

Augusta Margaret River Bush Fire Advisory Committee

Minutes

For the meeting held
Wednesday, 19 May 2021
Margaret River Council Chambers
41 Wallcliffe Road, Margaret River
Commencing at 6.00pm

Notice of Meeting

Please be advised that a meeting of the Augusta Margaret River Bush Fire Advisory Committee was held on 19 May 2021, commencing at 6.00pm

Margaret River Council Chambers
41 Wallcliffe Road
Margaret River WA 6285

This meeting was open to members of the public.

If you were unable to attend the meeting, please contact Lisa Garstone, Emergency Services Admin Officer.

P: 9780 5639

E: lgarstone@amrshire.wa.gov.au

Order of Business

Agenda Listing	Subject
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Notice of meeting

Order of business

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 - 2.1 Apologies
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 - 8.8 Consolidation of Training Calendars
 - 8.9 Status of Proposed Exmoor Emergency Water Point
 - 8.10 Removal of Yates Road Emergency Water Point Signage
 - 8.11 Flashing Beacons and Magnetic Vehicle Signage for FCOs
 - 8.12 Nomination of Molloy Island Fire Control Officer
 - 8.13 Nomination of Molloy Island BFAC Delegate/Proxy
- 9.0 Matters for which the meeting may be closed (Confidential Items)
- 10.0 Closure of meeting

1.0 Declaration of opening

The Chair welcomed all in attendance and the meeting was declared open at 6.03pm.

2.0 Attendance / Apologies

2.1 Attendance

Committee Members

David Holland	:	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (CBFCO)/ Presiding Member
Quentin Blunsdon	:	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
Simon Hanson	:	Karridale Bush Fire Brigade Proxy
Matt Nield	:	Kudardup Bush Fire Brigade Proxy
John Matten	:	Molloy Island Bush Fire Brigade Delegate
Andrew Newnham	:	Rosa Brook Bush Fire Brigade Delegate
Gordon Temby	:	Wallcliffe Bush Fire Brigade Delegate/ Bush Fire Ready Facilitator (North)
Diane Holland	:	Witchcliffe Bush Fire Brigade Delegate

Shire Staff Members

Ian Earl	:	Shire President
Nick Logan	:	Director Sustainable Development and Infrastructure Services
Ian McLeod	:	Manager Legal and Governance Services
Narelle Graue	:	Coordinator Ranger Services
Lisa Garstone	:	Acting Community Emergency Services Manager/Minute Taker

Observers

Ed Hatherley	:	Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)
Adam Jasper	:	Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)
Linda Ashton	:	Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)

2.2 Apologies

Stephanie Addison-Brown	:	Chief Executive Officer
Adrian Yates	:	Augusta Margaret River State Emergency Service (SES)
Petrina Yates	:	Augusta Margaret River State Emergency Service (SES)
Peter Thomas	:	Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)
Julia Meldrum	:	Shire Councillor
Brian Daniel	:	Shire Councillor
Peter Brindley	:	East Augusta Bush Fire Brigade Delegate
Peter Delfs	:	Gracetown Bush Fire Brigade Delegate
Georgina Thiele	:	Bush Fire Ready Facilitator (South)
Andrew Hunt	:	AMR/Busselton/Capel BRPC

3.0 Question time for the public

Nil

4.0 Disclosure of members' interest

Shire President Ian Earl declared an Impartiality Interest in all BFAC agenda items, as he is a member of the Cowaramup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade.

5.0 Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting

5.1 Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes: 17 February 2021

RECOMMENDATION/BFAC DECISION BFAC2020/04

That the unconfirmed minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held 17 February 2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

Moved: Gordon Temby, Wallcliffe BFB

Seconded: Simon Hanson, Karridale BFB

Carried: 11/0

6.0 Matters arising from previous minutes

6.1 Action List

18/11/20	In relation to General Business Item 8.5, Diane Holland, Witchcliffe Captain/FCO, requested clarification on the issuing of Permits during the transition from the Unrestricted to Restricted Burning Period.	<p>18/11/20: The Committee discussed this issue and the preference was decided that Permits are to be issued to landowners who inform the Shire that they have commenced a controlled burn in the Unrestricted Burning Period that is, or will be, still alight during the Restricted Burning Period, as long as the burn is deemed safe to continue. However, David Holland, CBFCO, will investigate further and endeavor to clarify.</p> <p>17/2/21: David advised the Committee that after a bit more research, and finding that there was no real documentation that clarifies the issue faced by FCOs issuing Permits during the transition from the Unrestricted to Restricted Burning Period, he suggested that additional text be added to the Shire's Firebreak Notice such as 'this includes for any burn lit prior to the Restricted Burning Period, and which is still burning on the start date of the Restricted Burning Period.' David to discuss this additional text with the Rangers for consideration as a possible inclusion in the 2021-22 Firebreak Notice and Bushfire Information Booklet.</p>	Complete	David Holland
17/02/21	Peter Warrilow, Karridale BFB, raised the concern his Brigade has with the current 5-day length of deployments. He stressed that the Brigades were always keen to assist, but that 5 days is just too long for most members.	<p>17/2/21: David Holland advised the group that he recently spoke with DFES Superintendent, Phil Brandrett, about the issue, who suggested he take the concern to the next ROAC to be passed onto other forums.</p> <p>19/5/21: David Holland advised the group that the query was raised at the last ROAC meeting held in Donnybrook in April. Minutes of this meeting to follow. The clear</p>	Complete	David Holland

