

Shire of Lake Grace

Bushfire Advisory Committee

Minutes

29 March 2023

Meeting Commencing at 4.00pm



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Agenda for the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting to be held at the Newdegate Recreation Centre, Waddell Street, Newdegate, on 29 March 2023 at 4.00pm.

1 OPENING & ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Chairman, 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

Present

Matt Castaldini – CESM
Alan George – CEO
Craig Elefsen – MIS
David Roberts – CBFCO
Brad Watson – DCBFCO / Captain, Lake Grace North BFB
Mitch Davies – DBCA, Regional Operations Manager
Gavin Stevens – DFES, Area Officer Narrogin East
Brett Dew – Western Power
Tanya Ramponi – DFES, Legal & Compliance (Online - Presentation)
Michelle Marchese – DFES, Legal & Compliance (Online - Presentation)
Cr Ross Chappell – FCO / Council Delegate
Cr Anton Kuchling – Council Delegate
Aaron Guelfi - FCO
Peter Walker – Senior FCO Central
Kevin Naisbitt – Senior FCO West / Captain, Lake Grace South BFB
Hugh Roberts – Senior FCO East
Geoff Richardson – FCO
Craig Shalders – FCO
Jason Sugg – Captain, Lake King BFB
Scott Ball – Guest
Ian Lloyd – FCO
Rhys De Landgraft – FCO
Tyson De Landgraft – FCO
Dan Sanderson – AVBFB, Vice President (Online)

Apologies

Wes Hall – FCO / Captain, Newdegate South BFB
Amanda Giles – FCO
Steve Davies – FCO
Anthony Teale – Captain, Mt Madden / Dunn Rock BFB
Callun Tonkin – A/Captain, Newdegate Town BFB

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

BFAC Resolution 01/2023:

That the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting held on 15 September 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Kevin Naisbitt

Seconded: Hugh Roberts

Voting Requirements

Simple majority required.

CARRIED

4.1 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

An update will be provided by the 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 | Final Medals to be ordered. Ceremony to be organised. | Doug Dunham, Brad Watson and Cr Chappell to coordinate the event with the CEO. | 98% Medals arrived at DFES, awaiting final ones to arrive. Budget allocation was lost for the ceremony. | Ongoing |
| 02/07/2020 | Radio communication issues | Ongoing liaison regarding tower location. | DFES GS/ Operational Communications | With DFES Op. Comms & GS | Ongoing |

5 DFES HVMB Presentation

Presentation on Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans from the DFES Legal & Compliance team (via MS Teams).

Brad: What is the impact of the CES Act on this?

Tanya: We are expecting several years before this is implemented, please stay connected and be involved in feedback when the draft is released to ensure you have a say in shaping the legislation.

6 Western Power

Presentation by Brett Dew from Western Power

The session was a group discussion on insulators/ pole top fires. Various points were covered, and some key points are noted below;

Brett:

- Very low staffing across the area. (Kondinin/Narrogin/Katanning)
- We have been supported by Jerramungup and other regions.
- Locally looking at bonding (earth bonding the insulators) and application of silicone spray after washing as options to help minimise recurrence.
- Implementation of Standalone Power Supplies (SPS) is on the agenda over the next 10 years which will see the removal and/or decommissioning of long sections of powerlines.
- (Personally) Would like to see AC detection tools and training provided to rural areas to support decision-making when dealing with incidents involving power.
- Raised the locally generated concern about the conductivity of pine poles/CCA internally.
- Keen to work with local responders to see a good result for all.

Group

- Concerns were raised about local near misses and incidents relating to pole top fires, two significant events identified in the Shire of Kent.
- Lost time, wages and productivity from farmers and local businesses.
- Locals are considering submitting invoices for costs associated with investigating and responding to pole-top fires.

7 REPORTS

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

7.1 CHIEF BUSHFIRE CONTROL OFFICER

Reasonably quiet year, with no large fires locally.

The regularity of Pole Top fires is a real concern. The time and resources used to contain these fires are starting to wear thin with our volunteers. We mustn't forget the safety aspect of these fires, especially where the power lines cross roads and rail lines.

With the volume of incidents we have been experiencing, we are getting concerned that it is going to take a serious accident and/or a fatality for Western Power to get serious with this issue and start taking steps to resolve it.

The application of an FDR for limiting permits is another concern and as the Shire we need to come up with a solution to put forward. We will talk about it later in the meeting.

