

Shire of Lake Grace

Bush Fire Advisory Committee
(BFAC)

Minutes

15 September 2022

Meeting Commencing at 4.00pm



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Agenda for the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held at the Newdegate Recreation Centre, Waddell Street, Newdegate, on 15 September 2022 at 4.00pm.

1 OPENING & ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Chairman, Cr Ross Chappell, declared the meeting opened at 4:05 pm.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Presiding member to read:

I begin today by acknowledging the Ballardong people, Traditional Custodians of the land on which we meet today, and pay my respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today.

3 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Members	Delegate	Y/N	Deputy	Y/N
Councillor	Cr Ross Chappell	Y	Cr Anton Kuchling	N
CESM	Mr Matt Castaldini	Y	Nil	
CBFCO	Mr David Roberts	Y	Nil	
DCBFCO	Mr Brad Watson	Y	Nil	
Senior FCO – West	Mr Kevin Naisbitt	Y	Nil	
Senior FCO – Central	Mr Peter Walker	Y	Nil	
Senior FCO – East	Mr Hugh Roberts	Y		
Lake Grace North BFB - FCO x1	Mr Greg Carruthers		Mr Evan Wyatt	Y
Lake Grace Town BFB – FCO x1	Mr Chad Stanton		Nil	
Lake Grace South BFB - FCO x1	Mr Scott Strevett	Y	Mr Kevin Naisbitt	Y
Newdegate North BFB - FCO x1	Mr Bill Lloyd	Y		
Newdegate Town BFB	Mr Callun Tonkin	Y	Mr David Tonkin	
Newdegate South BFB - FCO x1	Mr Geoff Richardson	Y	Mr Wes Hall	Y
Lake King BFB - FCO x1	Mr Jason Sugg		Mr Jorg Brinkman	
Varley BFB – FCO x1	Mr John Zurnamer		Mr Craig Newman	Y
Mt Madden / Dunn Rock BFB - FCO x1	Mr Anthony Teale	Y		

Other Attendees:

Ben Hyde
 Amanda Giles
 Doug Dunham
 Lindsay Brownley
 Ian Lloyd
 Dwight Ness

Apologies:

Mitch Davies – DBCA Regional Operations Manager

Grant Hansen – DFES AO Narrogin East (TBA)
 Anton Kuchling – Councillor
 Alan George – SoLG CEO
 Tyson De Landgraftt – FCO
 Rhys De Landgraftt – FCO
 Craig Shalders – FCO

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

BFAC Resolution 12/2022:

That the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting held on 30 March 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Anthony Teale

Seconded: David Roberts

Voting Requirements

Simple majority required. – **CARRIED**

4.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

An update will be provided by relevant responsible person for each item.

Meeting Date	Brigade / Report Title	Details of Required Action	Resp Officer	Current Status	Action Completed
17/10/2019	Service Medals	Medals ordered. Ceremony to be organised.	Doug Dunham, Brad Watson and Cr Chappell to coordinate the event with the CEO.	95% Medals arrived at DFES, awaiting final ones to arrive. Budget allocation lost for ceremony.	Ongoing
02/07/2020	Radio communication issues	Workshop in to be arranged with stakeholders to define the issues and the specific areas where problems are occurring and plan a way towards a joint solution	CESM DFES GS/ Operational Communications	With DFES Op. Comms & GS	Ongoing

5 AFDRS & HVMB

Matt gave a presentation on Australian Fire Danger Rating System and how HVMB will work this year.

Discussion had regarding Permits cancelled on High. We are expecting less days in Autumn to be able to burn under permit conditions which is expected to have an impact to Landowners/ managers who utilise Windrows and Chaff dumps.

Action: Make people aware now about limited burning before seeding, SMS, whatsapp, Facebook etc.

Discussed CES Act (coming), FCO noted they are interested in getting updates.

6 RURAL FIRE AWARENESS

Matt gave a brief presentation on the Rural Fire Awareness course covering some key points and encouraging FCOs to get people to come along to training and help coordinate their locals onto courses.

7 REPORTS

If possible, please submit written reports prior to the meeting.