Shire of Augusta Margaret River
Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes: 19 May 2021

		consensus from DFES was that there is much flexibility in deployment length to accommodate the needs of the volunteers and length of deployment could be adjusted if necessary.		
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Following the Action List item, the chair introduced DFES Volunteer Management Support Officer, Linda Ashton, and Narelle Graue, the Shire's newly appointed Coordinator Ranger Services, and welcomed them both to the meeting. The chair also welcomed Shire Manager Legal and Governance, Ian McLeod, and Director Sustainable Development and Infrastructure Services, Nick Logan.

7.0 Reports from Shire Officers and Delegates

7.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

- Well, I think that this will be the shortest report I have ever written! Perhaps this is due to the mild weather we experienced over autumn, good proactive advice to the community from Brigades, the result of fuel reduction efforts or maybe it is due to the good behaviour of landowners and visitors taking heed of the fire prevention messaging. Whatever it is, we have experienced what I think is the quietest bushfire season I can remember.
- A Section 46 declaration was enacted for the Easter long weekend due to the forecast of dry and windy weather and we were concerned that absentee landowners would be tempted to light burns on their property and not supervise them correctly.
- My thanks to the FCO's for their diligence in providing our community with Permits to Burn. There were over 130 permits issued this season with very few "issues". We received a note of thanks from the Wine Association for the recognition of the difficulty that they face each year from the threat of smoke taint and the efforts we went to in consideration of those difficulties. Adam and I met with the association and maintained a level of communication which enabled us to try to avoid the potential of smoke taint.
- Due to the amount of rain that fell in late April we were able to bring forward the close of the Restricted Burning Season by two weeks. My thanks to Quentin and Lisa for managing this process while I was on leave in the sunny Kimberley region.
- Please keep yourselves safe and thank you for your dedication and support.

7.2 Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

- Thank you to all FCOs for issuing all the Permits requested during this restricted period.
- Decision was made to suspend restricted burning and open the season due to extensive rainfall received and forecast.
- Still a slight risk of the landscape drying out enough to allow a fire to run in bushland, so stay alert for a few more weeks at least.
- I am planning on visiting brigades, during the winter months, to meet brigade members.

7.3 Shire Bush Fire Brigades

Alexandra Bridge

- Nothing to report.

Cowaramup

- We have only attended 2 incidents since the last BFAC meeting.
- Our 4.4 assisted DBCA for a day at the Chapman Burn on 24 April.
- Training continues every Thursday night and the 2nd Sunday of the Month.
- Gates and bollards have been installed around the Brigade, in the hope of deterring locals from using the carpark as a skid pad.
- AGM is scheduled for 10 June 2021.

East Augusta

- Meeting apology.

Gracetown

- Training held regularly each fortnight with good member turnout.
- Several Permits issued.
- Brush pile at Fire Shed reopened.

Karridale

- Regular fortnightly training has now wound down for winter.
- From now on will be monthly training/maintenance.
- There has been feedback from a few community members regarding a ranger visit or compliance letter/fine but not given to a nearby property that was clearly non-compliant. We have identified a few properties as well and nothing has happened.

- New truck brakes have failed already (after only a few months), were fixed but FYI.
- We still have multiple fitting sizes which do not work together, e.g. Karridale 3.4 does not fit subdivision tank or Kudardup 4.4. Can we please request again that there is an audit done by AMRS that every vehicle and tank within the AMRS have compatible fittings/adapters including with DBCA/DPaW.

Kudardup

- Nothing to report.

Molloy Island

- Molloy Island held its AGM on Monday 10 May.
- Eileen and John Matten have stood down from their positions as Captain and FCO after a combination of 26 years. They will remain as Auxiliary for a year to assist in transition.
- New appointments are:
 - Captain - Tony Shapkaris
 - 1st Lieutenant - Chris Robertson
 - 2nd Lieutenant - Kevin Nash
 - Training Officer - Chris Robertson
 - Secretary/Treasurer - Sheena Cole Bowen
 - Maintenance Officer - Chris Jones
 - FCO Nomination - Peter Nash (for Shire approval)

The Chair advised the meeting that both John and Eileen Matten are retiring from the Molloy Island Bush Fire Brigade and took this opportunity, on behalf of the BFAC, to thank them for their many years of service, during which time they both undertook a variety of roles within the Brigade.

