

SHIRE OF JERRAMUNGUP

BUSHFIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Annual General Meeting of the Jerramungup Bush Fire Advisory Committee held on Tuesday 15th April 2014 in the Council Chambers, Jerramungup, commencing at 7:30pm.

1. **OPENING**

The Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Mr David Edwards declared the meeting open at 7.30 pm.

2. **PRESENT**

Mr David Edwards	Chief Fire Control Officer
Mr Trevor Ross	Deputy Chief Fire Control Officer
Mr Malcolm Turner	Needilup Brigade
Mr Mark Tapscott	Needilup Brigade
Mr Darrell Crowley	Gairdner Brigade
Mr Alex Jones	Gairdner Brigade
Mr Steve Wadsworth	Bremer Bay Brigade
Mr Anthony Armstrong	Jerramungup VES
Mr Brad Bailey	Jacup Brigade
Mr Paul Hislop	Jerramungup Brigade
Mr Micheal Lester	Jacup Brigade
Mr Peter Masters	DPaW
Mr Grantly Morton	DPaW Jacup
Cr Bill Bailey	Council Representative
Mr Bill Parker	CEO – Shire of Jerramungup
Mr Peter Thurkle	CESM – Shire of Jerramungup
Mr Phil Wishart	Boxwood Brigade
Mr Murray Hatton	DFES
Mrs Carolyn Daniel	Needilup Brigade
Mr Kim Parsons	VES Jerramungup

3. **APOLOGIES**

Mr Vince Hilder	DPaW
Mrs Charmaine Solomon	Shire of Jerramungup
Mr Rohan Murdoch	Boxwood Brigade
Mr Quentin Brown	Needilup Brigade
Mr John Iffla	Bremer Bay VES

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Bushfire Advisory Committee meeting held on 14th October 2013 are confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Moved: Malcolm Turner

Seconded: Anthony Armstrong

That the Minutes of the Jerramungup Bushfire Advisory Committee meeting held on 14th October 2013 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Carried

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

5.1 Lease - 26956 South Coast Highway between the Shire of Jerramungup and Lawson Grains Pty Ltd

A lease agreement was presented to Council on 20th March 2013. Council resolved to enter into a lease agreement with Lawson Grains Limited for a portion of land comprising an area of 2500m² for a bushfire brigade shed.

The lease is still to be signed by Lawson's Grains Limited, due to a change in executive staff and a change of name from Lawson Grains Limited to Lawson Grains Pty Ltd. The lease has been amended and forwarded onto Lawson Grains Pty Ltd for signing.

5.2 Boxwood / Needilup Fire Shed

Bill Parker advised that the quotes received were well above expectations. Work will now commence on redefining the project scope to achieve a more financially sustainable outcome.

5.4 Training for Volunteers

It was resolved at the last Bushfire Advisory Committee held on the 14th October 2013 to introduce a basic level of competency for all volunteers prior to attending the fire ground. It is anticipated that this minimum level of competence would be applied from October 2015.

	Intro to Fire Fighting	Bush Fire Fighting	Fire Control Officer	AIMS
Brigade Volunteer Fire Fighter	✓	✓		

Active Member				
Fire Control Officers	✓	✓	✓	
Chief and Deputy Chief Fire Control Officers	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shire of Jerramungup employees	✓	✓		

Discussions were held by meeting members for the requirement of Casual workers within the Policy.

Murray Hatton provided an option of a one day course for seasonal farm workers “Into to Bushfire”.

Bill Parker will investigate accommodating seasonal workers into the policy.

5.5 John Street

Bill Parker informed the group of the work undertaken on the John Street site from a planning perspective as part of the town centre development. The Shire is now required to implement a Bushfire Risk Management Plan that will address this reserve specifically.

5.6 Green waste – Bremer Bay

The Shire will not be purchasing a tree mulcher in the near future however there will be an item presented to Council as part of the budget process to construct an improved area for the tree dump in Bremer Bay.

Bill Parker spoke of meetings held between Harry Louw, Peter Thurkle and John Iffla. An item will be presented to Council for budget consideration.

5.7 Bremer River Reserve

At the last meeting Alex Jones queried if the modified prescription burn could be used for the Bremer River Reserve.

Peter Thurkle advised this area consists multiple tenures and is not on a burn program.

Alex Jones made comment he will continue to push the issue.

5.8 Radio Service

Radios were arranged to be serviced following the last meeting.

Murray Hatton was asked if WAERN scheduled annual maintenance will go ahead.

**Moved: Steve Wadsworth / Seconded: Anthony Armstrong
That the first week in September be scheduled to complete all
radio works.**

Carried

David Edwards advised members that any radio maintenance issues must come directly to him.

