### SHIRE OF WEST ARTHUR

<u>Minutes</u> of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting held Tuesday 9 April 2019, in the Hawthorn Room in the West Arthur Health and Resource Centre.

# 1. Declaration of Opening/Announcement of Visitors

The Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, Duncan South, declared the meeting open at 7:09pm.

# 2. Record of Attendance and Apologies

Attendance

Duncan South Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Ray Harrington President, Shire

Nicole Wasmann
Chief Executive Officer, Shire
Mesha Barritt
Customer Service Officer, Shire
Nicki Morrell
Customer Service Officer, Shire
Fire Control Officer, Arthur River BFB

James Campbell
Adrian South
Trevor Bunce
Jessica Newman
Mark McQueen
Kim Hales
Chris Cochrane
Fire Control Officer, Duranillin BFB
Fire Control Officer, Darkan BFB
Fire Control Officer, Darkan BFB
Fire Control Officer, Darkan BFB
Fire Control Officer, DBCA
Acting District Officer, DFES
Fire Control Officer, Duranillin BFB
Deputy CBFCO/FCO, Duranillin BFB

David Mackie Fire Control Officer, Duranillin BFB
Ming Meredith BFAC Delegate, Shire
Kohdy Flynn Ranger, Collie Shire
Tristan Gulvin CESM, Collie Shire

Ben Robinson Fire Control Officer, Arthur River BFB

(from 7:16pm)

Fire Control Officer, Duranillin BFB

**Apologies** 

Jamie Park

James Scanlon Fire Control Officer, Arthur River BFB
Donna Morgan Bushfire Risk Management Officer, DFES

Trevor Palfalman Captain, Williams VFRS

Peter Cupit Bushfire Risk Planning Coordinator, Shire

#### 3. Confirmation of Minutes – 9 October 2018 BFAC committee

Moved: Adrian South Second: Robert Jeffries

That the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held 9 October 2018 be confirmed.

### 3.1 Business Arising

### 4.3 Dual Fire Control Officers

Confirmation of dual appointments were received from Shire of Collie and Shire of Williams.

## 7.7 Mid Band and High Band Removal

With regards to removing the link between the Shire and DFES radio, Allan Brown from DFES has advised that it has been passed on to the Manager of Radio Communications for when DFES do maintenance otherwise they will need to mobilise separately to complete the task which would mean scheduling in the work. Some other considerations for the Shire is the continuing maintenance of the repeater, batteries and antenna systems i.e. do they wish to separate the systems so they can use the Mid Band for their own fleet and have the WAERN High Band for Emergency Services use. "

# 4. Appointment of Officers for 2019-20 Fire Season

# 4.1 Chief, Deputy Chief and Fire Weather Committee

Officer/Role	Person Nominated	Moved	Seconded
Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	Duncan South	Robert Jeffries	Ming Meredith
Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	Chris Cochrane	Neil Morrell	Kim Hales
Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	Ben Robinson	Adrian South	Neil Morrell
Fire Weather Officer	Adrian South	Trevor bunce	Ming Meredith
Deputy Fire Weather Officer	Robert Jeffries	Adrian South	Kim Hales
Fire Weather Committee	Duncan South Adrian South Robert Jeffries John Pascoe James Campbell	Neil Morrell	Adrian South

### 4.2 Fire Control Officers

Moved: Trevor Bunce Seconded: Kim Hales

That the Shire appoint the following as Fire Control Officers for the 2019-20 Fire Season.

## Arthur River Brigade

Ben Robinson
Neil Morrell
James Scanlon
Andrew Putland
Alan Manual
Brad Wooldridge
Neil Manuel
Sam burgess

**Duranillin Brigade:** 

Robert Jefferies

Chris Cochrane

**David Mackie** 

Kim Hales

Adrian South

Jamie Park

Darkan Brigade:

**Duncan South** 

Trevor Bunce

Peter Lutz

Peter Lubcke

James Campbell

Matthew Telfer

# 4.3 Dual Appointments Fire Control Officers

Moved: Kim Hales Seconded: Ming Meredith

That requests be made for the following Fire Control Officers to be appointed as dual FCOs with the neighbouring Shires.