John Matten stated that both himself and Eileen would remain at the Brigade in an auxiliary capacity for the rest of the year.

Rosa Brook

- Nothing to report.

Wallcliffe

Training

- Monthly training and mid-month training very well attended. Topics covered included radio use, on and off-road driving, water points, pump and hose drills, control burns, crew safety drills, call out procedures, and viewing the new Dead Person Zone video.

Membership

- Membership is 72 Active trained firefighters, 3 Probationary members and 15 Auxiliary members. Total 90 BFB/FRS members

Brigade Activities

- Bushfire - 2 (Smoke reports), Structural - nil, Out of Shire deployment - nil, Interstate deployment - nil.

Transition to DFES

- Brigade appliances currently being assessed by DFES. A number of repairs and compliance issues have been raised. Land transfers are still being dealt with by government departments.

Witchcliffe

- It has been a busy period for Permits since moving to the restricted period, but it remains very quiet otherwise. The brigade has completed one moderate size burn pile for a landowner.
- We have had several members participating in training courses. One has completed the basic training and two others are part way through the two weekends. We also had one complete SFF and BA and three of us have completed the new Fire Weather Course.

- June Cunningham accepted a weeklong deployment to Kalbarri where she assisted the Cyclone Seroja IMT by providing support with data entry into WebIOC. It was a great experience for her in that role.
- She initially flew out of Busselton with the SES crew and returned with them by vehicle.
- Our AGM is scheduled for Friday 4 June at 6.15pm.
- We were saddened as a brigade by the passing of Margaret Good in early March. Margaret has been an auxiliary member of our brigade for just over seven years and she served alongside her partner of many years Kym Sandover, who remains an active firefighter with us. Our deepest sympathies were expressed to Kym and brigade representatives were able to attend the funeral even though some COVID restrictions remained at the time.

7.4 Community Emergency Services Manager / Shire Training Officer

Prevention

Mitigation Works

- Preparation work has commenced on prescriptions for the Autumn burning period. Due to the summer and ongoing rain and TC Seroja commitments there have been limited opportunities to achieve any burns. We continue to monitor the weather to identify suitable opportunities
- Planning is underway for the next round of Mitigation Activity Funding. The Grant Application has been submitted and we await a decision on the submission.

Preparedness

Training

- The following upcoming training courses are available for registration:
 - Machinery Supervision/Plantation Firefighting - 12-13 June - Wallcliffe BFB (Registrations Close 28 May)
 - Bushfire Safety Awareness - 26-27 June - Rosa Brook BFB (Registrations Close 11 June)
- Please distribute the above course info to your members.
- If members wish to attend both the Machinery Supervision and Plantation Firefighting courses, they will need to apply for both courses separately on eAcademy. Alternatively, they can apply for one or the other.
- Participants are to lodge their training nominations for all courses via the DFES eAcademy.
- St John First Aid Training will also be organised from July through to October.

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

- Servicing of all relevant Brigades was completed in October 2020.
- All relevant Brigades will be serviced again in late 2021.

Carpet Cleaning

- All relevant Brigades are currently in the process of being cleaned.
- All relevant Brigades will be cleaned again in May 2022.

Electrical Tagging and Testing (incl RCD and Emergency/Exit Lighting)

- The annual tagging and testing of all Brigades is currently being organised and will take place within the next week or two.

First Aid Kit and Fire Extinguisher Servicing for Bushfire Appliances

- The 6-monthly servicing of all Brigade Fire Extinguisher and First Aid equipment is currently in the process of being organised and should take place within the next week or two.

Gutter Cleaning

- Gutter Cleaning of all relevant Brigades was completed in November 2020.

- All relevant Brigades will be cleaned again prior to Fire Season in late 2021.

Pest Control Treatment

- Annual treatment of all Brigades is currently being organized and should take place within the next week or two.

Roller Door Servicing

- Servicing of all Brigades was completed in November 2020.
- Brigades will be serviced again in late 2021.

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 Emergency Services Admin Officer 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

- All Brigade hose testing was completed in June 2020.
- Any repairs have since been completed and returned to the relevant Brigades.
- Hose testing is carried out on an annual basis.

