



MINUTES

BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2 OCTOBER 2024



SHIRE OF WAGIN

Minutes for the Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting to be held in the Council Chambers, Wagin on Wednesday 2nd October 2024 commencing at 7pm

CONTENTS

1.	OFFICIAL OPENING.....	3
2.	RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES	3
2.1	ATTENDANCE	3
2.2	APOLOGIES	3
3.	DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS	3
4.	CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES 3 APRIL 2024.....	3
4.1	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES	4
5.	CORRESPONDENCE	4
6.	GENERAL BUSINESS	4
7.	CLOSURE.....	6



1. OFFICIAL OPENING

The Presiding Member opened the meeting at 7 pm.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES

ATTENDANCE

Cr Phillip Blight	President
Dr Kenneth Parker	Chief Executive Officer
Xavier White	Chief Bushfire Control Officer
Ross Goldsmith	Captain – Piesseville Brigade
Brett Dew	Western Power
Bryn Becker	FCO
Paul Leiper	DFES
Jack Stallard	VFRS
Cam Forrest	Captain VFRS
Cam Clifton	Captain – Badjarning Brigade
Peter Cumming	BFB Volunteer
Chris Piesse	FCO
Austin Piesse	BFB Volunteer

APOLOGIES

I McDougall	Captain – Wedgecarrup Brigade
L Lucas	FCO
W Brockway	Captain – Lime Lake Brigade
C Goldsmith	FCO
S Angwin	FCO

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

4. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES – 3 APRIL 2024

RECCOMENDATION

That the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held on 3 April 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: C Clifton

Second: B Becker

4.1 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE BUSH FIRE MINUTES

7.2.6 – Wedgecarrup report: Trees growing through powerlines, south side of Mt Latham. Resolved.

7.3.1 – BFAC membership:

Council made appoints to the committee being two elected members and fifteen Fire Control Officers. In doing so, Council requested that the Committee consider future membership and make a recommendation to council. From an Officers perspective the BFAC has a critical role regarding:

- *Matters related to previously controlled and extinguisher bush fires;*
- *Planning layout of fire breaks in the district;*
- *Advice pertaining to prosecutions for breaches of the Bush Fires Act 1954;*
- *Advice pertaining to the formation of Brigades; and*
- *Coordination and cooperation between brigades and agents.*

It is important that the composition of the BFAC is small enough to make meetings workable but large enough to ensure that the Committee is representative of interests and expertise. Officers seek input from the committee.

No recommendation has been received.

5. CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORTS

DFES Liaison – Paul Blechynden was seconded elsewhere, replaced by Gavin Stevens, who has been replaced by Paul Leiper.

DFES Radio Communications, regarding the service of the radios, with some added jobs Phil to get a replacement, Raymond vehicle change and Bryn's base radio installation.

DFES – Peter Raykos – advising that the battery and pad kits in the AED in the fire trucks have expired – they have now been replaced.

DBCA – Ethan Giacomel – Advice on mechanical clearing at North Wagin Reserve, scheduled for early next year.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 Medals – we have a large number of 25- & 30-year medals for presentation, discussion held around the options of getting the medals to the volunteers. Agreed that they would go to the captains to present to the volunteer, any volunteer the captain is unable to locate, those medals will be returned to the shire office to follow up.

6.2 Display of what an emergency burn over protection kit, Paul Leiper walked those present through the use of the breathing apparatus. These are located in the fire trucks – with

the number of units matching the seatbelts in the vehicle. The unit is to be used in a situation where a burn over is required to protect the crew – pull the red tab at the top, put the strap around your neck, put the goggles on and the breathing mouthpiece in your mouth. Releasing the mouthpiece will activate the oxygen generation.



Paul advised there are also burn over blankets in the trucks to be used in conjunction with the unit.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1aE_CmLikck : is a link to a video walking through the use of the Draeger 6000 (we have the 3000)

Discussions held regarding the other emergency equipment in the truck which some regular drivers have no training in use of – Paul will follow up on training options and advise.

6.3 DFES officer Paul Leiper presented brief overview of permit processes, advising that their role in the process is training and guidance rather than direction. Discussions held around the legality of the document, the locational requirement and the potential of redesigning the current document to suit us, the committee was tasked with coming back to the LG with drafts for sharing and review. Paul identified an online permit application which is currently in place in the Pilbara, staff will follow up on the details.

6.4 Water tanker trailer – signwriting will be completed soon.

6.5 Standpipe trailers – all have been/are being serviced – a full service of all parts and equipment as well as the trailer itself. All trailers will now have a dam float/strainer – to keep the larger items out of the water transfer system.

6.6 Monthly report

6.7 IRS – Incident reporting system – staff now have access to update and complete all reported fires. To ensure all fires are reported at the time (cannot report a past fire) if you call – please include the report number on the chat – if its not there, staff will report the fire.

6.8 If you need a scribe to take notes of decisions made at fires – important for all the bigger fires – the shire will provide one. This is crucial for larger fires to ensure decisions are noted.

6.9 Vehicle stickers – available now.



- 6.10 Bushfire Risk Management Plan is being updated. The bulk of the document is words which are being updated by staff – the mapping, asset and risk parts of the document are being updated by Aiden from DFES.
- 6.11 Acciona Windfarm Proposal – see attached item. Correspondence from Bushfire volunteer read (included below), discussion over concerns raised in the email and generally:
- Fire fighter unit access
 - may be improved due to 300kms of road installed
 - Area of land to be used
 - Water bomber 'no fly zone'
 - Reducing the capacity for this service to assist in a large fire
 - Heightened potential of fires due to mechanical nature
 - Units come with some fire suppression inbuilt
 - Additional people/equipment/machinery in these areas during construction

Email from A Piesse – Volunteer:

Re: Acciona proposal for discussion.

Critical to this proposal is the availability of VFB personnel throughout each Shire, and their surrounding Shires as well, in anticipation of an uncontrollable fire outbreak. Considerations include average age of personnel available, holiday period lowest number available, water sources, DFES capability when already under resourced during arsonist outbreaks near highly populated areas, knowledge from other States and other Countries, Acciona's liability after the completion. Statistics around these issues haven't been produced yet and seem unlikely to be. Larger farms, even less farmhands per farm, forecast aging VFB groups. Country zones are to lose even more political representation over time but will carry a far higher burden quite obviously.

With Esperance, Corrigin, Narrogin, Yarloop, Dwellingup fires, all within memory, we seem to be tempting fate to put it mildly.

Interesting input from W.A.F.F- President Trevor Whittington, Scott Baxter Margaret River/Augusta. Maybe others in our group feel negatively towards this proposal?

7. CLOSURE

With no further business, the Presiding Member closed the meeting at 8:34pm

I certify that this copy of the minutes is a true and correct record of the meeting held on
2 October 2024

Signed 

Presiding Elected Member

Date: 22-4-2025