and hopefully we may have some sort of response soon.

In the meantime it is prudent to remind all fire fighters working in anywhere to be vigilant and of ones surroundings and any potential risks particularly those presented by live power lines which may cross open paddocks or on road verges. Don't forget that if at an incident you have concerns about the risks with live power lines you can request that portion of the electric grid to be isolated by contacting DFES Communications on either: **1800 198 140** or via **000**.

Farm Employees and Liability

There has been continued reports from most shires regarding employees of farmers becoming exposed and involved in the suppression of fires on their properties.

Inexperience of any employee in fire related matters is an issues and employees who have English as a second language are especially at risk.

If you get the opportunity, It may be beneficial, to remind farmer employers that it is their responsibility under The Occupational Health and Safety Act, to ensure that the appropriate Training, Education, Equipping and assistance is given to those employees to conduct all parts of their designated job, safely.

In the event of any workplace related accident, Worksafe will be involved in investigating and as part of that investigation look at all aspects of employee work engagement issues, as part of the overall accident investigation.

If your LG decides to run information sessions, both Employer and the Employee attendance is important and should be in the presence of a responsible member of your bush fire network, either the CBFEO, DCBFEO and FEO's.

DFES can assist as well, however, DFES and your Local Government has a primary responsibility to Local Government and DFES volunteers first.

TRAINING.

Once again we are on the cusp of regional harvest and as a prelude to that the bush fire training in preparation to the fire season.

It is possible now getting to the stage where the opportunities for training are fast evaporating not in the least due to my schedule becoming fully booked out with other shires.

However if there is a need (and indeed want) for any training please determine what training is required and when contacted I can find any dates that suit I will endeavour to have this training completed.

Some of the training may prove to be a challenge to deliver however the types of training relevant to Local Government Bush Fire Brigades that we can deliver are:

- Burn Over Blanket: **should be a priority if not been already done by brigade members.**
- Introduction to Bush Fire Fighting
- Bush Fire Fighting
- AIMS Awareness
- FCO
- Pump Operation Refresher
- FCO Refresher
- WAERN Radio Operation Refresh
- Any additional training needs as identified by your Local Government.

There are a number of training opportunities available to whoever feels the need and I direct you to the DFES Great Southern Region Training Calendar as a ready reference.

Additionally if you or your shire feels the need I can organise some training specific to your needs as well, so please, just ask.

Fire Appliance Crew Protection Retro Fitout

The move towards retro fitout was always planned for our appliances however the events of the Black Cat Creek and the subsequent injuries and fatality put this then proposed program, into focus, and pushed it to the foreground.

This program is continuing across the state and will take time to complete due to the size and spread of the fire service fleet. As new appliances come online they will have met the requirement already.

The first phase of the fitting/Training of the Burn Over Blankets should now be complete.

The second phase of the program is about to start. At the time of writing this report it is unclear where and exactly when this will commence however will involve the lagging of fuel/air lines, fitting of blinds on the inside of cabs, and installation of protective sprays for use in a bunover event.

As more information comes to hand your LG will be informed.

INCIDENT REPORTING

I Would like to remind all FCO's, if possible attempt to complete a Fire Incident Report after all response to fires within the shire. DFES collects this information for statistics, tracking causes of fires, fire investigation and future planning of resource allocation and location. The main benefit for your shire is that when it comes to have more or new resources in your shire it makes the argument easier if we can quote incident numbers and frequency with proof of turn outs. Remember that all incidents no matter how small are turnouts and all count in this regard.

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:

- Circular 17-2014: Crew Havens on BFS Appliances
- Circular 16-2014: Screw Down Standpipes
- Circular 15-2014: 64mm BIC Failure
- Circular 14-2014 Front Tyre on 4x4 Appliances
- Circular 10/2014: Stowage of Burnover Blankets
- Circular 09-2014: WAERN Radio Easting/Northing
- Circular 05-2014 Fire Risk Underneath Fire Appliances

In the meantime I look forward to working with you all in the short term and possibly in to the longer term as well either operationally or in the training room and when looking towards this fire season wish the Jerrungup Brigades all the best and to remind all that safety of all the fire fighters is our first priority, so to all lets stay safe and look after one another.

Regards,

Damian Buswell
AREA MANAGER – Narrogin East
GREAT SOUTHERN REGION

