

**MINUTES OF THE WAGIN BUSHFIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN THE SHIRE OF WAGIN COUNCIL
CHAMBERS ON MONDAY 25th MARCH 2019**



1. OPENING

The Acting Chairperson declared the meeting open at 7.05pm and welcomed those in attendance.

- 2. ATTENDANCE:**
- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Mr X White | Acting Chairperson |
| Mr R Goldsmith | CBFCO |
| Mrs C Goldsmith | |
| Cr L Lucas | |
| Mr T Cook | |
| Mr T Hamersley | |
| Mr C Clifton | |
| Mr M Edwards | |
| Mr Paul Ward | |
| Mr B Roderick | DCEO |
| Mrs D George | CLO |

APOLOGIES

Cr P Blight
Mr S Angwin
Mr P Webster

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

COMMITTEES RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Mr C Clifton

Seconded: Cr L Lucas

That the minutes of the Bushfire Advisory Committee AGM held on the 26th March 2018 be confirmed as true and correct.

Carried

5. CBFCO ANNUAL BUSHFIRE REPORT

Wagin had a busy bushfire season with 3 header fires, at least 5 lightning strikes which we had brigade members turn out to. There were other strikes which were put out by timely rain and some landowners didn't know about them until they came upon burnt areas in the crop.

We had a large number of fire fighters turn out to the Ballard Hay fire, most people left in disgust when the owners would not listen to professional advice and continued to work in the burning shed. This was the third fire at this operation in 18 months.

We had a fire at our tip which was reported about midnight one night. This was most probably deliberately lit even though the tip is manned it started in the green waste heap.

One of the lightning strikes saw us having to close the Great Southern Highway, also having to check on train movements as there was a train which was due to leave Wagin that day. Ross contacted the local police to close the road, but they were not available, so Donna and Peter from the Office of Bushfire Risk Movement were on the scene and helped out so thank you to them both. The Main Roads maintenance crew attended but were not able to leave the area until someone went back for the Smoke Hazard signs which meant someone had to go back to Narrogin to get the signs. We would like to suggest that we requested that the maintenance truck carry these signs from end of October until it rains as this would save valuable time. Ross had to escort the vehicles through to clear the traffic build up therefore taking him from his normal duties around the fire ground. This matter has been addressed by the Narrogin DOAC meeting held Thursday 21st March. Another of the lightning strikes posed problems in the fact that it was in the middle of a bush area with no access so one of the FCOs had a drone which was set up around midnight so that we could see what we were dealing with, we were able to then put loaders into the tight spot. Fortunately, there was a granite ridge which blocked the wind, so the fire was only burning slowly and, in the end, only burnt a small area less than half a hectare. We had three fires which stretched throughout the night. Some very weary volunteers Thank you to all who helped with that was a trying year. We had another two lightning strikes early last week.

One of the header fires was early on in the harvest season and there were trees heaped which had been pushed up without waiting for the FCO to start the back burn the landowner or his employees lit the heaps. Fortunately for having them, the heaps were very dry and burnt up rather quickly or it could have resulted in us having to check it every few days especially with the strong winds we had last summer. It was also noted that those farmers who have deep ripped their paddocks need to warn firefighters and only use 4wds in that area due to the strong possibility of getting bogged and put people in danger.

Early March saw pole top fire on the 66000-volt line. The local linesmen cannot deal with this and have to wait for the specialist crew from Perth to arrive.

The Wedgecarrup truck was sent to Bremer Bay on Christmas Eve a huge thank you to Clayton Wiese and Jack who volunteered to man the truck. The shire of Jerramungup sent a certificate of thanks to the boys.

The mitigation work on Mount Latham has begun the contractor is up there now, a big improvement can be seen already. We will be looking for help to burn this area in the next couple of weeks probably around the first week of April.

ARC Rail have been approached in regard to burning along the rail reserves they have agreed to this, so we just need to finalize dates etc.

One problem which was discovered late in the season was that the hotline for out Harvest and movement of vehicle Bans was delisted apparently it was not noticed when the Shire changed their phone system or NBN or something. This took a long time to sort out and we were not able to keep the old number. A massive Thank You to Donna George for her persistence the new number is a mobile, 0438 013 123.

The Bushfire Volunteers Association are in the process of getting the Training modules back to the old format so no having to redo what you have already done to do the next part, and what you have done will be recognised not ignored

Once again, a big thank you to all the FCOs and families for their continued support. Ross & I were both humbled and honoured to receive the Wagin Citizen of the year Award at the Australia Day Breakfast. Although we don't do this job for the accolades it is nice to be recognised. Now does this mean we can both retire?

6. ELECTION OF OFFICER BEARERS

6.1 Chairperson

Cr Phillip Blight retained the position as Chairperson of the Bushfire Advisory Committee in his capacity as Shire President.

6.2 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Mr T Hamersley nominated Mr R Goldsmith, seconded by Cr L Lucas. There being no further nominations Mr R Goldsmith was declared elected as Chief Bush Fire Control Officer.

6.3 Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer number 1

Mr C Clifton nominated Mr X White, seconded by Mrs C Goldsmith. There being no further nominations Mr X White was declared elected as Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Number 1.