PPE Orders

- An updated Shire PPE Order Form was emailed out to Brigades on 27 April 2021 (*please refer to Attachment 8.4.1*),
- The main differences of this newly updated form include:
 - Addition of info re the available lengths in the Trousers.
 - Addition of Women's size option in the boots.
 - Change in sizes of the new 3M Full Face Respirators (now available in S, M or L).
- We are changing over from the Oliver Wildland boot to the Magnum Vulcan Lite boot which, as well as coming in a Women's version, also comes with the zip kit already attached.
- If you require any additional PPE/C not listed on the form mentioned above, please email Lisa.
- 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.

Brigade AGMs

- Brigades should be getting ready to hold their 2020/21 AGMs.
- Following your AGMs, please forward the following information through to Lisa by 15 July 2021 (or as soon as practically possible following your meeting):
 - Meeting Minutes
 - Financial Statement (*please refer to Attachment 8.4.2*)
 - Brigade Officers (Office Bearers) (*please refer to Attachment 8.4.3*)
- Any queries please don't hesitate to contact Lisa or Adam.

Brigade Contact Lists

- Once Lisa has made all the relevant updates to the Brigade Office Bearers in the Shire records and DFES RMS systems, she will begin to distribute the Brigade Membership Contact Lists to the Brigade Captains and Secretaries for review.
- Please ensure that these contact lists are reviewed in a timely manner, and any updates sent back to Lisa by the requested date.
- Please be mindful when displaying/distributing the contact lists for review as they contain sensitive information and personal details of your members.
- The Contact Lists are required to be reviewed and updated at least once per year in accordance with the *Bush Fires Act 1954* and ensure our Brigade membership numbers, contact details and position/ranks are up to date prior to fire season.

Acting Community Emergency Services Manager

- Adam is currently on secondment with DFES as Acting Area Officer Leeuwin.
- In his absence, Lisa will be backfilling Adam's role as Acting CESH.
- Lisa will be heading off on annual leave for 4 weeks as of May 22, so our new Coordinator Ranger Services, Narelle Graue, will be Acting CESH until Adam's return to the office on May 31. However, Adam will then be on annual leave for a week, where Narelle will once again be covering his position.
- To make it a bit clearer who will be who over the next few weeks, please see below:
 - Lisa Garstone Acting CESH 3 May to 21 May
 - Narelle Graue Acting CESH 24 May to 28 May
 - Adam Jasper CESH 31 May to 4 June
 - Narelle Graue Acting CESH 7 June to 11 June
 - Adam Jasper CESH 14 June onwards

DFES VHF/UHF Hand-Held Radio Audit

- DFES are conducting a state-wide audit of all DFES supplied UHF and VHF handheld radios to BGUs.
- Brigades have been asked to provide Lisa with the Make, Model and Number you have at each of your Brigades.
- The audit applies to DFES supplied units only, so please do not include any radios that you have self-funded.
- If you are a dual-registered Brigade, you will receive an email requesting the same information, so please ensure you only report the requested information once.
- The above requested information is to be forwarded to Lisa by no later than Wednesday, 30 June 2021.

Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGs) and Shire Budget

- Lisa has sourced and distributed all remaining items on your 2020/21 ESL Wish List requests.
- We await approval for the recent Capital grant application normally received in July.

Appliance Servicing

- All deployed vehicles were subject to a service and COVID clean upon their return, including the HSV.

Transition

- DFES are currently working through their compliance requirements to facilitate the transition of the two Brigades.

Response

- Nil

Recovery

- Nil

7.5 Shire Executive Officer / Representative

- Nothing to report.

7.6 Shire Coordinator Ranger Services

- The 2020/21 inspection program was late off the ground in December due to some teething problems with the GIS component of the new software.
- There were also some delays due to contractors breaking over the Christmas period.
- 2019/20 Inspection Season Stats:
 - Over 3000 inspections
 - Issued 139 warnings
 - Issued 18 infringements
 - 2 properties had contractors sent in for follow up work
- 2020/21 Inspection Season Stats:
 - 2013 property inspections

- 1461 compliant properties
- 433 notices issued due to the implementation of the new 3m wide firebreak requirements. These were captured as warnings on the Shire database as a way of capturing that information.
- 11 infringements issued
- 0 contractors sent it to complete follow up work
- Overall, it was a good year of education for the community
- Approx. 150 variations were issued for various reasons including sensitive trees, infrastructure, etc.
- More attention was applied to each property

Tim Garstone, Cowaramup BFB *For the 2013 properties inspected in the Shire this year, roughly what percentage of the Shire would that be?*

Narelle Graue, Ranger Coordinator *I would say approx. 25%*

Ian Earl, Shire President *Out of 10,000 rateable properties, and taking away ones located in the suburban areas, then that is actually a large portion of the Shire covered this season.*

7.7 Department of Fire and Emergency Services DFES Regional Staff

Tim Wall is currently on leave and Adam Jasper is covering AO Leeuwin until 28 May.