5.9 Restrictions for Burn – Gooch and Reddington property (2014)

At the last meeting David Edwards informed the Committee that Eric Gooch and Ken Reddington will need to acquire a permit to burn their chained plantations.

David Edwards advised the Committee on meetings held with DFES, DCBFCO and CESM to develop a burn prescription for blue gum plantations due to proposed burning of chained tree areas.

David Edwards opened the floor for comment and discussion in relation to the proposed permit conditions. One suggested requirement on the Burn Prescription form was the signature of the issuer and permit holder.

5.10 Trainees attendance - burn Jerramungup North Road

Trainees were invited to attend a burn on Jerramungup North Road.

Anthony Armstrong provided no report however advised that the training was very well received.

5.11 Loading and Off Loading Site Fee

The fee for inspecting loading and offloading sites will be increased to \$50 in the 2014/15 financial year.

No further business required.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- Received 5th March 2014, Department Fire & Emergency Services – Re: Fires involving Western Power Infrastructure.

The Committee discussed and noted information.

A call out procedure is attached for emergencies involving Western Power Infrastructure, all brigades are required to distribute to their volunteers.

- Received 27th March 2014, WALGA Infopage, Harvest & Vehicle Movement Bans Reporting

No further business required.

- Received 9th April 2014, Department of Parks & Wildlife – Burning of road verges, Shire of Jerramungup Autumn 2014.

Peter Masters advised this burn has been dropped off the program due to issue of impact from public entry.

Moved: Anthony Armstrong / Seconded: Steve Wadsworth

That the correspondence be received.

Carried

7. REPORTS

7.1 DPaW Report

Parks and Wildlife, Report, BFAC Jerramungup Shire, 15 April 2014

- ❖ 1 bushfire was reported within the Jerramungup Shire, on Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) managed estate, ALB_17_Jacup_South, 7ha, cause lightning, suppression activities were assisted by Jerramungup BFB, 2 water bombers and Albany DPaW staff and 1 D8 dozer. The fire rehabilitation work has been completed, on the tracks that were established during bushfire suppression activities.
- ❖ DPaW staff has assisted with bushfires in the Esperance, and Albany Districts, and other locations within the Jerramungup Shire on PP.
- ❖ 21 fires in total for the Albany district so far in 2013-14 bushfire season.

Fire Management Services

- ❖ Autumn 2014 program, prescriptions are nearing final approval process, for autumn burns planned for the Jerramungup Shire.
ALB_009 UCL Doubtful Islands, 135 ha, priority 2. – **DROPPED OFF**
ALB_004 Telegraph Track, Aircraft Burn FRNP 25580 ha, priority 1
- ❖ FRNP Fire Advisory Committee, meeting was planned for the 27TH of March, at Jerramungup CRC, was cancelled due to clashing with the DOAC and will be rescheduled.

Other DPaW operational work

- ❖ Summer bushfire FEA roster will continue until late April with the Albany Duty Officer on call 24/7, 98424500.
- ❖ New winter 24/7 phone contact for DPaW Officer on 98424500 will commence between fire seasons as PPOC.
- ❖ 2 Water Bomber aircraft based in Albany have been used at Jerramungup and the FRNP this bushfire season.
- ❖ Helicopter dieback surveys of the FRNP will be completed late March.
- ❖ 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 February to discuss issues within the park.
- ❖ Aerial Cat/Fox baiting was completed early March and ground baiting is still ongoing.
- ❖ Work is complete on the Point Ann redevelopment.
- ❖ Coastal Walk trails are nearly complete and are planned to open in late April.
- ❖ New DPaW fire uniforms have been issued with some still on back order and are now the standard uniform all year round for all staff, except Rangers.
- ❖ Strategic slashing program should commence again late April, when the tractor is available and will include some areas within Point Henry.
- ❖ Hygiene Road works Old Ongerup Road.
- ❖ Twertup Filed Study Centre.

Staff Changes

- ❖ The new Dieback Ranger David Nash has commenced work
- ❖ Geoff Young has resigned as Dieback Ranger on the western side of the park and will finish early April; his position will be filled via a current selection process.

7.2 DFES Report

Murray Hatton advised there is an Emergency Services Act review which should be out in the next few days. The comment period closes at the end of July. Local Governments should have a copy.

Russell Gould has retired after approximately 42 years of service.

WAERN radios to continue as past.

Murray Hatton discussed pole top fire incidents – concern over what happened at a Nyabing fire which saw two injuries.

7.3 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Report

“I would like to thank everyone involved from the bushfires side of things for their support in my first year as chief bushfire control officer, especially Trevor and Alex you have helped make the job a lot easier. We have had a relatively low incident fire season and luckily for me most fires happened while I seem to be out of the district.