Brigades

We need to get our brigades more active to take some of the pressure off FCOs. We are there to work together in support of our local community. It is important that the brigades meet at least once per year to help point out who is who and doing what, and to give your community any updates.

Through your brigades, it is important that the 000 call out SMS is acknowledged.

FCO's

There are at least 7 FCOs that haven't once answered their radios or engaged in any conversation through WhatsApp this past year. To me, that shows no interest at all.

Thank you

Thanks to Brad for getting me through my first year. There's been a few phone calls to clarify a lot of things. Also, to Matt for his guidance with the politics of the Bushfires Act. Also, to Doug Dunham, Boof Jorg Brinkman and Steve Davies for their services as FCOs to the Shire for many years.

Thank you to the crews who responded to the call to support our neighbours in Ravensthorpe in their time of need.

7.2 DEPUTY CHIEF BUSHFIRE CONTROL OFFICER(S)

Thank you to Rocket for your work at Chief this year, and thanks also to Matt for your support and the FCOs.

Thank you, Brett, for coming and representing Western Power tonight.

7.3 BRIGADE CAPTAINS

7.3.1 Lake Grace North BFB (Farm Response)

We had a normal Harvest with an average occurrence of fires. The pole-top fires at the end of the season presented an issue, driving much frustration locally.

One of our bigger fires was on the main road, just north of town which was caused by a discarded cigarette.

7.3.2 Lake Grace South BFB (Farm Response)

Also had an average to low occurrence of harvest-related fires. We are looking forward to a resolution around these pole-top fires.

7.3.3 Lake Grace Town BFB

Nil

7.3.4 Newdegate North BFB (Farm Response)

We predominately had issues with the pole top fires, with the impact being felt by the townsite on several occasions with multiple days of impact to the power supply.

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 Town BFB

We had a few fires over the season, but not nearly as many pole tops as to the west. Most of our fires were either from harvesting or lightning.

We sent our truck with Varley and Mt Madden/Dunn Rock crews down to Ravensthorpe to support them.

The new truck goes really well, even with its sirens glitch (sirens activate when rewinding the hose reels). It did get bogged rather easily, but now the deflators have been set right it is almost unstoppable.

We are hoping to have a new member coming on board from town to support the truck, resulting in having 4-5 members close to town to be able to take the truck out.

7.3.9 Mount Madden/ Dunn Rock BFB (Farm Response)

We had a few fires in our area. We also sent crews over two-three days down to Ravensthorpe Shire to assist.

7.4 DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

DFES Upper Great Southern - Lake Grace BFAC Report – 29th March 2023

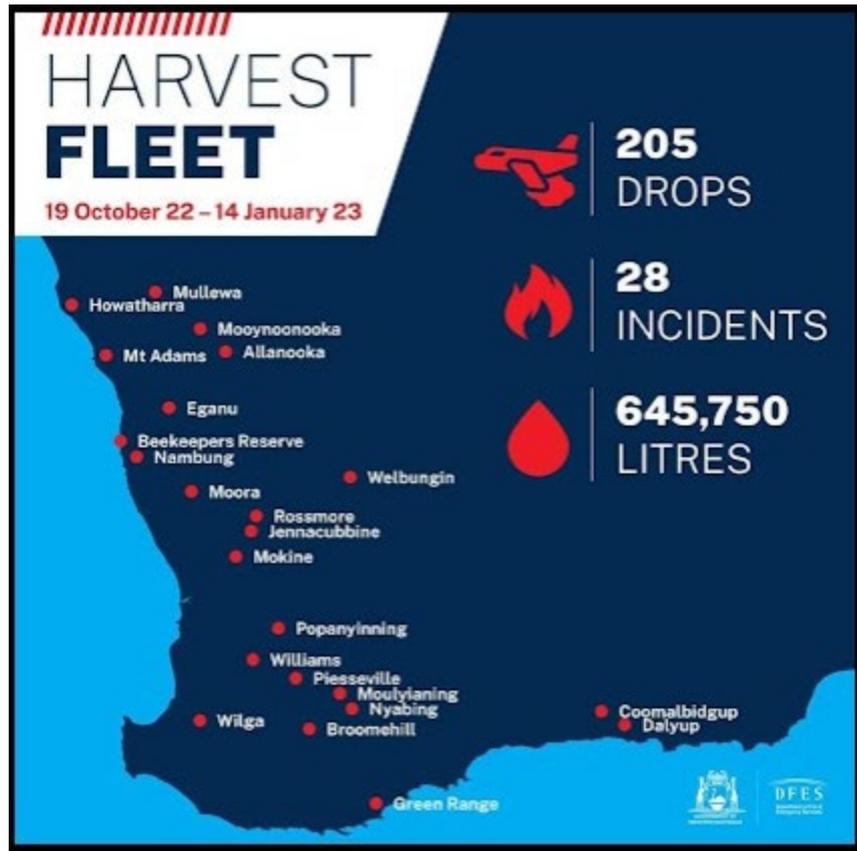
Thank you for all your work across the season and commitment within your area and further afield. There have been lots of changes to adapt to this season both with some unusual weather events across the country, AFDRS implementation as of 1 Sept 2022, WHS legislation, COVID continuation and a record harvest season.

2022-23 Bushfire Season Synopsis

- This year we have tackled complex blazes in the areas of Toodyay, Donnybrook-Balingup, Bridgetown-Greenbushes and Trayning and other bush and structural fires over the season.
- We were supported by the Grain Harvest strategy again seeing aerial appliances based in Narrogin and other regional centres to support on ground crews. (Graphic below)
- There was a well-publicised hazmat incident where we coordinated the search for the radioactive capsule in collaboration with a team of experts in emergency, nuclear and radiation management as well as the Department of Health and WA Police was an extraordinary outcome. Six days of meticulous searching in the Pilbara, under hot and trying conditions, demonstrated our expertise in emergency response and our tenacity to see the job through to the end.
- We were one of many agencies following Ex TC Ellie in the Kimberly. We have relocated more than 250 people to safety, coordinated the delivery of over 1,300 tonnes of medical and food supplies and resettled numerous communities back on country with more on their way. We have also assessed more than 700 homes and buildings for safety and aided in the clean-up of 74 buildings with more to go. There are hundreds of staff and volunteers working on rotation in the Kimberley and we have our teams behind the scenes coordinating communications and logistics, working in the operations centres, providing corporate and business support, and delivering public information. As an agency there is still an ongoing commitment to the Kimberley region.
- More recently, supporting DBCA at two fires in the Ravensthorpe area. During which one of our Large Air Tankers crashed while tackling a blaze in the Fitzgerald River National Park. Thankfully, the two pilots were able to walk away from the crash.

Upcoming Events;

- This time of year, begins our busy training schedules and we are committed to running many courses throughout the region.
- The change of seasons also opens up our mitigation programs for UCL UMR in townsites which we will work with your CEM to explore opportunities.
- The Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) review will be undertaken nationally. However, feedback can be provided at anytime to afdrs@dfes.wa.gov.au and this will be included in the review.



Thank you for your contributions to ROAC, some great discussion was had around permits. The feedback process from the national team will be announced in April but please do us the link above. The draft exposure bill comes out for the Combined Emergency Services legislation soon too and I encourage you to use the feedback processes also.

Best Wishes for a successful seeding period,
Gavin
Area Officer Narrogin East

7.5 DBCA PARKS & WILDLIFE SERVICE



Department of **Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions**



Report for Lake Grace Shire BFAC Meeting March 2023

Bushfires

We have had 30 bushfire incidents in the DBCA Wheatbelt Region this season to date that have required DBCA reporting. Header fires requiring water bomber activation and lightning are the main causes of bushfires. Total number of fires has increased again due to the presence of water bombers in the region during harvest

8 of the 30 bushfires have occurred in the DFES Upper Great Southern Region and none in the Shire of Lake Grace, but perhaps a suspected fire from a lightning strike at Dunn Rock Reserve.

Bushfire Mitigation

Dragon Rocks NR

There are still two prescribed burns planned at Dragon Rocks.

The burn in the most SW corner of the reserve, was scrub rolled last Autumn along the perimeter. The other burn is in the centre of the reserve in the Shire of Kulin.

Silver Wattle NR

We are scrub rolling 40 metres around the perimeter of the reserve and then burning it to provide a fuel reduced buffer. A section either side of the Holland Track will be retained as well as some woodlands on the northern boundary.