Training

Various courses are being conducted over the region including an Urban Search and Rescue course which is being offered to the VFRS for the first time. This will give skill sets to the VFRS to assist in searching for rubble piles after a building collapse. The plan will be to conduct more of the courses and qualify as many VFRS personal as we can across the 16 brigades in our Region.

TC Seroja

TC Seroja impacted the Midwest Gascoyne region on the 11th of May, Kalbarri copped the brunt of the storm with many homes destroyed and severely damaged. The impact area of the cyclone was 1.6x the size of Tasmania. The support and response effort by volunteers and staff from across the state of Western Australia was amazing. Volunteers from SES, VFRS, BFB and VFES assisted in the incident. There was around 1500 request for assistance received and due to this large number of jobs help was received from eastern states crews. Both volunteers and career staff from Victoria, South Australia, NSW and Queensland flew into the state to help. These crews were also from the SES, Rural Fire Service and Fire and Rescue. The response to the devastation was a good example of how all services can come together from across the country to help.

National Volunteer Week

17 – 23 of May is an opportunity to celebrate the important work volunteers do within the community. Without volunteers, our state could not function, and I would like to personally thank all volunteers for the amazing work they do. Special mention needs to be made to those that give their time up to go outside of their location on task forces to help other communities. I would also like to thank all the volunteers that have assisted in mitigation activities across the region.

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

Adam Jasper addressed the meeting and spoke of his recent combined 20-day deployment to Geraldton as part of the TC Seroja Recovery Taskforce where he was tasked with the role of Public Information Officer (PIO).

7.8 Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service

- Not in attendance.

7.9 Bush Fire Ready Facilitators Reports

Bush Fire Ready Facilitator (North)

- Since the February BFAC meeting, I have attended another community meeting in the Burnside area. 37 local residents attended the meeting and Bushfire Preparation Toolkits were discussed and handed out.
- I will be attending the Bushfire Ready State Facilitators Forum at the Bushfire Centre of Excellence in June. If any brigade delegates want me to raise any particular matters, please contact me after the meeting. I will be asking questions about the new 'Bushfire Attack Level standards' as this topic seems to be gaining a bit of traction in the media for both our Shire and the City of Busselton.

Bush Fire Ready Facilitator (South)

- Meeting apology.

7.10 Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions

DBCA Representative, Ed Hatherley, gave a brief presentation on their hazard reduction burns for Autumn 2021. (Please refer to Attachment 7.10.1).

7.11 State Emergency Services

Incidents & Events

Low number of incidents over the 3 months, but very busy the last three weeks with cyclone recovery support:

- **TC Seroja deployment:** 6 members deployed over three weeks, for Taskforce 1, 2, and 3.
- **Ambulance assist:** 1 request for injured person in Kilcarnup (stood down before attended).
- **Storm damage:** One minor incident in Feb and April.
- **Water bomber:** Request in March but stood down.
- **Fire support:** Transfer of local crew in Feb from MR to Augusta
- **Community Engagement:** Members ran the Breakfast Bar at the MR Farmers Market in Feb, good fundraising and provision of information to the community. Members provided emergency services activities to the MR Recreation Centre Kids Club, 50 children kept involved and active for 1 ½ hours.

Training

- Members attended Navigation, Storm Damage, Chainsaw operator and BGR/USAR.
- Vertical Rescue team training in collaboration with caving groups to support cave response capability.
- Weekly Monday-night training proceeding well with 15-20 members.

Administration & Other

- Membership increased to 44 members after successful recruitment campaign for operational and administrative members.
- GRU (General Rescue Utility) Isuzu D-Max is on hold for regional areas due to concerns not fit for purpose.
- Vertical Rescue training tower enhancements approved by DFES and project manager appointed. These include safety upgrades, lighting, an enclosed space for cave rescue training and a staircase for general rescue training. Lighting installed. Designs work with Margaret River engineering.
- Collaborating with VFRS and DFES on site plans for the adjacent fire station, ensuring suitable access to SES facilities in case of major incidents.
- Approval process continuing for ablutions in the shed to supplement the two toilets at the SES facility.

8.0 General business

8.1 DFES Volunteer Management Support Officer Update – Linda Ashton

DFES Volunteer Management Support Officer, Linda Ashton, provided the Committee with an update on what her VMSO role entails, information on current projects and how she can assist volunteers.

- The VMSO role is based out of the DFES office in Manjimup
- The role assists Brigades with the non-operational administrative component of running a Brigade.
- Some of the current projects we are working on include:

Volunteer ID Cards

- Previously run out of Cockburn with long delays, the process is now being run from Manjimup.
- If members require an ID card all they are required to do is send the photo through to the VMSO email and a card will be produced and posted back to them within a few days.

