11.2 Sustainable Development

<table>
<thead>
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<th>ITEM NO</th>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
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<td>BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – 19 FEBRUARY 2020</td>
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11.2 Sustainable Development

11.2.1 BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING – 19 FEBRUARY 2020

Attachment 1 – Unconfirmed Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting Minutes and Attachments – 19 February 2020
Augusta Margaret River
Bush Fire Advisory Committee

Minutes

For the meeting held
Wednesday, 19 February 2020
Augusta Council Chambers
66 Allnutt Terrace, Augusta
Commencing at 6.00pm
Notice of Meeting

Please be advised that a meeting of the Augusta Margaret River Bush Fire Advisory Committee will be held on 19 February 2020, commencing at 6.00pm

Augusta Council Chambers
66 Allnutt Terrace
Augusta WA 6290

This meeting is open to members of the public.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please contact Lisa Garstone, Executive Assistant.

P: 9780 5639
E: lgarstone@amrshire.wa.gov.au
## Agenda Listing

**Notice of meeting**

**Order of business**

1.0 Declaration of opening

2.0 Attendance / Apologies / Non-attendance
   3.1 Attendance
   3.2 Apologies
   3.3 Non-attendance

3.0 Question time for the public

4.0 Disclosure of members’ interests

5.0 Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting
   5.1 Bush Fire Advisory Committee Minutes: 20 November 2019

6.0 Business arising from previous minutes
   6.1 Action List

7.0 Reports from Shire Officers and Delegates
   7.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
   7.2 Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
   7.3 Shire Bush Fire Brigades
   7.4 Community Emergency Services Manager / Shire Training Officer
   7.5 Shire Executive Officer / Representative
   7.6 Shire Coordinator Ranger Services
   7.7 Department of Fire and Emergency Services
   7.8 Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service
   7.9 Bush Fire Ready Facilitators Reports
   7.10 Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions
   7.11 State Emergency Services

8.0 General business
   8.1 Shire Media Policy – Adam Jasper, CESM and Stephanie Addison-Brown, CEO
   8.2 Main Street Makeover Project – Adam Jasper, CESM
   8.3 Shire Autumn Burn Program – Adam Jasper, CESM
   8.4 Lions Club Margaret River donation to Shire Brigades – David Holland, CBFCO
   8.5 Wallcliffe BFB Agenda Items – Gordon Temby, Wallcliffe BFB
   8.6 New Member Application and Induction Process – Adam Jasper, CESM
   8.7 Council Decision Regarding Brigade Transfers to DFES – Peter Warrilow, Captain Karridale BFB

9.0 Matters for which the meeting may be closed (Confidential Items)

10.0 Closure of meeting
1.0 **Declaration of opening**
The meeting was declared open at 6.00pm.

2.0 **Attendance / Apologies / Non-attendance**

2.1 **Attendance**

Committee Members
- David Holland : Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (CBFCO)/ Presiding Member
- Brett Trunfull : Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (DCBFCO)/ Deputy Presiding Member
- Tony Mostert : Alexandra Bridge Bush Fire Brigade Delegate
- Tim Garstone : Cowaramup Bush Fire Brigade Delegate
- Peter Warrilow : Karridale Bush Fire Brigade Proxy
- Peter Brindley : East Augusta Bush Fire Brigade Delegate *(6.02pm)*
- Matt Nield : Kudardup Bush Fire Brigade Delegate
- John Matten : Molloy Island Bush Fire Brigade Delegate
- Keith Scott : Rosa Brook Bush Fire Brigade Delegate
- Gordon Temby : Wallcliffe Bush Fire Brigade Delegate/ Bush Fire Ready Coordinator (North)
- Diane Holland : Witchcliffe Bush Fire Brigade Delegate

Shire Staff Members
- Stephanie Addison-Brown : Chief Executive Officer
- Dale Putland : Director Sustainable Development
- Adam Jasper : Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM)
- Sharon McTaggart : Coordinator Ranger Services
- Ian Earl : Councillor
- Brian Daniel : Councillor
- Lisa Garstone : Minute Secretary

Observers
- Georgina Thiele : Bush Fire Ready Coordinator (South) *(6.02pm)*
- Andrew Hunt : City of Busselton BRMP Coordinator
- Ed Hatherley : Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) *(6.30pm)*
- Helen Holzheuer : Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) *(6.30pm)*
- Peter Thomas : Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)
- Frank Bartoll : East Augusta Bush Fire Brigade Captain *(6.02pm)*
- Richard Moroney : Rosa Brook Bush Fire Brigade Captain
- Shaun Palmer : Rosa Brook Bush Fire Brigade Member
- Andrew Newnham : Rosa Brook Bush Fire Brigade Proxy
- Robert Barnett : Wallcliffe Bush Fire Brigade Member
- Lynn Daniel : Member of Public

2.2 **Apologies**

- Adrian Yates : Augusta Margaret River State Emergency Service (SES)
- Peter Delfs : Gracetown Bush Fire Brigade Delegate
- Simon Hanson : Karridale Bush Fire Brigade Delegate
- Paul Vanzetti : Karridale Bush Fire Brigade FCO
- Julia Meldrum : Shire Councillor

2.3 **Non Attendance**

Nil

3.0 **Question time for the public**

Nil

4.0 **Disclosure of members’ interest**

Nil
5.0 Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting
5.1 Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes: 20 November 2019

RECOMMENDATION/BFAC DECISION BFAC2020/01
That the unconfirmed minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held 20 November 2019 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

Moved: Tony Mostert, Alexandra Bridge BFB
Seconded: Gordon Temby, Wallcliffe BFB

Carried: 9/0
6.0  Matters arising from previous minutes

6.1  Action List

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action Item</th>
<th>Action Update</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Actioning Officer</th>
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| 21/08/19 | Wallcliffe FCO, Robert Barnett, asked the Chair to investigate how to handle the controlled burning of coastal health. | 21/8/19: CBFCO to take action to ROAC for a response prior to the next BFAC meeting.  
20/11/19: David Holland has made contact with a DFES representative regarding a possible pilot project of research into fire mitigation for areas where coastal heath occurs. David to follow up and report again at next BFAC.  
19/2/20: David Holland approached DFES Fire Ecologist for possible case study, however, unfortunately this item is unresolved at this time. Remove from Action List. | No further action      | CBFCO              |

East Augusta Representatives, Peter Brindley, Georgina Thiele and Frank Bartoll, entered the meeting at 6.02pm.
7.0 Reports from Shire Officers and Delegates

7.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

- It has been a very quiet start to the bush fire season in our Shire so far with only a few call outs. This has not been the case in many other parts of our State and they have had to endure some protracted fire responses. Our Brigade members have shown their willingness to support the deployments that have been sent to assist other Shires when requests have been made. Thank you for your assistance in making this happen.
- The Restricted Burning Period commenced on the advertised date although we did not issue any permits on the first day. We suspended the Restricted Burning Period on 2 December which meant we started the Prohibited Burning Season nearly three weeks early.
- We issued a weather warning for 15 November as well as a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban for 14 December.
- I participated in the handover of the new basic bush firefighting course which is now the new training product for our volunteers. The inaugural course using this new curriculum was delivered in Busselton last weekend.
- This is obviously a very short report which is probably a reflection on how quiet it has been!
- Please keep yourselves safe and thank you for your dedication and support.

7.2 Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

- Strategy Meeting was held last Thursday with a couple of wish lists outstanding.
- Nothing else to report.

The DCBFCO report was provided at the meeting.

7.3 Shire Bush Fire Brigades

Alexandra Bridge

- Very quiet.
- One small incident, a callout on Australia Day.
- Shed extensions complete.
- Next week holding tri-Brigade training to compare trucks 2.4, 3.4 and 4.4.

The Alexandra Bridge report was provided at the meeting.

Cowaramup

- Training is taking place every Thursday night and the Second Sunday of the month. Thursday night training used to be for FRS training but due to 90% of our membership being dual registered we are now mixing FRS and BFB training scenarios and getting a good response to training from members.
- We have not had many call outs to local incidents, but have answered the call out for members to deploy to Forrestania and Norseman.
- Forrestania saw our 4.4 experience extensive damage. The vehicle was made serviceable on site at the local mine workshop, before being completely fixed by Mick the Mechanic upon its return. The rear panel damage is still to be fixed in the near future.
- We applied for, via Adam, a ‘Permit to Take’, for a control burn that we flagged to be done within a Shire road reserve. This application was approved, but due to the early onset of summer, the decision was made to postpone this burn until autumn.
- Although this application is quite onerous on the Shire to complete, as a Brigade we feel that the recommendations set out in the Permit are realistic and achievable.
- We as a Brigade accept this Conservation Act on its Merits, but believe the Brigades and the AMR Shire, should be pushing back to the powers to be that these Permits should not cost private land owners money to acquire. Putting a financial burden on property owners will only make them stop burning.
Cowaramup BFB, while being Dual Registered, has always found the Shire management to be of a high standard and we get a great deal of respect from all parties we deal with. We have, and will, continue to support the Shire in their endeavours to protect the community from the effects of fire, whether that be in the form of mitigation, fighting a wild fire, assisting the community in the aftermath of a fire or on deployments representing the Shire.

We would like to thank David and Adam for their efforts, over the last 3 months in particular, in arranging and organising crews and vehicles to be deployed all over the State and Nation and also to Lisa for her efforts in assisting us as Brigades in the day to day running of our Brigades. Without these supports we would not be in as strong position as we are to defend our communities.

East Augusta

- Two crew attended the fire in Nambeelup in the High Season Vehicle (HSV).
- Training fortnightly with weekly maintenance runs being carried out on the 1.4 and HSV.

Gracetown

- Training is regular, each Monday fortnight, with good member turnout.
- Have gained four new members recently.
- Several new members are participating in the Fire Fighting Course.
- Members took the 2.4R to Nannup a few weeks ago.
- Have had the pump for the stand pipe replaced last week.

The Gracetown report was received following the distribution of the Agenda, but prior to the Committee meeting being held.

Karridale

- Shed extensions complete.
- Have held regular training sessions.
- Number of new members and attending courses.
- Two recent callouts.
- Hope it continues to be a quiet season.

The Karridale report was provided at the meeting.

Kudardup

- Overall has been a very quiet season to date.
- The 4.4 seems to have spent more time out of the district assisting other fires than in the shed.
- Several Kudardup team members have put themselves forward for the deployments out of the shire on most occasions.
- Over the last few months a lot of community members have raised issues with section 150 of the new Biodiversity Act. A lot of this is a result of confusion from not getting proper details of what is involved. The confusion in working out what is required some have found that the cost process too high and question whether it is worth the hazard reduction.
- With what's been happening around Australia over the last few months, community members are asking what is happening with hazard reduction on the corner. One local resident claims the last real hazard reduction in the area was in 1961.
- In late January two local ladies organized Bogan Bingo at the Augusta Bowling Club for a fundraiser for the bushfires. $4,800 was raised and has been given to WA Fencing Famers who are working with BlazeAid on Kangaroo Island. They will distribute the money between fire brigades and animal welfare centres where they see the greatest worth.

The Kudardup report was provided at the meeting.
Molloy Island

- Training is full house every training day.
- Lost two members, gained four who are all attending upcoming courses.
- The Shire is going to complete earthworks around the shed prior to the winter rains.
- The open areas next to the shed have been trimmed and cut back to improve the helicopter landing zone.

Rosa Brook

- Not much activity since the last meeting.
- Only two fires attended in our local area, one roadside fire which was dealt with quickly, the second though was in DPAW tenure within Shire boundaries. We attended along with Wallcliffe (Witchcliffe got stood down once on station), however we were quite concerned that the Shire was only notified two hours after it was found and then we were laughed at by the Brigades already there for arriving so late.
- Our 3.4 went up to assist with the Collie fire with the Brigade suppling three shifts. Thanks also to Witchcliffe for the loan of their 1.4 while our truck was out of district, also for the two awesome crew that assisted.
- One of our members joined the second strike team in Norseman and we also provided a mop up crew and 3.4 for the recent Nannup Fire.
- Our regular fortnightly training continued over the festive season, with all sessions being very well attended.
- The Brigade has also now completed a long running project to add an above-ground hydrant to the front and below-ground hydrant to the rear of the station. This now provides a potable water source for any fires in the town site, along with providing an easier re-fill point. Testing this is a relay pump scenario with our two LTs. At the start of the relay, we are able boost and maintain 850L/min at 10bar. We have also installed BIC quick fill points to the water tanks allowing easy refilling by the 12.2.
- There is also still a problem with Shire contractors not signing the station log or filling out the vehicle fault/repair logs.

The Rosa Brook report was received following the distribution of the Agenda, but prior to the Committee meeting being held.

Wallcliffe

Training

- Fortnightly training is progressing well with over 45 members, including our 16 qualified BA wearers, attending the last couple of months. New members are being requested to nominate for the next Introduction to Fire Fighting and Bushfire Fighting courses. Our 2 DFES trainers/assessors are in the process of changing over to the new Rural Fire Divisions training package.

Membership

- Currently 60 Active trained firefighters, 12 Probationary members and 14 Auxiliary members. Total 86 BFB/FRS members.

Brigade Activity


Transition to DFES

- Correspondence was forwarded to the DFES Commissioner before Christmas. A reply was recently forwarded back to the LG and they are currently working through the process.

Walccliffe Delegate, Gordon Temby, enquired about the status of the Peer Support Group for members returning from over east deployment.

CBFCO, David Holland, responded and a brief discussion was held.

DFES DO Capes, Peter Thomas, suggested a possible group debrief session following the fire season for all members that were deployed over east.
Witchcliffe
- It has been very quiet for fires locally.
- The VFRS assisted at a MV accident and car fire in Forest Grove on New Year’s Day.
- We have sent crews on several deployments to Forrestania, Collie, Norseman and most recently Katanning.
- Our 2.4 appliance spent 11 days at the Norseman Complex, it travelled 3493km and was crewed by 3 different shifts with crews being flown to and from Norseman through Busselton airport. The crew worked alongside P&W fire fighters and were involved in backburning operations using the helitorch.
- The fires over east have generated an interest in brigade membership and since December we have signed up 6 new members to the BFB who will all be going through the training courses currently on offer.
- Training continues fortnightly on Fridays and on the first Tuesday of the month and is well attended with over 20 now attending on most nights.
- Many thanks to Lisa and the Shire for printing our annual newsletter with 400 copies hitting the local streets this week.
- Last week we had a callout to a lightning strike in Forest Grove. It took almost an hour to locate, however was small and was dealt with quickly.

7.4 Community Emergency Services Manager / Shire Training Officer
Prevention
Mitigation Works
- Funding of $353,000 has been approved and mechanical works has commenced. Planning for the autumn burn program is well underway and details of the proposed program are attached (please refer to Attachment 8.3.1) with comment to be provided as a general business item.

Preparedness
Training
- The training calendar has been developed and forwarded to all brigades. All courses should all now be loaded onto the E-Academy for members to register. A handover of the new training packages have been completed and the first of the new content was rolled out in Busselton last weekend. Due to numbers we have moved the location of this weekend’s course from Rosa Brook to Witchcliffe. At this stage we are intending to roll out the new course content.

Fire Station Extensions
- Alex Bridge and Karridale have effectively been completed with only minor finishing touches required.

Fire Shed Maintenance
We are currently in the process of reviewing a variety of maintenance services for each of the Brigades as follows:

Air Conditioning Servicing
- All relevant Brigades will be serviced again in late 2020.
- Installations of new Air Conditioning Units at Cowaramup and Wallcliffe have been completed.

Carpet Cleaning
- All relevant Brigades will be cleaned again in late 2020.

Electrical Tagging and Testing (incl RCD and Emergency/Exit Lighting)
- Next tagging and testing to be carried out in May 2020.

First Aid Kit and Fire Extinguisher Service for Bushfire Appliances
- Servicing of all Brigades were completed in November 2019.
Gutter Cleaning
- All relevant Brigades will be cleaned again in late 2020.

Pest Control Treatment
- Some Brigades will be treated again in March 2020.
- Remaining Brigades will be treated in late 2020.

Roller Door Servicing
- All Brigades will be serviced again in late 2020.

Water Filter Replacement
- Brigades that currently have water filters have been asked to source and replace the filters for their specific systems themselves and then email the tax invoice receipt through to the CESM Admin for reimbursement.
- For those Brigades that do not currently have a water filter installed, and would like one, please notify Adam or Lisa.

Layflat Hose Testing
- Next testing due to be carried out in May 2020.

PPE Orders
- Orders for each Brigade for PPE/C items listed on their 2019/20 ESL Wish Lists have now been completed.
- Additional orders are being processed as they are received and ordered as quickly as possible.
- If you require any additional PPE/C please email Adam or Lisa.
- Where possible, please use the Shire PPC Order Form to ensure that your orders contain as much detail as possible including sizing, amounts, who the items are to be issued to and whether it is new or replacement gear.
- The Shire will exhaust all remaining PPC stock before commencing with the issue of the new style Level 1 jackets and trousers.
- Please note that the sizing of the new style Level 1 PPE is slightly different to the old style. The new trousers no longer have an elasticated waist and the jackets are a slimmer fit.

Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS) and Shire Budget
- We are working the next years submission requirements with the strategy meeting held last week and this will be submitted by the end of March

Response
Thank you to the brigades who have promptly provided their incident reports, can I please encourage all brigades to submit their reports as soon as possible following an incident to assist with:
- Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS) applications;
- Insurance and incident reporting; and
- Suspicious fire /Arsonist reporting.

New Memberships
There has been a significant spike in interest in joining Brigades and we have bought the annual calendar start date forward to capture as many new members as possible. We remind Brigades that there is no intention to make the early start a regular occurrence and the courses and volunteers have been advised that they are subject to operational incidents on the day.

Recovery
Nil

In addition to his report, Shire CESM, Adam Jasper, informed the meeting that he was currently in the process of sorting all the information received at last week’s Strategy Meeting and would approach Brigades directly if further clarification was required.
He also added that there is currently around 45-50 new members awaiting training, with 17 attending the Bushfire Safety Awareness course in Busselton last weekend and 26 attendees due to attend the same course this weekend. The upcoming course was due to be held in Rosa Brook, however due to the large number of attendees it has been relocated to Witchcliffe. He asked the Brigades to note that the new Bushfire Safety Awareness course replaces the old Introduction to Fire Fighting course and is now 2 full days.

7.5 Shire Executive Officer / Representative – Dale Putland, Dir. Sustainable Development
- A number of meetings have been held over the last few weeks, including a visit from the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner, Darren Klemm AFSM.
- Currently in correspondence with the Minister for Emergency Services, Hon. Francis Logan MLA, regarding the new Biodiversity Act Permit to Take Flora/Fauna. Hoping for some more clarification and possible community education courses prior to permit season.

The Shire Representative report was provided at the meeting.

7.6 Shire Coordinator Ranger Services

Reported Incidents
28/12/19
- Illegal campers with campfire in bushland off Warner Glen Rd north of Chapman’s Pool
- Ranger attended but was unable to locate campers or evidence of a campfire

6/01/2020
- Illegal campers with campfire at ‘the Lookout’ near Lefthanders in Gracetown
- Ranger attended and fire had been extinguished by DPAW Ranger who was also in attendance
- Infringement issued under Section 17(12) of the Bush Fires Act 954 for Setting Fire to the Bush During Prohibited Burning Time

26/01/2020
- Cooking fire at Alexandra Bridge Campground
- Rangers attended and observed male utilising gas BBQ – advised people at the campground to ensure they abide by the signage relating to campfires and cooking fires

1/02/2020
- Campfire on private property on Caves Road in the Hamelin Bay/Karridale area
- Ranger attended and spoke with the occupants who had extinguished the fire immediately after being spoken to by a local brigade member

Firebreak Inspection Report

2019-20 Fire Season Inspection Summary

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1st Inspection Results

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### Inspections by Area

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</tbody>
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Dbca Representatives, Ed Hatherley and Helen Holzheuer, entered the meeting at 6.30pm.

7.7 Department of Fire and Emergency Services
DFES LSW Incidents & Arrangements

• Several large state-wide fire incidents in Norseman, Esperance, Yanchep, Collie and Albany have kept DFES, DBCA and local governments very busy since November. Regional staff and volunteers have given an enormous effort to assist at these incidents as well as manage bushfires in Nannup and Donnybrook in the last month.

Task Force Deployments
• There have been several deployments this fire season both within the state and to the east coast. AMR has provided great support to these deployments as per usual. Reports back from staff including myself has been very positive with crews from the area conducting themselves professionally. I would also like to thank Dave Holland and Adam Jasper in their efforts behind the scenes organising the crews.

Bushfire Centre of Excellence Update
• Construction of the Bushfire Centre of Excellence (BCoE) is scheduled to start this month and has been celebrated with a traditional smoking ceremony and turning of the sod. The building will consist of an administration wing and a training wing linking off opposite sides of a central foyer to form a boomerang shape. Designed as a public entrance and education space, the foyer will feature an interpretive learning centre, library, shared meeting spaces and reception area. The training wing will include a central breakout and meeting space, three large training rooms and a series of smaller training rooms with capacity to support training in virtual reality and bushfire management systems and software.

Large Air Tanker (LAT) Operations
• WA’s fire response capabilities would be bolstered by the addition of the new MD87 large air tanker (LAT) which arrived in Perth on Monday 20 January 2020. The addition of the LAT will provide a vital capability and an enhanced defence against bushfires in support of ground crews and in the protection of the community and assets for the 2019/20 southern bushfire season.
  o Standard retardant capacity of 11,350 litres
  o Typical footprint on coverage level 4 is 336m long and 20m wide
  o Ability to take off and land fully loaded

Combined Pre-Season Forum
• DFES, DBCA and WAPOL held a combined bushfire Pre-Season Forum in late November that involved members from both the SW and LSW region participating in a two-day event to build capacity and networks in the lead up to the fire season. This was the first of its kind to involve all three agencies at a regional level and will be considered for further use across the state.

VFRS Training
• DO/AO visits for the VFRS are ongoing with the emphasis on WAERN radio training. This has proved beneficial with all Brigades either brushing up on old skills or learning new.
• BA refreshers are set to start next month with plans around May to upskill volunteers and staff in Stage 2 BA which is for complex/Multi-storey buildings. This training has not been delivered to the volunteer in the LSW before and is being introduced do to the increase in multi-storey or large complex buildings.

High Season Fleet
• East Augusta and Witchcliffe have both received their LT’s.
The DFES report was received following the distribution of the Agenda, but prior to the Committee meeting being held.

In addition to his report, Peter Thomas informed the meeting that the Fixed-wing Water Bombers were being trialed over east, but no trials were planned for WA at this stage. He also stated that Linescanner aircraft had been used at the Nannup fires as well as at Katanning, Forrestonia and during the recent cyclone in the North of WA.

7.8 Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service
- Nil – not in attendance.

7.9 Bush Fire Ready Facilitators Reports

Bush Fire Ready Facilitator (North)
- Our hard working DFES Community Preparedness Adviser, Steph de Bruin, is currently on maternity leave. We wish her all the best for the birth of her child and hope she has a well-deserved break with family in Victoria. Steph was been with us for 7 years and passes on her thanks and farewells to all BFAC members. Charlotte Powis is relieving Steph during that period of time, please make her feel welcome if you see her around.
- I have been attending a number of Bushfire Preparedness meetings since our last BFAC. Firstly I attended a community meeting on Isaacs Road which tied in with the Community Fire Risk Management Research Project for that area. This is a high risk area looking down towards the Prevelly town site. Next I conducted a meet and greet outside the Coles supermarket in Margaret River. Always interesting talking to people who live in the Margaret River town site. No way do they need a plan as they don't live in a bushfire prone area! If they only knew.
- Two weeks ago I attended a fund raising event at the Common in Gnarabup. Most of the locals are aware of the risk but are still concerned about the one road in one road out situation. This was followed last week by a community meeting of 20 people from the Heron Drive/Roxburgh Road area.
- As we can see from what is happening over east preparedness is getting to be a big ticket item. We have a good organisational structure in this State and our Shire but can always do with more. I would ask that our LG consider increase their preparedness commitment, and I can only hope that this will be reflected in our forthcoming Shire budget.
- Also I would like to see the Shire, when making media comments about preparedness remind the community that the Shire have two hard working volunteer Bushfire Ready Facilitators and a network of Street Coordinators who are available to assist with organising community meeting and assisting the community in preparing for bushfires.
- Stuart Ellis, CEO of AFAC recently made a statement about the importance of providing information, both before and during a fire. "Fire Services have now altered their approach - they are now in the business of providing information and warnings as well as emergency response, the mantra here is that putting out the information is an important as putting out the fire. The emphasis on the day may be as much as 50% on the information and 50% on the operational response"
- If only or budgets reflected this!

Bush Fire Ready Facilitator (South)
- I Interviewed David Holland, CBFCO, on Augusta Community Radio about the bushfire season, Bushfire Ready and being a volunteer. This was well received by the Augusta community. The station also spoke with the Rangers regarding changes to the Restricted Burning Period.
- An information stall was held outside IGA on 14 November and $577.55 was raised for the Queensland and New South Wales bushfires. Thanks to Jarrod Brindley from East Augusta for his support.
- Members of the East Augusta Citizens Association were addressed in January on Bushfire Ready and Adam Jasper spoke on the Permit to Take Fauna and Flora.
We all need to be actively engaged with the community to ensure that properties are prepared and that households have a survival plan in place. If you are having a community event or if your Brigade is having a gathering, I am happy to attend and speak on the Bushfire Ready program. Please contact me on 0417 998 461.

There has been some great posts on Facebook by the Brigades. This is a great way of engaging and getting the right message out there. Please email the ‘Monthly themes’ supplied by DFES Community Engagement Officers to your members.

7.10 Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions

**DBCA Representative, Ed Hatherley, gave a brief presentation on their spring 2019 achievements and planned hazard reduction burns for autumn 2020. (Please refer to Attachment 7.10.1).**

7.11 State Emergency Services

- Nil - not in attendance.

8.0 General business

8.1 Shire Media Policy – Adam Jasper, CESM and Stephanie Addison-Brown, CEO

*CBFCO, David Holland, introduced Shire CEO, Stephanie Addison-Brown, and welcomed her to the meeting.*

- Prior to Christmas an email was sent to the Brigades regarding the Shire’s current Media Policy.
- There is no media ban in place, that must be made clear, but with anything there has to be a process to follow.
- All of us are governed by the *Local Government Act* and the Shire President is the only person with delegated authority to speak on behalf of the Shire and Council. However, the Shire President can delegate this authority to the CEO which can then be passed through to the staff, etc.
- The Shire is happy for Brigades to speak to the media, sharing thoughts or stories about fire-related issues. The community want to hear that and we don’t want to stop that dialogue.
- However, we would obviously not support Brigades making any statements that are politically motivated or not in alignment with the Shire’s position on such issues.
- As a general rule, just let the Shire know ahead of time by contacting CESM, Adam Jasper, and he will check with our media team, and if there is nothing contentious we will normally give you approval to go ahead.
- The Brigades are a very valued resource, and we must work together to get positive messages out there.
- The Shire also offers media training for those that might be interested.

*The above information regarding Item 8.1 was provided at the meeting.*

8.2 Main Street Makeover Project – Adam Jasper, CESM

- As you are aware, the Shire’s Main Street Makeover Project enters its construction phase on Monday 3 February 2020.
- Stage 1 A and B of the project includes the construction of the roundabouts at Walcliffe Road and Tunbridge Street.
- Attached are maps of the full and partial closures that are planned (*please refer to Attachment 8.2.1*).
- The phasing of the works showing more detail about the closure times and detours will be available shortly once Main Roads has approved the contractor’s traffic management plans.
• The works will cause delays, however, the message to the community is that the Main Street is ‘open for business’ and we urge everyone to continue support our local traders.

• Now would be a good time to get the message out to family and friends, particularly those who may be visiting the region, that the Main Street remains open and parking is available.

• A Main Street Makeover Information Session will be held for interested community members to meet the project team from Busselton Civil (BCP) Pty Ltd and hear detailed plans around the timing of works, traffic management, and construction methodology, followed by Q&A.

• The Information Session details are as follows:
  o Tuesday 21 January 2020
    5.30-6.30pm
    Margaret River Council Chambers

• This is an exciting project for Margaret River and we looking forward to seeing the works underway.

8.3 Shire Autumn Burning Program – Adam Jasper, CESM

• The autumn burning program (please refer to Attachment 8.3.1) contains a significant amount of carryover work.

• The priority is the A-class Reserve and we will be working closely with DBCA on this particular area.

• It is our intention that we will seek comment from the Brigades prior to the burns being undertaken.

• Currently working on a case study as part of the mechanical works to make some changes to the current Shire policy on roadside burning.

• Most of the Shire burns will include a traffic management plan.

The above information regarding Item 8.3 was provided at the meeting.

8.4 Lions Club Margaret River donation to Shire Brigades – David Holland, CBFCO

• An email was sent out to the Brigades mid-January regarding a request to donate from the Lions Club of Margaret River.

• Given the recent devastation over east, the proposal was for the Lions to make a donation to an entity of our choice, on our behalf.

• This proposal was very well received by the Brigades.

• The donation of $5,000 has since been confirmed and Lions are happy with the proposal for the Shire brigades to donate to over east.

• We will investigate the options to ensure the money is being sent somewhere it is appreciated and needed.

The above information regarding Item 8.4 was provided at the meeting.

Shire President, Ian Earl, also confirmed the donation of $4,000 from the Shire to various causes over east.

8.5 Wallcliffe BFB Agenda Items – Gordon Temby, Wallcliffe BFB

Fuel Reduction Burning

• What is the current Shire advice to Brigades when carrying out fuel reduction burns on private property in regards to the Conservation Act and has anything changed from last year?

This topic was discussed earlier in the meeting.
Bushfire Risk Management (BRM) Officer

- Due to the ever increasing fuel loads in our area our brigade would like to see the Shire employ, with appropriate State Government funding, a full time Bushfire Risk Management Officer rather than having to share this officer with two other Local Governments.

CBFCO, David Holland, informed the meeting that a recommendation was made to Council two years ago, that the Shire employ a full time Bushfire Mitigation officer (BMO). Council received the recommendation but advised that it would require State funding.

After a brief discussion, Wallcliffe Delegate, Gordon Temby, proposed the following motion:

**MOTION/BFAC DECISION BFAC2020/02**

That BFAC requests Council approach the State Government in regards to funding to employ a full time Bushfire Risk Management Planner for the Shire of Augusta Margaret River for the new financial year.

Moved: Gordon Temby, Wallcliffe BFB
Seconded: John Matten, Molloy Island BFB
Carried: 9/0

Shared Responsibility

- The Brigade requests that any public comments by the Shire in regards to bushfire preparedness emphasizes the fact that it is not solely a Shire or Brigade responsibility but a ‘shared’ responsibility of all land owners and home owners in our Shire to prepare for bushfires.

Shire CESM, Adam Jasper, responded and confirmed that the current media does stress the ‘shared responsibility’ and will continue to do so.

Andrew Hunt left the meeting at 7.30pm.

Information

- Requests that the Shire ensures that all registered short term accommodation owners in the Shire are given information about what to do if a bushfire should impact their accommodation. This information needs to be relevant to their location and updated regularly.

Shire Director Sustainable Development, Dale Putland, responded and informed the meeting that when short stay accommodation owners apply for planning approval, they need a bushfire management plan in place, which also includes an evacuation plan. Dale stated that he is happy to work with the Brigades to create an information package to be sent out to short stay accommodation owners.

Adam Jasper left the meeting at 7.36pm.

Adam Jasper and Andrew Hunt re-entered the meeting at 7.37pm.

**8.6 New Member Application and Induction Process – Adam Jasper, CESM**

- As mentioned at the Strategy Meeting held last week, we are working on adopting a more formal new member application and induction process.
- We will put something together and send to the Brigades for comment.

The above information regarding Item 8.6 was provided at the meeting.
8.7 Council Decision Regarding Brigade Transfers to DFES – Peter Warrilow, Karridale BFB Captain

CBFCO, David Holland, opened the item and then handed over to Karridale Captain, Peter Warrilow, for further comment.

Karridale Captain, Peter Warrilow, addressed the meeting expressed his concerns regarding the recent decisions made by Council on the Transition of Wallcliffe and Rosa Brook Bush Fire Brigades to management by DFES.

At the 25 September 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting, Council resolved:

**ALTERNATIVE MOTION / COUNCIL DECISION**

**CR EARL, CR MELDRUM OM2019/199**

That Council:
1. Does not proceed with transition to DFES; and
2. Thanks BFAC and the Steering Committee for their hard work over six years in exploring the options.

CARRIED 7/0

**REASON**

There is no great advantage for the Shire in transferring to DFES.

At the 27 November 2019 Ordinary Council Meeting, Council resolved:

**MOTION / COUNCIL DECISION**

**CR MCLEOD, CR MELDRUM OM2019/220**

That Council, in principle, supports the transition of Wallcliffe Fire Brigade to DFES Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services brigade and requests the CEO to enter discussions with the DFES Commissioner in regards to the transition.

CARRIED 7/0

At the 12 February 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting, Council resolved:

**PRIMARY MOTION / COUNCIL DECISION**

**CR MELDRUM, CR MCLEOD OM2020/17**

That Council, in principle, supports the transition of Rosa Brook Fire Brigade to DFES Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services brigade and requests the CEO to enter discussions with the DFES Commissioner in regards to the transition.