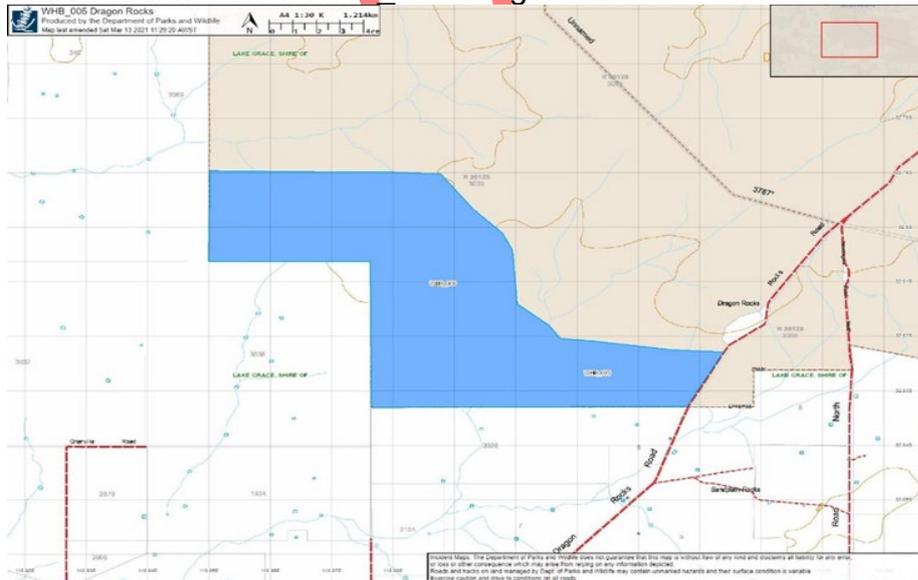
Tarco Road UCL

Completing 35 km's of scrub rolling to 80 metres wide in UCL south of the Newdegate - Lake King Road east of Tarco Road within. Some of this is second rotation and some new so will assess after completing for burning in spring 2023 or Autumn 2024.

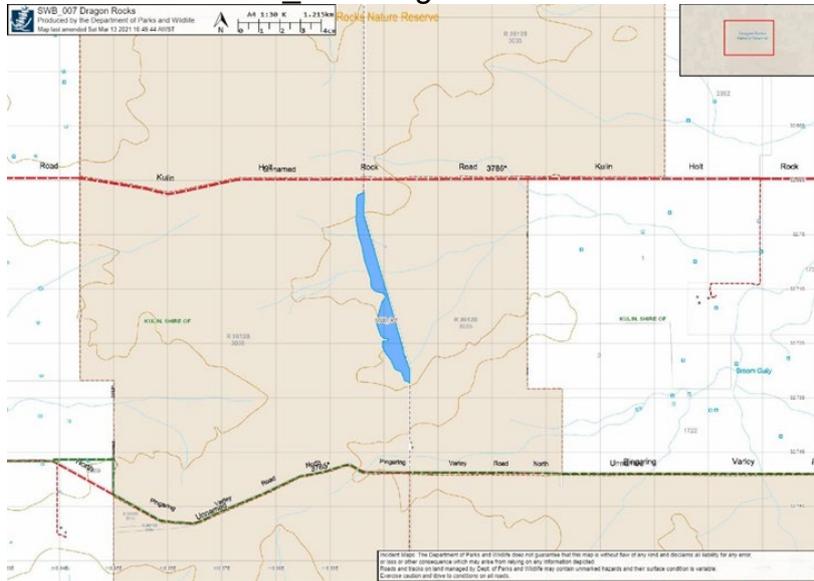
Lake Magenta NR

Also 27 km's of scrub rolling to 80 metres wide in Lake Magenta reserve in the Kent Shire. Is second rotation scrub rolling so would not traditionally burn due to the lack of fuel.

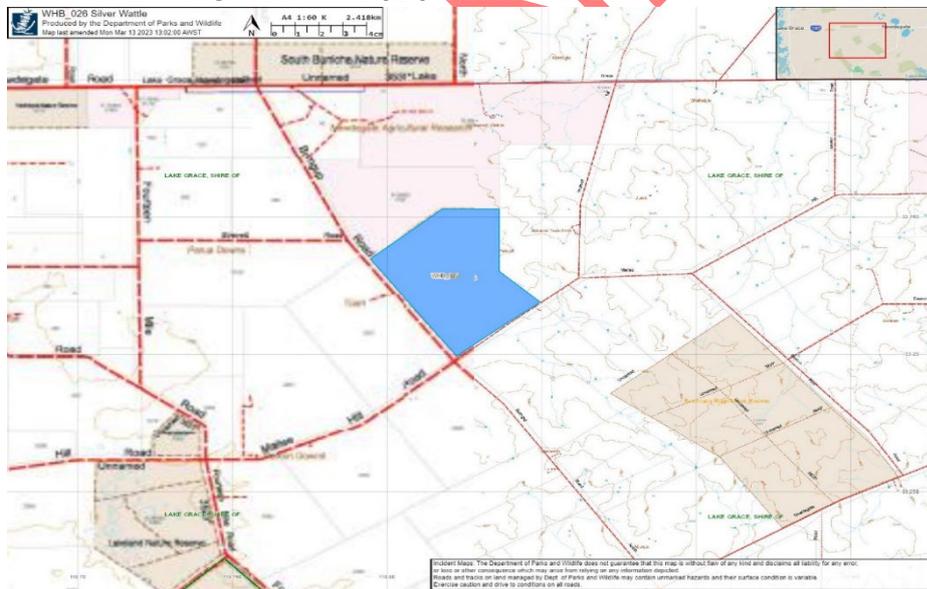
Shire of Lake Grace WHB 005 Dragon Rocks



Shire of Kulin WHB_007 Dragon Rocks



Shire of Lake Grace WHB026 Silver Wattle NR



UNFORMED

7.6 COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICES MANAGER

Firstly, Thank you to the CBFCO, DCBFCO and FCOs for your support to the Shire and your Community over the fire season. I understand this can be a significant drain on your family, with time away from the home. I also extend my thanks to your partners/ families for their support of you.

SMS – Acknowledging the Message.

As previously mentioned, it is important that someone (ideally the Captain or a designated FCO) acknowledge the SMS message when it comes through. This is to confirm that your area is not currently experiencing a Telstra outage for example and that someone will be attending to the call.

FCOs – Calling 000

Now we have gotten the 000 process in play, as an FCO, you can call directly into the Communication Centre (Comcen) if you come across a fire or have a fire. It is important that you identify yourself as an FCO for the Shire of Lake Grace and provide some details about what is happening. E.g. Pole Top fire at a given location. You can also specify what actions need to be taken, such as mobilising brigades (DFES SMS) or if no support is required.

Updating Comcen at Jobs

As we now have jobs recorded in the system, it is helpful for us to provide timely updates. When you call 1800 198 140 at an incident, you need to identify yourself and the incident you are at (either the incident number – in the SMS, or address) and provide an update. Typically, this will be a very quick process ~1-2mins max. Examples of updates include: “WA Police on scene – assisting with traffic management”, “Fire Contained, crews mopping up”, “Crews departed, please leave open, patrols tomorrow”, “Fire at xxxx has been made safe, xx ha burnt, the cause was a mechanical fault with a header, crews made up and departed. Please close.”

Training

Last year represented a significant delivery of training for our community, with most responders completing the Rural Fire Awareness training. This year we need to get some runs on the board for our FCO training as per our agreed Shire Training Program. While it is daunting the courses we need to do, please remember that they help build the foundation for being able to undertake your role more comfortably in the future. We are hoping to build your skills and understanding to better lead your local community.

I am currently looking at options for some training after Seeding to cover pre-requisites, with some more specific courses pre-harvest. I would like to deliver these courses centrally and get as many FCOs in the room to be able to do it together, collaboratively. I will be in touch to plan some dates. (I can't do all the training myself, so we will need to pre-plan some of these courses ahead of time.)

FireMapper

FireMapper only came on the scene for us late in the season, but it has proved to be very helpful on a few occasions already. The concept of the app is to provide a shared mapping experience to emergency responders that functions both online and

offline. It allows responders to plot data on the map – from recording a GPS track that you drive or dropping specific icons at key locations.
I encourage you to find the links in WhatsApp and set up the app. If you have any problems, please let me know.

Ross: The Rural Fire Awareness Training before harvest was as great, Thanks.

7.7 REGIONAL OPERATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held on 23/03/2023 in Narrogin.

Brad very good meeting, I attended with Matt and Grant Collins, CBFCO from Kent. There was lots of good discussion about current topics. It was good to see Chiefs from the area coming together on a number of items.

A key discussion was held around the limitation of the AFDRS/ Permits with the invalidation of permits when the FDR reaches High. The outcome was asking to see if BFACs would agree with a proposal to change the threshold of High to a FBI value, possibly of "40".

Prior to the ROAC we had a meeting with the Lake Grace, Kent and Dumbleyung Chiefs to discuss what we thought could be an appropriate level for our area and we had landed on an FBI of 28-30. We had also discussed the pole top fires, which we have already discussed tonight.

8 NOMINATIONS FOR ROLES

We now declare all roles vacant and proceed to nominations for roles.

8.1 NOMINATION FOR AND ELECTION OF PRESIDING MEMBER

As per the Terms of reference, BFAC members are to appoint a presiding member. The presiding member can be any of the members of the committee.

| Presiding Member | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Nominee: | Ross Chappell |

Moved: Brad Watson

Seconded: David Roberts

Voting Requirements:

Simple majority required.

CARRIED

8.2 NOMINATIONS FOR FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS

8.2.1 NOMINATIONS FOR FCO

Legal Implications

S.38. Local government may appoint bush fire control officer

- (1) A local government may from time to time appoint such persons as it thinks necessary to be its bush fire control officers under and for the purposes of this Act, and of those officers shall subject to section 38A(2) appoint 2 as the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and the Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer who shall be first and second in seniority of those officers, and subject thereto may determine the respective seniority of the other bush fire control officers appointed by it.
- (2A) The local government shall cause notice of an appointment made under the provisions of subsection (1) to be published at least once in a newspaper circulating in its district.

The presiding member to call for nominees to the role of Bush Fire Control Officer.

| Fire Control Officers | | |
|------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| District: | Name: | Call Sign: |
| Lake Grace North | Evan Wyatt Brad Watson Ross Chappell Greg Carruthers – Ask first | |
| Lake Grace South | Kevin Naisbitt Scott Strevett | |
| Lake Grace Town | Chad Stanton | |
| Newdegate North | Bill Lloyd Ian Lloyd Aaron Guelfi Dean Rintoul Craig Shalders Peter walker | |
| Newdegate South | Dwight Ness Geoff Richardson Wes Hall | |
| Newdegate Town | Cal Tonkin | |
| Varley | Scott Ball Ben Hyde Craig Newman | |
| Lake King | Jason Sugg Doc Roberts | |

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Mt Madden/ Dunn Rock | David Roberts Lindsay Brownley Tyson De Landgraft Rhys De Landgraft Anthony Teale Amanda Giles | |
| Shire of Lake Grace | | |

Q: Barry Ness – FCO Appointment?

Matt: Barry was not appointed as an FCO last year, he has retained a radio.

David: Can we please write a letter to Barry, thanking him for his service, we will retrieve the radio on the next servicing run.

Discussion:

Some FCOs from 2022/23 were not nominated based on response to radio scheduled calls and lack of participation/ engagement on the FCO WhatsApp group. Engagement with the FCO group is very important.

Matt: Process clarification: This process is nominating FCOs, once voted and received, the CEO can appoint on recommendation, with an item being sent to the Council to inform them of the appointments.

David: Can we appoint additional FCOs outside of this meeting

Answer: Yes.

8.2.2 NOMINATIONS FOR CBFCO & DCBFCO

Legal Implications

S.38. Local government may appoint bush fire control officer

- (1) A local government... shall subject to section 38A(2) appoint 2 as the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and the Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer who shall be first and second in seniority of those officers, and subject thereto may determine the respective seniority of the other bush fire control officers appointed by it.
- (2A) The local government shall cause notice of an appointment made under the provisions of subsection (1) to be published at least once in a newspaper circulating in its district.

The presiding member to call for nominees to the role of Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (CBFCO) and Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (DCBFCO).

Note: The CESM role is appointed as a DCBFCO, annual voting is not required.

| Chief & Deputy Bush Fire Control Officers | | |
|--|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Role | Nominee | Callsign |
| CBFCO | David Roberts | Lake Grace Chief / LG Chief |
| DCBFCO | Brad Watson | Lake Grace Deputy / LG Deputy |

8.2.3 NOMINATIONS FOR SENIOR FCO

The presiding member to call for nominees to the role of Senior Bush Fire Control Officer.

| Senior Bush Fire Control Officers | |
|--|----------------|
| Senior Fire Control Officer - West | Kevin Naisbitt |
| Senior Fire Control Officer - Central | Peter Walker |
| Senior Fire Control Officer - East | Hugh Roberts |

8.2.4 NOMINATION OF FIRE WEATHER OFFICERS

Legal Implications

A Fire Weather Officer may authorise a person who holds a permit to burn, to carry out that burn if the fire danger forecast is “catastrophic”, “extreme”, or “high”.

38. Local government may appoint bush fire control officer
- (8) An approved local government may appoint to the office of fire weather officer such number of senior bush fire control officers as it thinks necessary.
- (17) A fire weather officer of an approved local government ..., may authorise a person who has received a permit under section 18(6)(a), to burn the bush ... notwithstanding that for any day, or any period of a day, specified in the notice the fire danger forecast issued by the Bureau of Meteorology in Perth, in respect to the locality where the bush proposed to be burnt is situated, is “catastrophic”, “extreme”, or “high”, and upon the authority being given the person, if he has otherwise complied with the conditions prescribed for the purposes of section 18, may burn the bush.

| Fire Weather Officers & Deputies |
|---|
| Fire Weather Officer: |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chief Bush Fire Control Officer |
| Deputy Fire Weather Officers: |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer(s) |

8.2.5 FCO's - Acceptance and Resolution

BFAC Resolution 02/2023:

That the Bush Fire Advisory Committee nominates to the CEO for the 2023/2024 bush fire season the persons listed as successful nominees in the Minutes of this meeting to be appointed to the positions of:

- Fire Control Officers
- Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
- Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
- Fire Weather Officers

Moved: Peter Walker

Seconded: Kevin Naisbitt

Voting Requirements

Simple majority required.

CARRIED

8.3 NOMINATION OF AUTHORISED OFFICERS

8.3.1 Officers Authorised to issue Cover and Proclaimed Plant Burning Permits

Authorise the following persons, under s.24 of the Act, to issue clover and proclaimed plant burning permits during the 2022/2023 season in conjunction with the closest available Fire Control Officer to the person making the application:

| Officers Authorised to issue Cover and Proclaimed Plant Burning Permits |
|--|
| Chief Bush Fire Control Officer |
| Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer(s) |
| Chief Executive Officer |
| Community Emergency Services Manager |
| |

8.3.2 Bush Fire Control Officers Authorised to issue Harvest & Vehicle Movement Bans

Authorise the following bush fire control officers, under r.38A of the Bush Fire Regulations 1954, to prohibit the or operation of any engines, vehicles, plant or machinery during the prohibited burning times or restricted burning times, or both, where the operation of such machinery is, in the opinion of the officer, likely to cause a bush fire, or would be conducive to the spread of a bush fire:

| FCOs Authorised to issue Harvest & Vehicle Movement Bans |
|---|
| Chief Bush Fire Control Officer |
| Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer(s) |
| Chief Executive Officer |
| Community Emergency Services Manager |
| |

8.3.3 Authorised Officers - Acceptance and Resolution

BFAC Resolution 03/2023:

That the Bush Fire Advisory Committee nominates to the CEO that the roles listed in the Minutes of this meeting to be appointed to the positions of:

- Clover and Proclaimed Plant Burning Permits Authorised Officers; and
- Harvest & Vehicle Movement Ban authorised officers.

Moved: Jason Sugg

Seconded: Kevin Naisbitt

Voting Requirements

Simple majority required.

CARRIED

8.4 CBH Liaison Officers

The following bush fire control officers are authorised to liaise with CBH regarding ceasing of operations when a Harvest & Vehicle Movement Ban has been declared for the relevant district:

| Harvest Ban – CBH Advisory Officers | |
|--|-------------------|
| Mt Madden | Lindsay Brownley |
| Lake King | Jason Sugg |
| Varley | Ben Hyde |
| Newdegate | Ian Lloyd |
| Lake Grace | Scott Strevett |
| Dunn Rock | Rhys De Landgraft |
| | |

9 Zone Boundary Review - CESM

Any feedback on the Zone Boundary updates that were implemented?
No issues were identified.

10 GENERAL BUSINESS

CBFCO - Prohibited Burning Period – Extend until 1 March annually.
The discussion mainly centred around the fact that permits have not been issued in February for several years and the desire to avoid a situation like the Shackleton fire. The Prohibited burning period can be seasonally amended each year if required by 2 weeks.

BFAC Resolution 04/2023:

That the Shire of Lake Grace extends the Prohibited Burning Period from 31 January to 28 February annually, resulting in Restricted Burning being available from 1 March.

Moved: David Roberts

Seconded: Ian Lloyd

Voting Requirements

Simple majority required.

CARRIED

Matt/ CESM: Offered an alternative permit template to be viewed after the meeting for interested FCOs. The alternate template simplifies the writing process by having some conditions printed. (Template was a copy from Shire of Moora/Victoria Plains)

10.1 AFDRS – Review (Permits & HVMB)

At the ROAC meeting, a discussion was held to put forward an increase to the permit cut off threshold due to the constraints being experienced by primary producers. The local CBFCOs had discussed prior to the meeting and had come to a proposed FBI of 28-30. At the ROAC meeting, the proposal was for an FBI of 40 as it is closer to the old McArthur GFDI of 32/ Very High.

Discussion & Feedback on FBI 40 for HVMB.

The threshold of 40 was suitable. It is important that we get readings sent in on WhatsApp so that a fair assessment can take place in applying the ban.

BFAC Resolution 05/2023:

That the Bush Fire Advisory Committee supports and advocates for change to Bush Fire legislation/regulations to change the permit invalidation threshold from the Fire Danger Rating of “High” to the Fire Behaviour Index number of “40” using the Grassland model.

Moved: Peter Walker

Seconded: Kevin Naisbitt

Voting Requirements

Simple majority required.

CARRIED

10.2 Water Requirement – Harvest/Agricultural Activities

The Shire has received advice that the current requirement for the provision of a fire unit is not valid/ appropriate when specified under the Section 33 Notice – Fire Break and Fuel Loads.

It needs to be declared under the BF Regs, Section 38B. See below. Feedback Sought on activities and requirements in the proposed wording.

38B. Equipment powered by internal combustion engine, power to prohibit operation of

- (1) Where, in the opinion of the bush fire control officer, the operation of any power saw, bag loader or other plant or equipment activated by internal combustion engine on any land in the district may constitute a fire hazard, he may, by wireless broadcast from a radio station giving broadcast coverage to the district, by publication in a newspaper circulating in the district or by written notice or oral direction given to any person or persons, subject to such direction as may be given by the local government, prohibit the operation of any such power saw, bag loader or other plant or equipment, until further notice, unless the operator has first —
- (a) provided, at the site of operation, such firefighting equipment, supply of water and other means of extinguishing fire as the bush fire control officer may, by the same means, direct; or
- (b) fitted to the engine by which the power saw, bag loader or other plant or equipment is activated a spark arrester of a suitable design, maintained in a clean, sound and efficient condition.

Proposed wording below;

Pursuant to Bush Fires Regulations 1954 S.38B (1) (a) undertaking the below-listed agricultural activities shall have the following conditions when undertaken between 1 November and 30 April;

- Provide an operational mobile firefighting unit with no less than 600 litres of water (recommended 1200 litres),

- Minimum 6 metres of hose (recommended 30 metres) with a controlled nozzle,
- Self-propelled fire units are preferred with trailer units being accepted only if connected to a tow vehicle at all times.
- Mobile firefighting unit GVM and/or GTM shall not be exceeded pursuant to WHS legislation to maintain a safe work environment.

Specified activities;

- Grain harvesting
- Hay bailing
- Reefinating
- Stubble crunching
- Rock raking
- Grain handling in a paddock
- Other activities as broadcast by the CBFCO, CESM or CEO.

Feedback: Add time constraint. 1 Nov to end April. - Added

10.3 Membership Check

- Brigade lists will be available to be reviewed after the meeting.
- If anyone has moved on and needs to be removed, please let the CESM know.

10.4 Volunteer Training

- Training for FCOs will ramp up this year, please get behind it. We will need to book some dates in advance, please don't be shy.
- There will be a limited number of Rural Fire Awareness courses run.
- Rural Fire Awareness is now available as an online course. (Noting: it doesn't have the local content about sectors in it.)

10.5 Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGs) Grant

An offer of \$66,490.00 was received and a counteroffer of \$184,000.00 is being provided, noting the system does not have the allowance to provide this. Our insurance is forecast to be \$58,310.00, leaving \$8,180.00 to cover everything else which is unrealistic.

We are also applying for 2 appliances, One each for Lake Grace North and Lake Grace South, and a secondary request in lieu of the two appliances, for a single appliance for the Lake Grace Town brigade.

10.6 Brigade Meetings

CBFCO – Brigades need to be getting together, at least once per year. This helps engage your community with who the local FCOs are, as well as the Brigade Captain who is the contact point for the members in that area.

This has been done very successfully at the Mt Madden/Dunn Rock brigade now and it has been very beneficial.

10.7 General Business from the Floor

Hugh Roberts – Just installed a Red/Amber light on his personal vehicle. Purchased a Narva product to hardwire, with two switched on the dash. Ideally would like to see 2 provided per zone for the FCOs to help with identification at Fires.

David Roberts – Ch244 Radio reception for the area East of the Lake king – Ravensthorpe Rd and especially south down near Mt Madden, the reception is almost not usable in vehicles.

Action: Log Radio Fault –

FYI: new 60m Western power Tower is being installed in Lake King.

Brad: Question from ROAC, when we go into the Open season, are we still limited by the FDR?

Answer: No, once we are open it is open.

Feedback, as the meeting have been going later, can we start the next one earlier.

11 MEETING CLOSED

Close Meeting at 18:50.

UNCONFIRMED