Regional Facebook Page

- Work over the last 6-months has seen the creation of a DFES LSW Regional Facebook page.
- The page is a central hub for brigades, groups and units to share information.

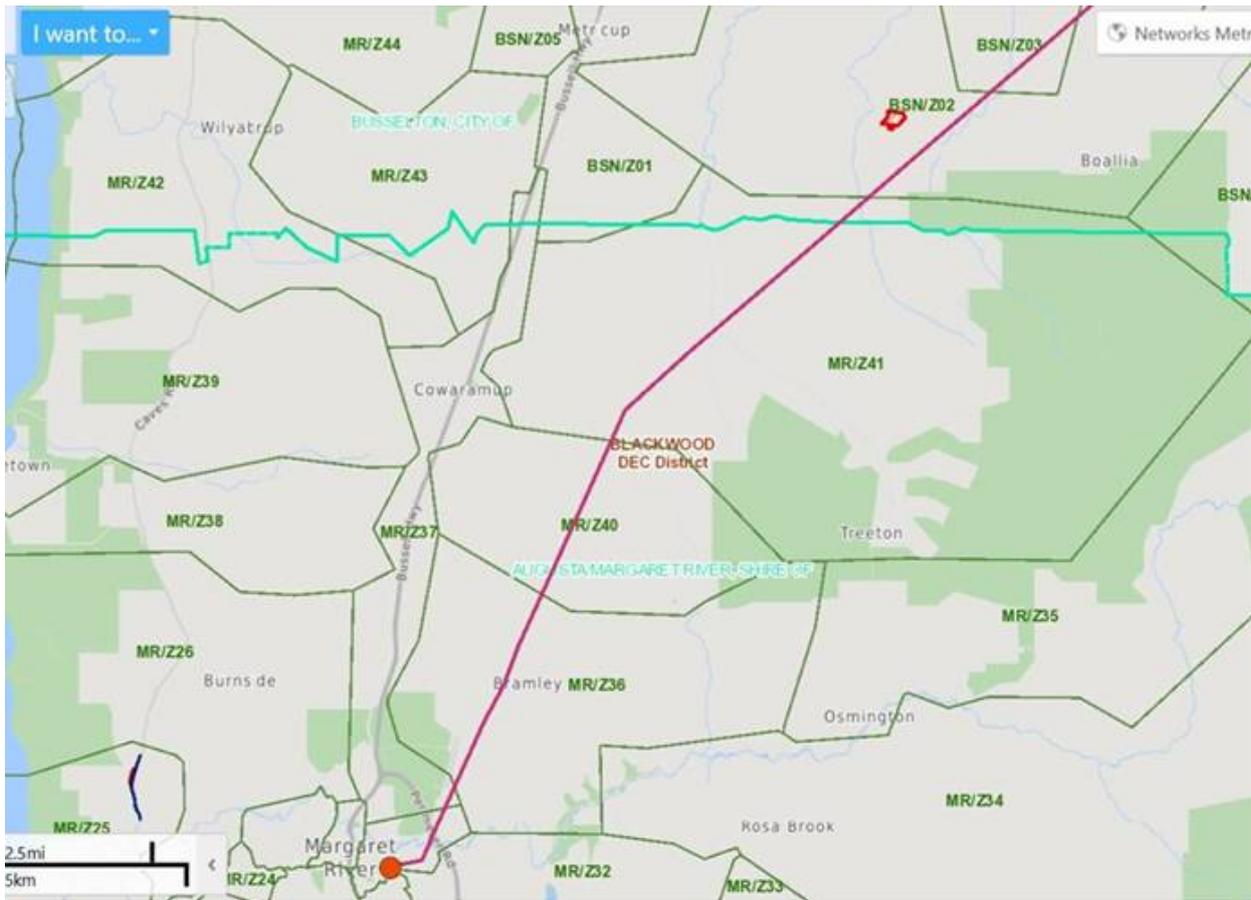
Volunteer Hub

- If your volunteers are interested in how to use the hub, I am available to visit with your Brigade members at the Brigades to help customise it to their needs.
- I can also provide a Service Medal Awareness session.

Following her update, Linda mentioned that as part of National Volunteer Week, she would like to acknowledge and thank all the volunteers for the all the work they do.

8.2 Western Power Mitigation Activity Update – Acting CESM

- This region is considered a part of the Western Power Bush Fire Mitigation (BFM) programme.
- Inspections began in March 2021 and will continue through to Jun 2021.
- Cutting for March 2021 inspection is commencing imminently.
- The below map shows the areas we're inspecting this year.
- 102 Spans had Dead/Dying/Diseased treated (total removal or specific limbs).
- 155 Spans are currently in the scoping process for removal
- The vegetation on the specific East Augusta line that we discussed at the August 2020 meeting was cleared around Christmas last year.



