



SHIRE OF JERRAMUNGUP

GENERAL MEETING

JERRAMUNGUP BUSHFIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Held at the Council Chambers
Jerramungup
Monday, 16 October 2023**

MINUTES

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Jerramungup Bushfire Advisory Committee
Table of Contents
General Meeting
Monday, 16 October 2023

1.0	DECLARATION OF OPENING, ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS	4
2.0	RECORD OF ATTENDANCE	4
2.1	ATTENDANCE.....	4
2.2	APOLOGIES	4
3.0	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS	4
4.0	BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES	5
5.0	CORRESPONDENCE	5
6.0	REPORTS	5
6.1	CHIEF BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICER REPORT.....	5
6.2	DBCA REPORT	5
6.3	DFES REPORT	6
6.4	CESM REPORT.....	6
6.5	BUSHFIRE RISK MITIGATION COORDINATOR REPORT.....	6
6.6	OTHER REPORTS	6
7.0	WHS UPDATES.....	6
7.1	INCIDENTS REPORTED	6
7.2	TRAINING.....	6
7.3	PPE.....	6
8.0	ROUND TABLE	6
9.0	CLOSURE OF MEETING	7

JERRAMUNGUP BUSHFIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

1.0 DECLARATION OF OPENING, ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The meeting was opened at 7.01 pm by the Chief Bushfire Control Officer (CBFCO).

2.0 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

2.1 ATTENDANCE

Alex Jones	Chief Bushfire Control Officer
Anthony Thomas	Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer
Stephen Petersen	District Officer - DFES
Martin Cuthbert	Chief Executive Officer
Charmaine Solomon	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Matt Prophet	Senior Operations Officer, DBCA
Russell Palmer	Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM)
Anthony Armstrong	Jerramungup VFES
Jeremy Wisewould	Jerramungup VFES
Siwel Solomon	Jerramungup VFES
Paul Barrett	Jerramungup VFES
Peter Buckenara	Bremer Bay VFES
Jye Duggan	Needilup BFB
Cr Neil Foreman	Jerramungup Shire Councillor
Wade Brown	Needilup BFB
Brad Bailey	Jacup BFB
Ron Pocock	Needilup BFB
Stuart Hocking	Boxwood BFB

2.2 APOLOGIES

Paul Hislop	Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer
Malcom Grant	Bushfire Risk Mitigation Coordinator
Vince Hilder	District Fire Coordinator, DBCA
Mick Batchelor	Bremer Bay VFES
Ash Lester	Bremer Bay VFES
Mick Lester	Jacup BFB
Dave Atkins	Jerramungup Police
Brad Shelton	Gairdner BFB

3.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Jerramungup Bushfire Advisory Committee Annual General Meeting held 24 April 2023.

That the Minutes of the Jerramungup Bushfire Advisory Committee Annual General Meeting held at the Council Chambers, Jerramungup on 24 April 2023 be CONFIRMED.

MOVED: Anthony Armstrong	SECONDED: Stuart Hocking
That the Minutes of the Jerramungup Bushfire Advisory Committee Annual General Meeting held at the Council Chambers, Jerramungup on 24 April 2023 be CONFIRMED.	

CARRIED

4.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

4.1 Local Law correspondence tabled.

4.2 Training

4.2.1 Calendar and training updates – CESM advised working progress training to be organised in early 2024. Dates will be emailed out to brigades.

4.2.2 Minimum training standards for volunteers (online pending) – Two courses Bushfire Safety Awareness and Firefighting Skills.

4.2.3 FCOs, Other (AIIMS, IC Level 1, Academy Programme) Work in Progress at OWG. – FCO course to be scheduled in February/March 2024. Courses to be done prior to Shire's Rates/Fire Information being published with nominated FCO details.

5.0 CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 DFES Training newsletters and products (various emailed)

5.2 AFDRS Updates

5.3 Senate Estimates Committee – MG Noted two important items – Options for LGs having first option on appliances and consideration of additional CESMs

5.4 DBCA – Prescribed Burning

5.5 Operational Circular – Requesting public information at incidents

5.6 FCO Handbooks

5.7 SBAC Communique – Wooroloo Review

5.8 Burn-off requirements for Brigades

5.9 ACHA – numerous updates

5.10 Draft Guidelines for Preparing a Bushfire Risk Management Plan

5.11 Water Bomber Filler Training

5.12 Grain Harvest Operations – Air Support

6.0 REPORTS

6.1 CHIEF BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICER REPORT

As tabled - see attachment 6.1A

6.2 DBCA REPORT

Matt Prophet advised that DBCA are going through their pre-season checks on vehicles and equipment.

One of their two trucks was sent away for repairs and we are expecting that back fairly soon.