Shire of Kojonup	Neil Morrell
Shire of Wagin	Ben Robinson
Shire of Williams	Trevor Bunce
Shire of Boyup Brook	Kim Hales & David Mackie
Shire of Collie	Peter Lubcke

# 4.4 Brigade Positions

Moved: Neil Morrell Seconded: James Campbell

That the following brigade roles be endorsed:

Arthur River	Chairperson/Captain	Ben Robinson
	Secretary	Tracy Wooldridge
	First Lieutenant	Alan Manual
	Second Lieutenant	James Scanlon
	Equipment Officer	Scott Degaris
Darkan Brigade	Chairperson/Captain	Duncan South
	Secretary	David Gooding
	Equipment Officer	Peter Lutz
Duranillin Brigade	Chairperson/Captain	Chris Cochrane
	Secretary	Jason Earnshaw
	President	John Rutherford

#### 5. Guests/Presentations

## 5.1 DFES – District Officer and Bush Fire Risk Management

Mark McQueen, who is relieving in the role whilst Simon Vogel is on leave, advised that the 2018-19 season was quiet although Shires have been busy with multiple

lightning fires. A new volunteer management support officer has been appointed. The role is to help with volunteer training and will be the new contact for fuel cards. DFES will offer more bushfire fighting training.

**5.2 CESM and Brigade Representatives – Shire of Collie CESM Tristan Gulvin** Collie had one major fire at Allanson, the fire was a level 2. Other than that the season was quiet. Collie has received funding for a driving training centre.

#### **5.3 Forrest Products Commission**

Nil.

### 5.4 Department of Water

Nil.

### 5.5 Williams FRS

Nil.

## 6. Reports

## 6.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

We have had a relatively quiet season. Duncan highlighted the requirement for more regular turn over of the main roles within the Shire's bushfire structure and provided examples of adjoining local governments where volunteer officers only filled the roles of Chief and Deputy Chief for a few years.

### 6.2 Arthur River Bush Fire Brigade

Ben Robinson reported that there had been a couple of fires either side of Bunge, however other than that a quiet season. The brigade is possibly looking at changing fast fuel pumps to a floating pump, with Scott DeGaris investigating.

### 6.3 Darkan Bush Fire Brigade

Relatively quiet season. Early in the season there was a fire on the railway reserve near Hillman that was started from slashing. Hydrant training to be arranged.

### 6.4 Duranillin Bush Fire Brigade

Quiet season until storms which had caused a number of lighting fires. A phone booster has been fitted into Duranillin fire truck.

# 7. Financial Report

2018/19 ESL Allocation \$31,670

#### Expended to date:

Insurance – vehicles	\$6,537
Other	\$10,967
Synergy (Darkan)	\$373
Vehicle licensing	\$445
Freight	\$129
Fuel	\$143
Repairs	\$1269
Clothing and Accessories	\$2136

Total expended \$22,001

Funds remaining \$9668

# **Forecasted**

Foam	\$5,600
Eflares	\$2000
Fuel	\$1,000
Power/Utilities	\$400
Repairs	\$500

There was discussion regarding use of the remaining funds and it was agreed to purchase eflares and foam.

 Arthur River Brigade – 4.4 Broadacre Single Cab - \$412,000 approved waiting for supply.

#### 8. General Business

# 8.1 Equipment

Nil

### 8.2 Training

Arthur River has a couple of people interested in basic training and they could possibly join with Collie Shire for training days.

### 8.3 Call ups

The meeting discussed the future of weekly call-ups, with low participation. It was agreed to occasionally put a reminder on WhatsApp prior to the call-up.

### 8.4 Mitigation Funding

The Shire has received \$67,000 for bushfire mitigation works around Bowelling and nine bridges within the Shire. There has been some difficulties with undertaken the works due to obtaining clearances. The Shire was advised that because the work at Bowelling had changed from prescribed burn to mechanical slashing (as required by DFES) we now needed to obtain a clearing permit. Further advice was sought and the mechanical slashing can be undertaken under Schedule 6 Clause 1 for Shire managed land and Schedule 6 Clause 12 for DFES managed land under the Environmental Protection Act. We are currently in the process of engaging a contractor to undertake this work.

The clearing around the bridges is proving to be more difficult as a number of the bridges are impacted by Aboriginal Heritage issues. All bridges across the Arthur River are now impacted by the Arthur River Waugal which was recently listed as a cultural heritage site. A number of bridges also have archeological sites and finally we have one bridge that is impacted by Threatened Ecological Community. We are still working through obtaining the required permits (Regulations 7 and 10 under the Aboriginal Heritage Act) to undertake this bushfire mitigation works. A survey of the Threatened Ecological Community may be required prior to undertaking the clearing around that bridge.

### 8.5 Map session

Revision of basic map reading for fire location.

## 8.6 Other

A discussion was held regarding the use of the triangle stickers that had been issued to brigade members in the past and had since expired. The matter had been discussed at the LEMC meeting earlier in the evening and the stickers would not be reissued.

If a road block is in place when there is a fire, the incident controller would liaise with the police officers regarding access.

Discussion was also held regarding coordination at fires and use of T-Cards.

## 9. Closure

Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 9:11pm