- Infrastructure maintenance
- Equipment maintenance
- ESL
- 2nd LEMC representative
- Radio servicing
- Radio training

Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer number 2

Mr X White nominated Mr A Rowell, seconded by Mrs C Goldsmith. There being no further nominations Mr A Rowell was declared elected as Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Number 2.

- Trailer maintenance
- Trucks and standpipes
- Shire Liaison
- Training

Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer number 3

The Committee deemed that this Position is no longer required and as such has been made redundant.

6.4 Fire Control Officers

The following members were nominated as Fire Control Officers for 2018/2019:

Mr R Goldsmith
Mr I McDougall
Mr G Abbott
Mr W Brockway
Mr B Johnson
Mrs C Goldsmith
Mr C Piesse
Mr A Rowell

Mr S Angwin
Mr T Moffatt
Mr X White
Mr C Clifton
Mr B Robinson
Mr T Storer
Mr P Webster

Shire Office – Town Fire Permits
Mr B Roderick

COMMITTEES RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Mr C Clifton

Seconded: Cr L Lucas

That the following Fire Control Officer appointments be made:

Fire Control Officers

Mr R Goldsmith
Mr I McDougall
Mr G Abbott
Mr W Brockway
Mr B Johnson
Mrs C Goldsmith
Mr C Piesse
Mr A Rowell
Mr S Angwin
Mr T Moffatt
Mr X White
Mr C Clifton
Mr B Robinson
Mr T Storer
Mr P Webster

Shire Office – Town Fire Permits
Mr B Roderick

Carried

6.5 Captains for each Bush Fire Brigade

Nominated en bloc:

6.5.1 Badjarning

Mr C Clifton was declared elected as Captain for Badjarning
Brigade

6.5.2 Ballaying

Mr X White was declared elected as Captain for Ballaying Brigade

6.5.3 Cancanning

Mr A Rowell was declared elected as Captain for Cancanning
Brigade

6.5.4 Lime Lake

Mr W Brockway was declared elected as Captain for Lime Lake Brigade

6.5.5 Piesseville

Mr R Goldsmith was declared elected as Captain for Piesseville Brigade

6.5.6 Wedgecarrup

Mr T Moffatt was declared elected as Captain for Wedgecarrup Brigade

6.5.7 Wagin Town

Mr T Hamersley was declared elected as Captain for Wagin Town Brigade

COMMITTEES RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Mr R Goldsmith

Seconded: Mr P Ward

That the following appointments as Bush Fire Brigade Captains be made:

Badjarning

Mr C Clifton was declared elected as Captain for Badjarning Brigade

Ballaying

Mr X White was declared elected as Captain for Ballaying Brigade

Cancanning

Mr A Rowell was declared elected as Captain for Cancanning Brigade

Lime Lake

Mr W Brockway was declared elected as Captain for Lime Lake Brigade

Piesseville

Mr R Goldsmith was declared elected as Captain for Piesseville Brigade

Wedgecarrup

Mr T Moffatt was declared elected as Captain for Wedgecarrup Brigade

Wagin Town

Mr T Hamersley was declared elected as Captain for Wagin Town Brigade

Carried

6.6 Chief Fire Weather Officer

This position will be delegated to The Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer number 1 or Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer 2.

6.7 Fire Weather Committee

Mr R Goldsmith, Mr T Moffatt, Mr C Piesse, Mr S Angwin, Mr W Brockway, Mr X White and Mr A Rowell

COMMITTEES RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Mr P Ward

Seconded: Mrs C Goldsmith

That the following appointments for Fire Weather Committee be made:

Fire Weather Committee

Mr R Goldsmith, Mr T Moffatt, Mr C Piesse, Mr S Angwin, Mr W Brockway, Mr X White and Mr A Rowell

Carried

6.8 Appointment of Dual Fire Control Officers

Nomination en bloc.

Dumbleyung	Mr S Angwin Mr X White
Narrogin	Mr R Goldsmith Mr C Piesse
Woodanilling	Mr W Brockway Mr T Moffatt
Williams	Mr C Piesse
West Arthur	Mr G Abbott Mr B Robinson

COMMITTEES RECOMMENDATION

Moved: Cr L Lucas

Seconded: Mr R Goldsmith

That the following appointments as Dual Fire Control Officers be made:

Dumbleyung	Mr S Angwin Mr X White
Narrogin	Mr R Goldsmith Mr C Piesse
Woodanilling	Mr W Brockway Mr T Moffatt

Williams	Mr C Piesse
West Arthur	Mr G Abbott Mr B Robinson

Carried

- 6.9 Clover Burning Permit Officer
Chief Bush Fire Control Officer – Mr R Goldsmith

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

Mobile Phone Towers

Ross Goldsmith advised that the Shire of Woodanilling are now using a SMS system to alert a designated person when there are power outages affecting their mobile phone towers. This includes when battery back up system takes affect and then when the power is restored.

The Committee have requested Shire staff to contact the Shire of Woodanilling's CESM, Cindy Pearce, to investigate how we can set up the same system in Wagin.

8. CLOSURE

With no further business the chairperson thanked those in attendance and declared the meeting closed at 7:34 pm

I certify that this copy of the Minutes is a true and
correct record of the meeting held on
25th March 2019

Signed:
Presiding Elected Member

Date: