

**MINUTES OF THE JERRAMUNGUP BUSHFIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TUESDAY 27TH APRIL  
2010 COMMENCING AT 7:30PM.**

**1.0 OPENING**

The Chief Fire Control Officer Mr Wes Thomas declared the meeting open at 7:30pm.

**2.0 PRESENT**

Mr Wes Thomas	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Mr Trevor Ross	Jacup Brigade
Mr Stuart Bee	Jacup Brigade
Mr Malcolm Turner	Needilup Brigade
Mr Trevor Brown	Needilup Brigade
Mr Chris Cooke	Gairdner Brigade
Mr Anthony Thomas	Boxwood Brigade
Mr Rick Dorrell	Bremer Bay Brigade
Mr Murray Hatton	FESA
Mr Anthony Armstrong	Jerramungup FESA Unit
Mr David Edwards	Jerramungup FESA Unit
Mr Peter Van Schoubroeck	DEC
Cr Trevor Barrett	Council Representative
Mr Bill Parker	Shire of Jerramungup

**3.0 APOLOGIES**

Mr Keith Thomas	Jerramungup FESA Unit
Mr Phil Wishart	Boxwood Brigade
Mr Steve Tomasini	Bremer Bay Brigade

**4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES – 1st October 2009**

**Moved: Mr Anthony Armstrong**

**Seconded: Mr Dave Edwards**

**That the Minutes of the Bushfire Advisory Committee held on 1st October 2009 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.**

**CARRIED**

**5.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

**5.1 *Bush Fire Notice***

Mr Bill Parker discussed the year under review and specifically the introduction of a new fire notice. Mr Parker requested feedback in terms of the application of the notice and requested feedback or proposed changes.

The group highlighted that within previous notices burning over Easter was not permitted. Mr Parker will review the current notice taking into account the Easter concerns.

#### *5.2 Jacup Ranger*

Mr Anthony Armstrong provided an update in terms of the vacant Ranger position in Jacup. Mr Armstrong attended a meeting in February whereby it was discussed by DEC that the Jacup Ranger would be replaced prior to Christmas 2010.

#### *5.3 SFM Plantations*

Mr Trevor Ross questioned the outcome of the SFM application for exemption under the 2009/10 Fire Break Order. Mr Bill Parker outlined that an inspection of the subject properties was completed prior to the census date and that it was decided that exemptions were appropriate given the configuration and integration of the plantations into the farming landscape.

#### *5.4 Opening Restricted Burning Season*

Mr Dave Edwards indicated that some farmers had requested suspending the prohibited season earlier to allow for stubble row burning. Mr Bill Parker indicated that Council had delegated authority to both the Chief Fire Control Officer and Shire President to suspend either the prohibited or restricted burning periods and that certain conditions could be placed upon permits issued during this period.

**Moved: Mr Dave Edwards**

**Seconded: Mr Malcolm Turner**

**That the Jerramungup Bushfire Advisory Committee endorse the recommendation to introduce the early suspension of the prohibited burning period to allow for stubble row burning subject to permit controls being in place e.g. after 6pm.**

**CARRIED**

### **6.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

Nil

### **7.0 REPORTS**

#### *7.1 DEC Report*

Mr Peter Van Schoubroeck attended the meeting and provided an update from DEC's perspective. Mr Van Schoubroeck indicated that a new Ranger had been appointed in Ravensthorpe and that operational procedures had been developed for the Jacup Ranger Station from a fire fighting equipment perspective.

Mr Van Schoubroeck provided an update on the park visitation passes for fire volunteers. This was being coordinated through Albany. Mr Trevor Ross suggested a two year pass as in previous years 6 months had expired when the volunteers received their passes.

So that passes could be issued, Mr Bill Parker would collate a list of Jerramungup Brigade members for Mr Van Schoubroeck.

#### *7.2 FESA Report*

Mr Murray Hatton attended the meeting and provided an update from FESA's perspective. Mr Hatton indicated that local fire training was scheduled prior to the fire season and suggested that employers with overseas workers investigate sending their employees.

If there was sufficient interest Mr Hatton could hold a session in Jerramungup.

Mr Hatton indicated that hand held radios for Jerramungup would be delivered next week.

Mr Dave Edwards left the meeting at 7:50pm.

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

Mr Wes Thomas presented his report and outlined various fires during the period under review. Mr Thomas thanked the Brigades, volunteers, Shire of Jerramungup and his family for their support.

### **8.0 ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS**

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

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

Mr Bill Parker took the chair for the purposes of conducting the CFCO election and called for nominations for the position of Chief Bush Fire Control Officer.

Mr Anthony Armstrong and Mr Trevor Brown nominated Mr Wes Thomas.

Mr Wes Thomas accepted.

There being no further nominations, Mr Wes Thomas was elected to the position of Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for a one year term. Mr Wes Thomas assumed the chair and thanked the members for their support.

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

Mr Stuart Bee and Mr Malcolm Turner nominated Mr Trevor Ross, who accepted.

Mr Stuart Bee and Mr Malcolm Turner nominated Mr Trevor Brown, who accepted.

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

### *8.3 Chief Fire Weather Officer*

Mr Trevor Brown and Mr Rick Dorrell nominated Mr Wes Thomas, who accepted.

There being no further nominations, Mr Wes Thomas was declared elected.

### *8.4 Deputy Chief Fire Weather Officers*

Mr Trevor Brown and Mr Malcolm Turner nominated Mr Ray Trevaskis. There being no further nominations, Mr Ray Trevaskis was declared elected.

### *8.5 Brigade Fire Weather Officers*

It was noted that a number of brigades had not held their AGMs as yet and that they would put forward their nominations at a later date.

### *8.6 Chief Radio Officer*

It was agreed that the schedules would be run by each brigade on a weekly rotational basis.

As part of this process, FCO's will be able to authorise and validate permits. It was agreed that the condition that the Shire Office be notified before any burning commences be added to all permits issued.

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

It was resolved that the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and the two Deputy Chief Bush fire Control Officers assume the responsibility as authorised radio broadcast harvest ban officers.

### *8.9 Dual Fire Control Officers*

Gnowangerup/Needilup	Mr Trevor Brown
Jerramungup/Ravensthorpe	Mr John Mudie
Jerramungup/Kent	Mr Paul Hislop
Lake Grace/Jerramungup	Mr John Mudie
Boxwood/Albany	Mr Anthony Thomas
Boxwood/Gnowangerup	TBA

Mr Dave Edwards returned to the meeting at 8:10pm.

## **9.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

### *9.1 Western Power Fires on Private Property*

Mr Bill Parker discussed a recent fire on private property that was allegedly started by Western Power infrastructure. Mr Parker indicated that the land holder found it difficult to obtain information through the power utility. Mr Dave Edwards suggested that in such instances property owners should document as much information as possible.

Mr Murray Hatton indicated that qualified and experienced officers from FESA could assess such incidents.

**Moved: Mr Dave Edwards**

**Seconded: Mr Trevor Ross**

**That the Shire of Jerramungup writes to Western Power to ascertain the process from an investigative and insurance perspective when Western Power infrastructure causes a fire on private property.**

**CARRIED**

#### *9.2 Total Bans placed by FESA*

Mr Trevor Barrett expressed his concerns with regard to total fire bans given the size and diversity of the state. Mr Murray Hatton suggested that based upon political pressure, it was likely that total bans would be relaxed in future years. This relaxation could involve varying the calculations in ascertaining the daily fire index etc.

#### *9.3 Further relaxation – restricted burning period*

Mr Bill Parker indicated that the previously communicated relaxation to the restricted period expired on Monday 26 April 2010. It was discussed in detail and the group decided to apply further relaxations until the end of the restricted period.

#### *9.4 Distribution of information*

Mr Wes Thomas requested that the Shire circulate all minutes and agendas in electronic and hard copy.

#### *9.5 Lime Pit*

Mr Wes Thomas indicated that an exemption could be received this year from a company operating a lime pit. Mr Bill Parker suggested that this exemption would be assessed in a similar way to feedlots.

#### *9.6 Further Training*

Mr Trevor Ross suggested that a ladies fire awareness training session and FCO should be arranged in Jerramungup. Mr Murray Hatton indicated that he was available and that late September would be preferable.

Mr Bill Parker indicated that the Shire would liaise with FESA and advertise for expressions of interest for both sessions (ladies and FCO). If sufficient interest is generated, Mr Hatton will facilitate the training.

#### *9.7 Fire Units*

Mr Chris Cooke had received a suggestion from his local brigade that the fire notice should require individuals with large land holdings to have fire units with a greater capacity.

Mr Bill Parker indicated that similar requirements were in place for plantations. Mr Parker indicated that he would investigate if the requirements could be implemented.

*9.8 Fire Zones*

Mr Chris Cooke had been approached with regard to the fire zones and raised concerns that some farmers were inappropriately located within a zone. The group suggested that Mr Cooke liaise with his brigade and suggest an alternative fire zone for presentation to the October Meeting.

**10. CLOSURE**

Meeting closed at 9:10pm.