7.1 CHIEF BUSHFIRE CONTROL OFFICER

Nil

7.2 DEPUTY CHIEF BUSHFIRE CONTROL OFFICER

Brad Watson: Advised that he raised a question to council and wasn't happy with the response. He noted that he didn't receive a written response, but all the councillors had a written version. The President provided the response verbally which was hard to follow. Matt provided a copy of the written response after the meeting and on reviewing the information Brad noted that he did not feel his questions were answered, rather deflected to other organisations, WALGA/DFES.

Matt: Noted that he agreed with Brad's sentiment, however we need to ensure that this conversation is framed in an expectation to work together to achieve WHS compliance and not too caught up with who did/doing/not doing what.

7.3 BRIGADE CAPTAINS

7.3.1 Lake Grace North BFB (Farm Response)

2 Permits Issued, although not needed until 19th.

7.3.2 Lake Grace South BFB (Farm Response)

Nil

7.3.3 Lake Grace Town BFB

Nil

7.3.4 Newdegate North BFB (Farm Response)

Nil

7.3.5 Newdegate South BFB (Farm Response)

Nil

7.3.6 Newdegate Town BFB

Nil

7.3.7 Varley BFB

Nil

7.3.8 Lake King BFB

Nil

7.3.9 Mount Madden/ Dunn Rock BFB (Farm Response)

Planning Training, to coordinate people and plan a date, TBA 11-Oct.

7.4 DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Please be aware of the AFDRS commenced as of 1 September. Thanks for your efforts last summer.

7.5 DBCA PARKS & WILDLIFE SERVICE



Department of **Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions**



Report for Lake Grace Shire BFAC Meeting September 2022

Bushfire Mitigation

Parks and Wildlife Service completed four of its planned burns last Autumn. These include burns in the Williams and Kondinin/Yilgarn Shires. We also completed burns in Cranbrook and Tammin Shires. Early rain meant we were unable to complete as many burns as planned again.

We completed 145km's of track mtce and 12km's of scrub rolling in Dragon Rocks Nature Reserve in the shires of Kulin and Lake Grace. Were not able to get to burning the scrub rolling so will look at burning next Autumn.

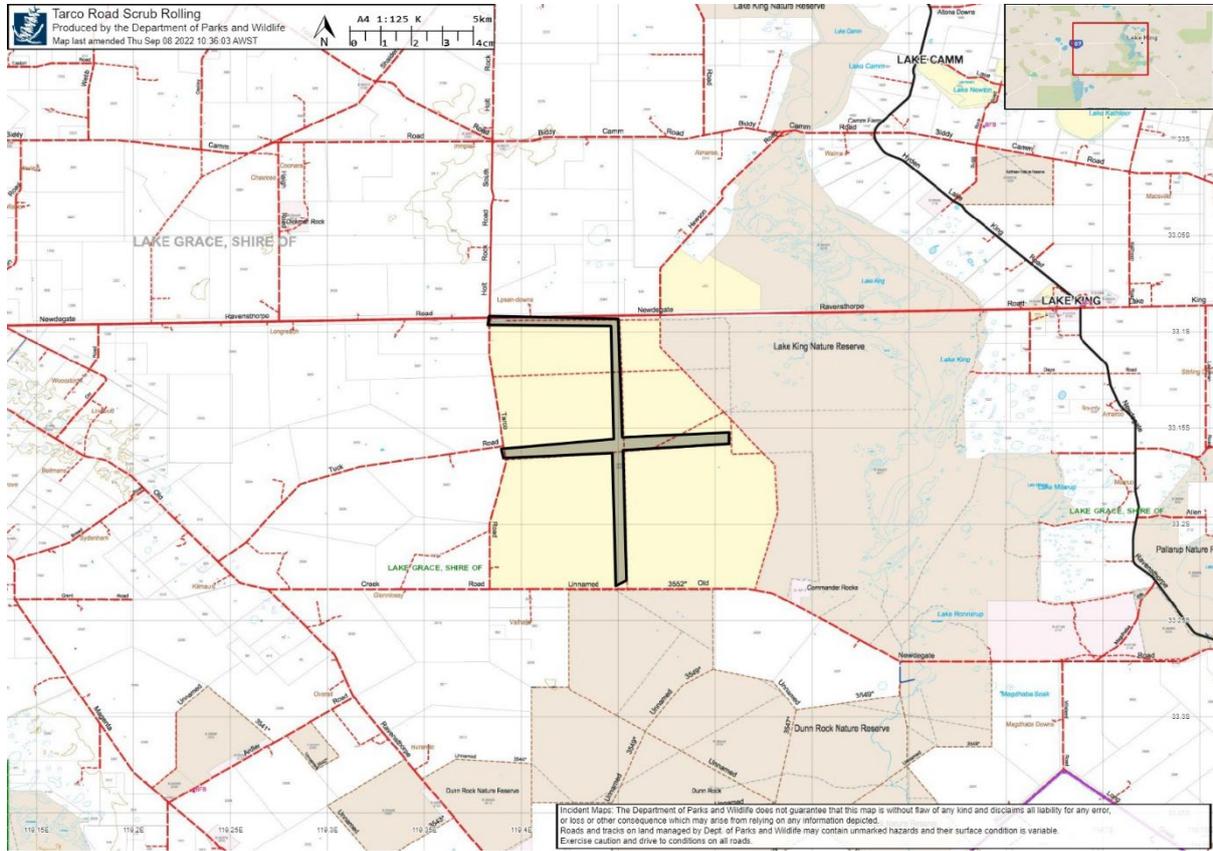
In regard to other mitigation plans this financial year, we have allocated funding to rescrub some buffers in the UCL south of the Newdegate – Ravensthorpe Road east of Tarco Road. We are also looking at doing some blade up scrub rolling for two blade widths on the boundaries of Silver Wattle Nature Reserve. We will then look at burning these to create a wider break fuel reduced break.