8.3 Outcome of WALGA Zone Meeting BFAC Agenda Item – Acting CESM

- At the BFAC meeting held in February, the committee carried a motion recommending that the Shire, at the WALGA South West Country Zone meeting in April, request that the Bureau of Meteorology upgrades the weather stations in the South West corner to include a weather radar, along with anything else required to improve weather forecasting in the Lower South West region, including the Shire of Augusta Margaret River (*BFAC2021/03*).
- An agenda item was prepared for the WALGA Zone Meeting, which was held on 23 April 2021, and the outcome was as follows:

RESOLUTION

Moved: Cr Ian Earl
Seconded: Cr Paul Gillett

That the South West Country Zone of WALGA:

1. Notes the concerns of the Shire of Augusta Margaret River's Bush Fire Advisory Committee in relation the need for accurate weather forecasting.
2. Requests that WALGA write to the Bureau of Meteorology requesting upgrades to the weather stations in the South West Corner to include a weather radar to improve weather forecasting in the Lower South West region.

CARRIED

- An extract from the Minutes of this meeting are included as an attachment to this Agenda (*please refer to Attachment 8.3.1*).

8.4 Bush Fire Brigade Shire Email Addresses – Acting CESM

- When the Bush Fire Brigades were provided with their Samsung tablets, each Brigade was also issued with a generic Shire email address account.
- Over the years, use of these generic Shire email addresses has diminished, with only one Brigade currently utilising their Shire email account.
- The Shire's ICT Business Unit are currently in the process of decommissioning the Shire's exchange server used for hosting these email addresses.
- The remaining mailboxes are all to do with Bush Fire Brigades.
- As only one Brigade currently uses their Shire email account, ICT would like to suggest removing all accounts to simplify the Shire's setup and reduce complexity.
- If it's decided that all Brigades wish to switch over to a new email platform, ICT would recommend setting up a separate domain and tenant to manage their mailboxes independently.
- ICT would like to close these accounts as soon as possible, so please let Lisa know of your intentions in regard to the future use of these generic Shire email accounts.

After a brief discussion the consensus was that all other Brigades were happy to continue using the email addresses, they had set up themselves using a variety of service providers and forego the generic Shire email address.

Lisa to liaise with Karridale regarding closing their account and setting up a new one.

8.5 National Volunteer Week – Acting CESM

- Please refer to the attached flyer (*Attachment 8.5.1*).
- If you require any further information, please contact Kim Rosenfeld at krosenfeld@amrshire.wa.gov.au.

8.6 Fire and Biodiversity Forum – Acting CESM

- Please refer to the attached flyer (*Attachment 8.6.1*).
- If you require any further information, please contact Carole Peters at fabforum21@gmail.com.

8.7 2021-22 Firebreak Notice and Bushfire Information Booklet - Wallcliffe BFB

- Wallcliffe Brigade requests an update on the progress of this Notice and asks for the DRAFT to be forwarded to Brigades before the August BFAC meeting to allow members to make comments to their delegates before the August BFAC meeting.
- This is also to allow us as delegates of a Council Advisory Committee to vote for or against any items in the Notice at the August BFAC meeting and ensure timely distribution of this Notice.

Ian McLeod, Manager Legal and Governance, advised Gordon that a debrief session was held yesterday following the end of the inspection season on 12 May.

The next step was to take the feedback and recommendations from this debrief to the Shire Executive Leadership Team, who under delegated authority, endorse the Shire's Annual Firebreak Notice.

Following that, Council would then be briefed at an information session in the near future.

After a brief discussion, Brigades were asked to review the current 2020-21 Firebreak Notice and Bushfire Information Booklet and were encouraged to provide their comments, feedback, concerns and suggestions for improvement on the Notice, and how it was implemented in the 2020/21 season, via email to Lisa by 20 June 2021. This could then be fed into the current review and draft that is being prepared for the 2021/22 Notice.

8.8 Consolidation of Training Calendars - Wallcliffe BFB

- Request that DFES, Bushfire Centre of Excellence and Local Government liaise with the e-Academy and only issue one Training Calendar per year.
- Different training responsibilities could be colour coded to reflect authorities' individual roles and responsibilities.

Adam Jasper explained that the three separate calendars are not produced through eAcademy but are produced by three different agencies. The difficulty is that the regional calendar captures training in the region for all agencies, with each course requiring differing levels of experiences and skill sets with some aimed specifically at SES, VMRS or VFRS, etc. What we try and achieve through the Local Government calendar is to pick up the more localised and of the regional courses that are more applicable to bushfire volunteers.

