

Augusta Margaret River Bush Fire Advisory Committee

Minutes

For the meeting held
Wednesday, 19 August 2020
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 August 2020, 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.

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Order of Business

Agenda Listing	Subject
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Notice of meeting
Order of business

- 1.0 Declaration of opening
- 2.0 Attendance / Apologies / Non-attendance
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 - 2.2 Apologies
- 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 May 2020
- 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 Western Power Presentation – Carlos Gamez, Western Power
 - 8.2 Election of Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer – David Holland, CBFCO
 - 8.3 Nomination of Rosa Brook BFB Osmington FCO – Rosa Brook BFB
 - 8.4 Nomination of Wallcliffe BFB Prevelly FCO – Wallcliffe BFB
 - 8.5 Nomination of Wallcliffe BFB BFAC Proxy – Wallcliffe BFB
 - 8.6 Mitigation Activity Fund Update – Adam Jasper, CESM
 - 8.7 Bush Fire Planning Officer Request Outcome – Adam Jasper, CESM
 - 8.8 Training Course Nomination Acceptances – Wallcliffe BFB
- 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 6.00pm.

The Chair gave special welcome to Shire CEO, Stephanie Addison-Brown, Shire Director Sustainable Development and Infrastructure Services, Nick Logan, DFES Superintendent, Phil Brandrett and Western Power representative, Carlos Gamez.

2.0 Attendance / Apologies / Non-attendance

2.1 Attendance

Committee Members

David Holland	:	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (CBFCO)/ Presiding Member
Tony Mostert	:	Alexandra Bridge Bush Fire Brigade Delegate
Tim Garstone	:	Cowaramup Bush Fire Brigade Delegate
Peter Delfs	:	Gracetown Bush Fire Brigade Delegate
Peter Brindley	:	East Augusta Bush Fire Brigade Delegate
Simon Hanson	:	Karridale Bush Fire Brigade Delegate
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 Coordinator (North)
Diane Holland	:	Witchcliffe Bush Fire Brigade Delegate

Shire Staff Members

Stephanie Addison-Brown	:	Chief Executive Officer
Nick Logan	:	Director Sustainable Development and Infrastructure Services
Adam Jasper	:	Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM)/ Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (CBFCO)
Sharon McTaggart	:	Coordinator Ranger Services
Ian Earl	:	Councillor
Brian Daniel	:	Councillor
Lisa Garstone	:	Emergency Services Admin Officer/Minute Secretary

Observers

Andrew Hunt	:	AMR/Busselton/Nannup BRMP Coordinator
Greg West	:	Bushfire Mitigation Advisor/Wallcliffe BFB Proxy
Quentin Blunsdon	:	Cowaramup Bush Fire Brigade Captain
Ed Hatherley	:	Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)
Peter Thomas	:	Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)
Philip Brandrett	:	Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)
Carlos Gamez	:	Western Power

2.2 Apologies

Adrian Yates	:	Augusta Margaret River State Emergency Service (SES)
Julia Meldrum	:	Councillor
Georgina Thiele	:	Bush Fire Ready Coordinator (South)

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 May 2020

RECOMMENDATION/BFAC DECISION BFAC2020/06

That the unconfirmed minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held 20 May 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record of the meeting.