Considering how dry it has been and how much fuel load we have had after last season I’m sure you would all agree so far we have escaped any major incidents (touch wood) that will remain so for the remainder of the season.

The incidence of pole top fires in our district this year have been very low and if my memory serves me correctly the only one was on Bremer Bay road which we will have discussion about later in general business to do with Western Power. Our major fire problem last year was lightning but luckily this year a couple strikes at Jacup and one at Fitzy seem to of been the only ones which got bought under control very quickly. Thanks particularly to Harry Lilford for his efforts at Fitzy for putting most of the fire out with a branch.

The escaping of controlled fires have been a major problem in our neighbouring shires and luckily for us the problems elsewhere have occurred before we got majorly into our restricted season. A combination of seeing these fires get out of control and putting control measures in place on our permits have made it easier to keep this from happening in Jerramungup shire. With that in mind please don’t become lapse in your permit writing.

If I have one gripe it would be fire reporting, we still have issues with reports not getting to the shire after an event however small it maybe or even assisting another brigade or shire. Please make sure you get all reports to the shire ASAP after an event. May I even suggest to the brigades with trucks you keep a log book in your vehicles for any even or use of the truck.

I will finish up with a couple of thank you, the first is Harry Lilford his service to the district and Jacup brigade has been tireless and I’m sure Trevor will agree his efforts have been much appreciated over the years and we wish Harry much enjoyment in retirement. The other disappointing loss to our district is Peter Thurkle, since Peter’s arrival 3 years ago I’m sure you would agree his contribution to bushfire in the district have been immense. His efforts in helping attain new equipment, more training and especially his assistance to the chief will be sorely missed. Peter from all of the BEFAC thanks you for everything you have done and we wish you luck in wherever life takes you”.

7.4 Community Emergency Services Manager Report

“My report tonight is not about what has been done; as David Edwards will surly explain most operation aspects for the Shire of Jerramungup, and what a great job he is doing!

Peter Thurkle thanked David Edwards and our past CBFCO Wes Thomas.

The Shire of Jerramungup Bushfire brigades have received new trucks, and are looking at brigade facilities, well done and look after them and use them.

Brigades are developing with acceptance of training and a more structured formation, these items are important for brigade future to sustain budget and upgrade equipment. Please continue! Record any or all equipment use and if not already, start now.

Turnout reports are very important and will justify budget and equipment.

I wish to take the opportunity to thank not one individual but certainly all volunteers in Shire of Jerramungup for your continued support over the three years.

To all Shire Staff a big thanks for support over the three year period.

I look forward to continuing working with all untill I leave”.

David Edwards thanked Peter Thurkle for his service to the Shire with a gift and wished him and his family the best in his future endeavours.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

8.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Mr David Edwards announced the vacancy for the CBFCO position and left the chair.

Mr Bill Parker 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 Anthony Armstrong 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 chair and thanked the members for their support.

8.2 Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officers

Mr Paul Hislop nominated Mr Trevor Ross who accepted.

Mr Darrell Crowley 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 Kim Parsons 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 Officers

Mrs Carol Daniels 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 Michael Lester
Needilup Bushfire Brigade – Mr Ray Trevaskis
Boxwood Bushfire Brigade – Mr Rohan Murdoch
Gairdner Bushfire Brigade – Mr Damon Parker

8.6 Authorised Radio Broadcaster of Harvest Bans

Note: The Chief Bush Fire Control Officer assumes the responsibility of Chief Radio Officer.

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

8.7 Dual Fire Control Officers

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

9. GENERAL BUSINESS

9.1 Burn Prescriptions for Plantations

Attached is an information sheet to be completed when issuing permits to burn for plantations.

9.2 Revoke Permits – Public Holidays

David Edwards raised some issues on written permit methods and information required plus no burning on public holidays or long weekend. The Committee decided that the status quo should remain.

Phil Wishart asked if a copy of a permit needs to go to Shire. Dave Edwards responded that it was acceptable to fax the radio permit register through as early as possible to Shire.

Kim Parsons was concerned about burning over the Easter period. Malcolm Turner suggested banning burning on Thursdays as well but it was suggested that appropriate work practices are in place already and that this would be unachievable.

David Edwards reminded all brigades that their log books must be completed.

The committee requested that the Shire boundary signage for cooking fires be removed or dates be covered up to stop confusion.

Dave Edwards advised that he would be utilising his delegated authority to extend the restricted season by 14 days meaning that the season now finishes on 15th of May 2014 inclusive. DFES should be notified.

Peter Thurkle handed out FCO's certificates from our past course, some others need prerequisites to achieve accreditation.

DFES offered a banner to be placed on fire unit in Point Henry over long weekend. Steve Wadsworth agreed to do so once it arrives.

10. CLOSURE

Meeting closed at 9:34pm.