Aviation fuel up pumps, one Jet A1 and one Afgas from Ravensthorpe airport have been serviced and are back in the fire container.

Two more Fitzgerald Rangers have recently undergone DBCA fire training, with one having attended a fire operations controller course and the other fire fighter crew member.

Most of the southern fireline in the Fitzgerald was upgraded earlier this year and further work is planned to complete that.

DBCAs 2023/24 burning program has identified further cells for prescribed burning in the north and west of the Fitzgerald which may occur in autumn next year.

A visit to Quaalup Homestead was made last month to look at improvements to the fire breaks in their immediate vicinity.

Staff fire fitness test for Fitzgerald Rangers completed.

6.3 DFES REPORT

As tabled - see attachment 6.3A

6.4 CESM REPORT

As tabled – see attachment 6.4A

6.5 BUSHFIRE RISK MITIGATION COORDINATOR REPORT

Martin Cuthbert advised the Committee of the split from Ravensthorpe in relation to the BRMC program. Malcom Grant will be staying on with the Shire of Ravensthorpe. The new BRMC position will be between the Shires of Gnowangerup and Jerramungup. The position is expected to be based in Bremer Bay, advertising for the position will commence in the coming weeks.

6.6 OTHER REPORTS

Nil.

7.0 WHS UPDATES

7.1 INCIDENTS REPORTED

There have been no incident reports recorded since the Bush Fire Advisory Committee AGM held in April 2023.

7.2 TRAINING

Fire training will be arranged to be held early in 2024 prior to April.

Water Bomber Reloader Training – Alex Jones advised there will be water bomber reloader training coming up and asked for assistance to encourage women participants to undertake the training.

Charmaine Solomon advised the Shire will come up with some advertising material to try and promote women participants.

7.3 PPE

Russell requested brigades to advise what PPE they require. Brigades to send this information to Russell as soon as practical.

8.0 ROUND TABLE

- General discussion was held on FWO and the potential legalities for extending permits.
- FCO Handbook – There is a reprint of 2016 book this has been updated with current Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS).
- Alex Jones encouraged brigade members if they are not already to have a look at the Landgate fire calculator.
- Ron Pocock thanked Malcom Grant for the works completed around Needilup Pavilion and assistance with the burn.
- Ron Pocock is hoping that the Needilup Fire Truck will be returning soon and requested the following for the Needilup Brigade; permit book, wind meter and firelighter for Needilup truck.
- Russell Palmer advised that there are permit books available to collect after the meeting and personal incident diaries are available.

- Peter Buckenara requested a general discussion on the Wednesday fire scheds, we don't seem to get numbers anymore average attendance 4-5 people. Peter suggested that WhatsApp messaging may be better utilisation. The Committee agreed to trial this and see how it goes.

Action: Alex Jones will put out WhatsApp message day before if doing scheds.

- Alex Jones asked brigade members to confirm who has their radios for each brigade and who requires radios - this information needs to be provided to Russell;
 - Anthony Armstrong confirmed Paul Barrett requires one in his vehicle;
 - Wade Brown advised he hasn't got one; (Pete Daniels' radio needs to go in Wade Brown's vehicle);
 - Ron Pocock advised he needs a radio.

Action: Brigade members to send through request for radios to Russell Palmer so approval can be sought and installation organised with the Contractor.

9.0 CLOSURE OF MEETING

The CBFCO closed the meeting at 8.21pm.

These minutes were confirmed at a meeting held

.....

Signed:

Presiding Person at the meeting at which these minutes were confirmed

Date:

Attachment 6.1A

CBFCO Report October 16th 2023

Welcome everyone.

We have not had any major problems since our last meeting in April. Conditions were mild during autumn with below average rainfall but no severe wind events that can lead to bad conditions. Soaking rain from June 1st started winter fairly wet. Fuel loads are quite high even though we have had below average finishing rain.

There is only one incident to mention that was September 17th a love grass burn that escaped into the road verge of Lake road. Jacup Brigade took control of that and assisted in completing the burn for the land owner.

Mal has completed more mitigation work in Bremer and Needilup with good results.

I encourage brigades who haven't already- to have a gathering and check your equipment asap.

Tomorrows forecast could indicate a HVM ban in zones 1 and 2. Please note the term zones instead of sectors. I think we should adopt zones as it is printed in the shire hand book.

Let us all have a safe summer, look out for each other as harvest is upon us already.

Thank you.