8.9 Status of Proposed Exmoor Emergency Water Point - Wallcliffe BFB

- What is the status of the proposed Emergency Water Point on the corner of Exmoor and Harrington roads?

Adam Jasper advised that the application for the Exmoor Emergency Water Point, that formed part of the BFB Water Tank Initiative, has been submitted, but we are still awaiting a final decision.

Lisa stated that she has left three voicemails with a representative of the DFES stimulus package regarding the current status of the application but has not yet had a response.

Adam added that he believed the applications would be approved early in the new financial year.

8.10 Removal of Yates Road Emergency Water Point Signage- Wallcliffe BFB

- Wallcliffe Brigade requests the removal of the Emergency Water Point signage on Yates Road.

Lisa advised that a Works Request has been sent through to the Shire Works Depot for actioning.

8.11 Flashing Beacons and Magnetic Vehicle Signage for FCOs – Cowaramup BFB

- That FCOs be issued with flashing beacons and magnetic signs for vehicles.

Adam Jasper stated that this would be a significant cost to the Shire, so in the first instance, we would need to carry out an audit to ascertain who already has what, etc.

Lisa to compile a spreadsheet for completion and to liaise with all FCOs in order to gather the relevant information.

8.12 Nomination of Molloy Island Fire Control Officer – Molloy Island BFB

Due to the resignation of John Matten from the position of Molloy Island FCO, nominations for the position were called for at the Molloy Island BFB AGM on Monday, 10 May 2021, and the following nomination has been received:

- Peter Nash – Molloy Island FCO

The nominee has accepted the nomination.

RECOMMENDATION/BFAC DECISION BFAC2021/05

That the Bush Fire Advisory Committee recommends the CEO, under delegated authority, appoint Peter Nash to the position of Molloy Island Fire Control Officer, following the completion of a Fire Control Officer Course, for the balance of the original 2019-21 term, expiring with the 2021 local government elections.

Moved: John Matten, Molloy Island BFB

Seconded: Andrew Newnham, Rosa Brook BFB

Carried: 11/0

8.13 Nomination of Molloy Island BFAC Delegate/Proxy – Molloy Island BFB

Due to the resignation of John Matten from the position of Molloy Island BFAC Delegate/Proxy, nominations for the position were called for at the Molloy Island BFB AGM on Monday, 10 May 2021, and the following nominations have been received:

- Peter Nash – Molloy Island BFAC Delegate
- Andrew Coustley – Molloy Island BFAC Proxy

The nominees have accepted the nominations.

RECOMMENDATION/BFAC DECISION BFAC2021/06

That the Bush Fire Advisory Committee recommends Council appoint Peter Nash and Andrew Coustley to the positions of Molloy Island BFAC Delegate and Proxy respectively for the balance of the original 2019-21 term, expiring with the 2021 local government elections.

Moved: John Matten, Molloy Island BFB

Seconded: Gordon Temby, Wallcliffe BFB

Carried: 11/0

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.

Adam Jasper informed the meeting of the recently advertised Shire Bushfire Mitigation Advisor (BMA) position, for which interviews were held this week.

Adam also discussed the current status of the new Bushfire Risk Mitigation Coordinator (BRMC) position and explained that the current Bushfire Risk Planning Coordinator (BRPC) position, held by Andrew Hunt, will be converted to the new Bushfire Risk Mitigation Coordinator role, with a 12-month trial due to begin on 1 July 2021.

Andrew Hunt will continue in the new position and will be employed by the City of Busselton, however, the job will be shared evenly between Busselton and the Shire of Augusta Margaret River, with Andrew having a physical presence in each office 2.5 days per week.

The BRMC and BMA will work closely with each other and Adam focusing on prescription writing, fuel loading, implementing mitigation works and liaising with contractors, etc.

The BRMC role will also be restricted to the implementation of the Bushfire Risk Management Plan (BRMP) and associated Mitigation Activity Fund (MAF) work.

Simon Hanson, Karridale BFB and Hamelin Bay FCO, stated that there had been some issues post-inspection where landowners are contacting their local FCOs with queries. Simon asked whether there was some way that the Shire Rangers and FCOs could communicate in relation to the Firebreak Notice prior to the commencement of inspections.

Ian McLeod stated that this was a great suggestion and should be implemented prior to the next season.

Simon Hanson also brought up the issue of incompatibility between various appliances, for example the differing sizes of the drafting nozzles, and whether this could be remedied somehow.

The Chair advised that this was something that had previously been discussed and that it was something that would slowly and gradually be addressed.

Some Brigades commented that in order to overcome this issue, they have built up a variety of adaptor stock over the years.

As there were no further items to discuss, the meeting was closed at 7.39pm.