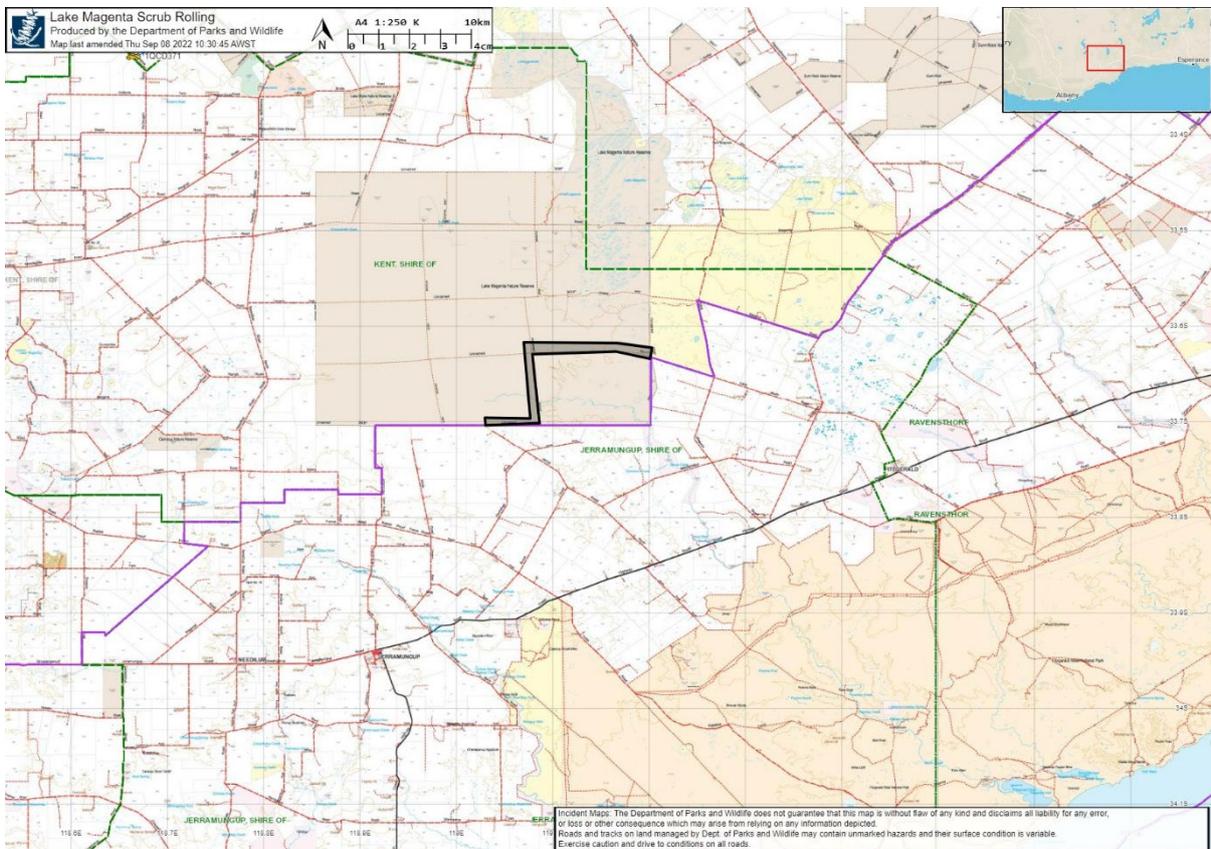
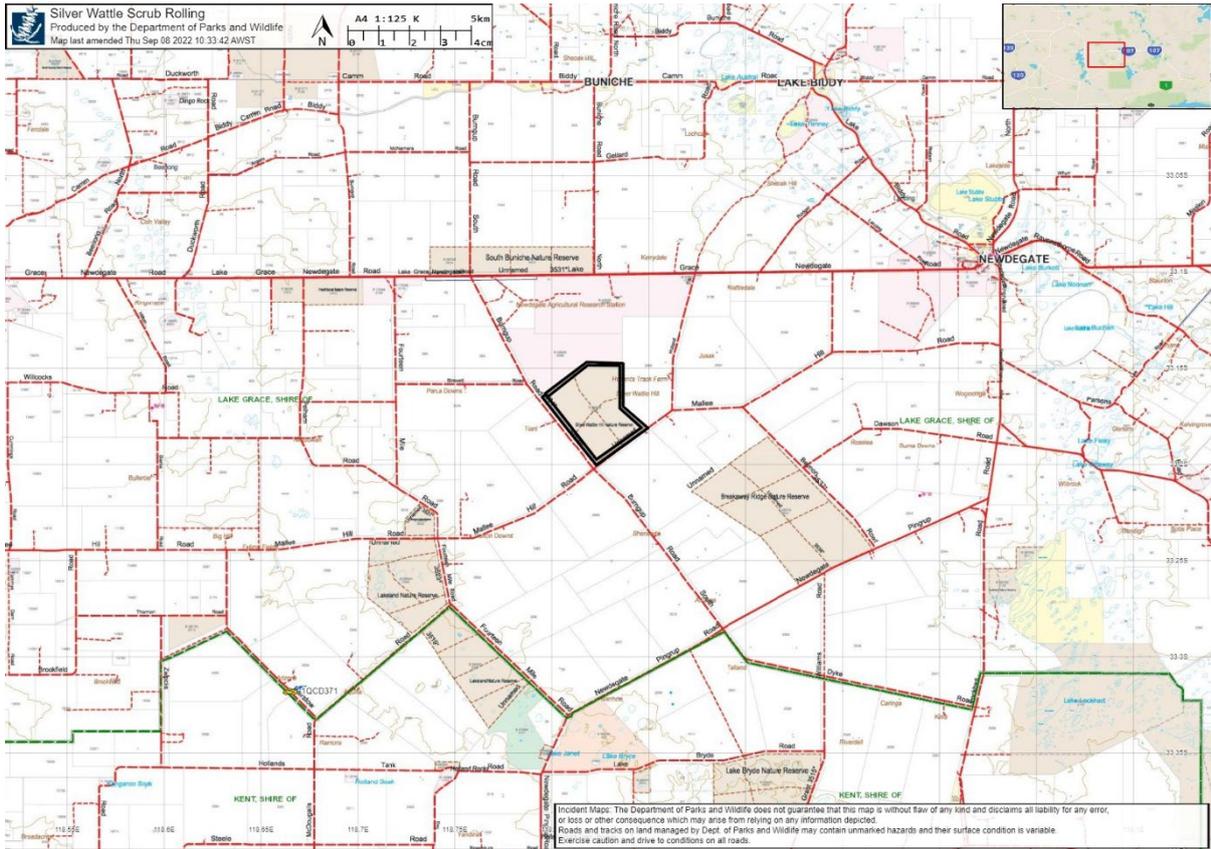
Finally, also looking at retreating a buffer in Lake Magenta Reserve in the Shire of Kent.