CARRIED 5/2

CRS EARL AND KENNAUGH VOTED AGAINST

Karridale Captain, Peter Warrilow, then proposed the following motion, which was opened up to the meeting for discussion and then subsequently voted on:

**MOTION/BFAC DECISION BFAC2020/03**

That BFAC:
1. Wishes to express their disappointment in the Council going back on their original decision to end the discussion around Brigades transitioning to management by DFES.
2. Advises Council that by reopening the discussion for two Brigades, the councillors have failed to consider the impact of this decision on the other eight Brigades and the division that this decision is causing.
3. Urges Council to revoke OM2019/220 and OM2020/17 and revert back to their original decision OM2019/199 on 25 September 2019, which was made to prevent disunity and was made following a rigorous discussion process.
4. Requests Council consult the remaining eight Brigades of any impact of the proposed transitions should Council not support recommendation No. 3 above.

Moved: Peter Warrilow, Karridale BFB
Seconded: Tim Garstone, Cowaramup BFB

Carried: 7/2

Rosa Brook BFB and Wallcliffe BFB voted AGAINST
9.0 Matters for which the meeting may be closed (Confidential Items)
Nil

10.0 Closure of meeting

Before the closure of the meeting, the Chair called for any final items of discussion.

Karridale Captain, Peter Warrilow, stated that most callouts in recent years during the permit season have been from escaped burns within plantations. He urged all to act with caution on plantation burns once the permit season opens.

Shire President, Ian Earl, thanked all Brigades and members that travelled interstate and also within the state over the fire season so far.

Cowaramup Delegate, Tim Garstone, stated that he would like to see bushfire mitigation include roadside burning. Tim hopes that we can continue as Shire Brigades and get this mitigation under control.

Alexandra Bridge Captain, Tony Mostert, enquired about his FCO card. Lisa to discuss with Adam and action.

Molloy Island Captain, John Matten, informed the group that he would like to be able to introduce crews as a team at incidents to show them the process from start to finish. This would result in the members having more of an understanding of how things work on the fire ground and give them more experience.

As there were no further items to discuss, the meeting was closed at 8.09pm.
Augusta Margaret River
Bush Fire Advisory Committee

Attachments

For the meeting to be held
Wednesday, 19 February 2020
Augusta Council Chambers
66 Allnutt Terrace, Augusta
Commencing at 6.00pm
Augusta Margaret River LGA.
Bush Fire Advisory Summer 2019
Planned burns around Margaret River
Autumn 2020
Questions
Planned Road Closures - Margaret River

1. Tunbridge St East, Bussell hwy Northbound between Willmott Ave and Higgins St.
2. Forrest Rd West, Wallcliffe Rd East, Southbound Bussell Hwy between Walkington Ave and Willmott St.

Monday February 3rd to Wednesday March 4th 2020

During this time detours are required - please follow all signage.

Legend
- North Bound Traffic Flow
- South Bound Traffic Flow
- Full Road Closure
- Detour Route
Planned Road Closures - Margaret River

1. Churchill Ave West, Tunbridge St East, Bussell hwy between Willmott Ave and Higgins St.
2. Forrest Rd West, Wallcliffe Rd East, Southbound Bussell Hwy between Walkington Ave and Willmott St.

Thursday March 5th to Tuesday March 17th 2020

During this time detours are required - please follow all signage.

Legend
- North Bound Traffic Flow
- South Bound Traffic Flow
Red Full Road Closure
Yellow Detour Route
Planned Road Closures - Margaret River

1. Churchill Ave West, Tunbridge St East, Northbound Bussell hwy between Willmott Ave and Higgins St.
2. Forrest Rd West, Wallcliffe Rd East, Southbound Bussell Hwy between Walkington Ave and Willmott St.

Wednesday March 18th to Tuesday May 5th 2020

During this time detours are required - please follow all signage.
Planned Road Closure - Northbound Bussell Hwy, Churchill Ave West and Tunbridge St East.

Wednesday May 6th to Monday May 25th 2020

During this time detours are required - please follow all signage.
Proposed Hazard Reduction Burns (HRB) - Autumn 2020

Pericles Street East Augusta – Carryover funding – Mozaic burning of reserve adjacent to town
Rosa Brook townsite – Reduce fuel loads in reserve adjacent to town site to a moderate level. Mixed tenure
Pony Club North – Carryover funding – Reduce fuel loads to a moderate level adjacent to housing
Pony Club West – Carryover funding – Reduce fuel loads to a moderate level within town Rural Urban Interface (RUI)
MR Light Industrial Area – Reduce fuel loads to a moderate level adjacent to LIA
Turner Street AUG x 2 – Reduce fuel loads to a moderate level adjacent to housing Shire Caravan Park
Curtis Ave East Augusta – Reduce fuel loads to a moderate level adjacent
Witchcliffe Wadandi x 2 – Reduce fuel loads to a moderate level adjacent to housing
Rosa Brook Former School Site – Reduce fuel loads adjacent to historical and culturally significant site
Big Valley Camp Site – Reduction of fuel loads on shire reserve adjacent to rural based caravan park – possible contaminate site. Margaret River A Class Reserve – Carryover funding – Reduce fuel loads to a moderate level across a high risk reserve
Karate Club Margaret River – Reduce Fuel Loads adjacent to private property and shire infrastructure
Molloy Island – Carryover funding – Reduce fuel loads adjacent to private property