Jerramungup BFAC

16/10/2023

- **High Season** . Jerramungup will be receiving the same allotment of high season appliances as last year. Arrival times will be subject to the release of appliances from the northern half of the state.
- **Water Bombers.** The Albany based water bombers are due to come online on the first Thursday in December, this being the 7th which coincides with the start of the high threat period. DFES State Ops are currently discussing the need to bring them on two weeks earlier due to current climate conditions. Feedback from the Great Southern region was to start them even earlier due to harvesting operations already underway. I will advise of the outcome. There will also be two water bombers based in Esperance, so in the instance the Albany bombers are already deployed, Jerry FCO's will be able to request the Esperance base bombers. I will also advise of the start date of the Esp bombers.
- **Mitigation.** Maintenance work on all fire access tracks to the four gazetted town sites within the shire will take place in the coming months. This is approx. \$24 000 worth of machine works. I'm currently liaising with Mal Grant to discuss further potential townsite works and mitigation burns.
- **Training. Level 1 Incident Controller (L1IC).** At present there is a very low number of qualified L1IC's, not just in Jerramungup but the region. This potentially puts the shire CEO in a difficult position if things go wrong at an incident. The shortage is almost certainly due to the number of days volunteers are required to commit to the prerequisite course, and the course itself. This equates to six days training as determined by AFAC. DFES Great Southern have submitted a business case to reduce the days by.
 - Removing AIIMS 2017 (two days) as a prerequisite and replacing it with AIIMS Awareness. This can be done online in twenty to thirty minutes.
 - Removing a lot of the content from the L1IC course. The current version of the L1IC course is an all-hazards course, it contains content relevant to SES, VMRS and VFRS. The proposed course will only contain content relevant to LG volunteers, and therefore hopefully shorten the duration as well.
- **AFDRS feedback.** DFES are seeking feedback with issues relating to the new Australian Fire Danger Rating System. E.g., Was there a significant rise TFB's or HVMB's. Is the permit cancellation number of 24 to low? If you can collate this and provide it to the chief, he can then present it at ROAC.

CESM Report BFAC October 16 2023

Good Evening All. Welcome to the October meeting of the BFAC.

It seems as though every report has some new initiative/mandate to talk about; COVID, AFDRS, WHS, Australian Cultural Heritage Act, ... Some of them affect us still while some seem to come and go. Either way, life goes on with all its challenges and volunteers continue to do what they do best.

It appears as though the new AFDRS is here to stay. There are differing opinions on its merit but I'm sure as we get used to the new ratings and FDIs, it will become second nature. The cut off for burning permits at 24 seems to be the biggest sticking point placing pressure on our Fire Weather Officer but this has always been the case.

For the last two summers, we have been blessed with relatively uneventful Christmas, New Years as far as major fire activity is concerned. Lets hope this continues but the general consensus is that this coming summer has potential to be a bad one. I can only hope that we have a benign summer that bucks the predictions for the rest of the state. If not, we will be relying, as always, on our volunteers to do what they do.

The Shire's CEO recently received the documentation for LGGS capital expenditure planning. Both Jacup and Gairdner are required to put in initial requests for the type of replacement truck they desire in a few year's time. There are four vehicle types available in two cab chassis designs. The choices are Iveco, Volvo, Isuzu and Tatra in a crew or single cab configuration.

As a result of several situations that have happened over the last summer, I have investigated aspects of traffic control and traffic management. We can't change the law as far as reopening roads but we can modify the extent to which we control traffic at incidents. I have prepared traffic control kits for each brigade containing emergency signs, hi vis vests, and emergency lighting. These are not to be left on the trucks but can be stored at a known location for each brigade so we don't end up with a situation like last year where partners of firefighters were left in the dark trying to control traffic.

I haven't heard any more on the two fire related deaths in our state this past summer. These should serve as a reminder that what we do is not to be taken lightly. One of these deaths in particular could be the first real test case of the new WHS laws. The fall-out from this incident in my opinion, is yet to be fully realised and we should be investigating the implications for us from this and other accidents that have occurred. Implications include but are not limited to; record keeping, training and qualifications, SOPs and Policies, PPE/PPC, use of contractors.

Both water tanks have been installed at the Jerramungup air strip and Gairdner shed.

Many brigade volunteers still require basic training. I am currently working through ways to facilitate this. There is some potentially exciting news on this front as our Shire has been chosen to trial a new online version of the basic course. This should assist in expediting the presentation of this training. I have also prepared some ideas for pre-season and brigade skills refreshers, examples are on the table here tonight. Other courses I will try to facilitate through the Great southern Region for next year include FCO, Ground controller, Incident Controller and Workplace Trainer Assessor. I am happy to discuss my ideas further on the reasons I feel we should be going down this path.

I'll leave you with a random quote from Alan Brunacini-Phoenix, Arizona Fire Dept.

When your warning lights begin to melt,
it's a sign you're parked too close.

Again, thanks for your attendance tonight, All the best for the coming season.

Russell Palmer

CESM Shire of Ravensthorpe and Jerramungup.