Reporting Fires to Parks and Wildlife Service

All fires effecting or threatening Parks and Wildlife Service managed land in the Wheatbelt needs to be reported to the Duty Officer on **9881 9200**. This number is available 7 days a week.

The Wheatbelt Region continues to provide bushfire resources that are available on a roster system throughout the bush fire season including weekends and public holidays.





7.6 REGIONAL OPERATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

A number of topics were discussed including;

- AFDRS
- Reporting fires to 000
- Recording when man-made items burn (headers, tyres, bailers etc) as the smoke it toxic and will have health implications in the future
- Online Reports vs. Paper reports (BFB can still do paper reports)
- Requirement for more training across the region to bring everyone onto the same page.

7.7 COMMENTS ON REPORTS

Nil

7.8 Training Requirements

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge that it has been exceptionally busy over winter and everyone has been short of time. I would like to make a quick reminder that we did adopt a training program to help us build internal capability and capacity into our local team.

I encourage you to support training by giving your time to training when it is available.

Focus has been on getting the Farm Response/ Rural Fire Awareness (RFA) training sorted. Members responding on Town Trucks are meant to hold Bushfire Safety Awareness & Fire Fighting Skills courses (BSA&FFS).

LG North	39/71	55%
LG South	16/21	76%
NGT North	1/10	10%
NGT South	0/14	0%
NGT Town	6/24 (BSA&FFS)	25%
Varley	2/32 (BSA&FFS)	6%
	0/32 (RFA)	0%
Lake King	4/34 (BSA&FFS)	12%
	24/34 (RFA)	70%
MM/DR	18/34	53%
Total	107/240	44.5%

Brad: Can we please get a local list for Brigade captains showing who still requires training.

Matt: Yes, no worries.

8 GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 CESM: Emergency Register & Resource List

The Emergency Register and Resource list for the Shire has been started but need info. *The document is a Shire document, only for distribution to FCO's for use at incidents.*

The intention of the document is to provide a list of all registered brigade members, by brigade, with contact details, local contractors and their machinery, any relevant shire contractors (traffic management, plumbers, electricians etc), privately owned fire response equipment in each brigade, fire water locations on a map, possibly the revisited homestead map.

This can be used by FCO's at escalating incidents to be able have an idea of equipment within neighbouring areas when you are assisting each other. (You will have a good idea of what is in each your own patch, not always what is in another area).

8.2 Farm Responders to be Registered Please

We have found that the Newdegate North, South and Town Lists need some attention to register the farmers and full-time workers in the area to better reflect the current capacity and enable them to be added to the SMS notifications when we have fires.

8.3 Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS) Grant

This year our operating grant was increased to \$82,000, which is an increase of approximately \$20,000 on last year. This is still insufficient and we will keep working on improving this.

We were unsuccessful in the application for a Lake Grace Bush Fire Truck and a Bulk Water Tanker.

We did however receive some limited funding to manufacture 3x Fast Fill Trailers. I have started discussions with Rocket & Brad about these. They are intended for Lake Grace (North OR South), Varley and Mt Madden / Dunn Rock.

The trailers are planned to be located where they will be used for firefighting and will need to be checked periodically. Maintenance & Rego costs will be covered by the Shire through the LGGS grant.



8.4 General Business from the Floor

Pete – Welcome to Dwight Ness, thank you for coming along. We are proposing to nominate Dwight as an FCO in the Newdegate South area to assist Geoff and Wes, as we are low on FCOs in that area.

BFAC Resolution 13/2022:

The members present nominate to the CEO of the Shire of Lake Grace, Dwight Ness, to fulfil the role of Fire Control Officer in the Newdegate South area.

Moved: Brad Watson

Seconded: Geoff Richardson

Voting Requirements

Simple majority required. – **CARRIED**

Wes – Fire Breaks – people to provide details of bad area,

Ross – If there is a fire, the Zone should be shut down until the fire is extinguished.

Brad – Happy to continue, needs to be a decent fire, we don't want to shut down a zone unnecessarily.

9 MEETING CLOSED

Presiding Member, Cr Ross Chappell, closed the meeting at 1805 pm.

10 CERTIFICATION

I, Ross Chappell certify that the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2022 as shown were confirmed as a true record at the meeting held on the 29 March 2023.



Presiding Member

30/03/2023
Date