Moved: John Matten, Molloy Island BFB

Seconded: Tony Mostert, Alexandra Bridge BFB

Carried: 14/0

6.0 Matters arising from previous minutes

6.1 Action List

Date	Action Item	Action Update	Status	Actioning Officer
20/5/2020	Cr Julia Meldrum enquired as to what sort of a percentage of burns would be completed in spring compared to autumn?	<p>20/5/20: Adam Jasper to investigate and look into getting some more accurate figures to Cr Meldrum.</p> <p>19/8/20: This information has been provided to all members. Action can now be marked as complete.</p>	Complete	Adam Jasper
20/05/2020	Registering of Permits with DFES COMCEN in regard to the inconsistent questions Permit holders are being asked and information they have to provide.	<p>20/5/20: Peter Thomas to investigate and seek clarity from the current Superintendent in charge of COMCEN.</p> <p>19/8/20: Peter Thomas has investigated this matter and has since had a response from DO COMCEN which was relayed to the meeting. A couple more queries raised. Peter Thomas to relay these additional queries back to COMCEN for clarification.</p>	In progress	Peter Thomas
20/05/2020	Registering of Permits after hours with the Department of Parks and Wildlife in regard to answering machine/unclear auto attendant options.	<p>20/5/20: Ed Hatherley to look into the auto attendant menu system options.</p> <p>19/8/20: Ed Hatherley explained how the DPaW phone diversion works and advised of possible looping issues during power outages. Advised callers to press 1 for the Duty Officer. Action can now be marked as complete.</p>	Complete	Ed Hatherley
20/05/2020	Request from Wallcliffe BFB that Shire ask Western Power to continue to address the buildup of fuel under their transmission lines throughout the shire before the next fire season.	<p>20/5/20: Wallcliffe and East Augusta BFBs to provide Adam with details of the areas of concern for follow up with Western Power. Adam to also investigate whether there is some sort of 'standards' document available for Brigades to refer to.</p> <p>19/8/20: Western Power are providing a presentation to address the concerns later in the meeting at General Business Item 8.1.</p>	Complete	Adam Jasper, Gordon Temby and Peter Brindley.

Shire of Augusta Margaret River
Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes: 19 August 2020

		Only East Augusta provided their area of concern which has been forwarded to Western Power for a response. Action can be marked as complete following the presentation.		
20/05/2020	Request from Wallcliffe BFB for the distribution of the DOAC / ROAC Minutes to all Brigade secretaries once they are received by the Shire delegate.	<p>20/5/20: David Holland to recommence distribution of DOAC/ROAC Minutes to all Brigade secretaries and possibly Shire Council BFAC delegates Julia Meldrum, Brian Daniels and Ian Earl.</p> <p>19/8/20: As requested, the Emergency Services Admin Officer has been distributing, and will continue to distribute, the ROAC Minutes to all Brigade secretaries, relevant Shire staff and Councillors. Action can now be marked as complete.</p>	Complete	David Holland
20/05/2020	Enquiry from Rosa Brook BFB as to whether there would be an electronic version of the Biodiversity and Conservation form made available.	<p>20/5/20: Adam to provide FCOs with an electronic version of the Biodiversity and Conservation form.</p> <p>19/8/20: Form is currently with DBCA for comment, but current form can be provided if needed prior to feedback being received. Electronic version can be distributed once available. Action can now be marked as complete.</p>	Complete	Adam Jasper
19/08/20	Query from Karridale regarding the correct size fitting landowners are required to have on their water tanks. Following a number of recent phone calls, landowners are stating that various building licenses and documents have conflicting size requirements.	19/8/20: Committee has previously discussed this and an 80mm female camlock was the recommended option. Director of Sustainable Development and Infrastructure Services to investigate to ensure that consistent information is provided to building applicants.	In progress	Nick Logan

7.0 Reports from Shire Officers and Delegates

7.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

- Apart from the weekend of the 23/24 May, it has been a very quiet bush fire season in our Shire, probably the quietest in memory! It has been pleasing to note that even though it has been a quiet fire season, all Brigades have maintained their training schedules and are ready and willing to assist when called upon.
- As mentioned at the May BFAC meeting, we were expecting a severe weather event for that coming weekend. As a result of a forecast of warm dry winds with elevated temperatures, DEFS implemented a Total Fire Ban for the weekend of 23/24 May. The Shire enforced a Section 46 Notice for Friday 22 May through to Monday 25 May. This is the third year in a row that we have had these severe weather events in late May/early June, although this year was less severe than the previous years. As in previous years compliance with this notice was generally good, however there were several landowners who did light fires on their property without realising the bans that were in place.
- I have looked back over the past two years and we seem to be experiencing this type of event every year now. While it may be tempting to make significant changes to our Restricted Burning Season, I do not believe that this is warranted given the general good level of compliance with the Section 46 requirements by the community. I will however be keeping a close eye on this space!
- I attended the June ROAC meeting which was held here in Margaret River. The draft minutes have been circulated to Brigade reps for distribution. As the representative for the Lower South West region on the Bushfire Operation Committee, I was asked to take a number of items to the BOC for consideration. One was the need for an App to be developed that would send notifications of fire information out to people that were nearby or who had registered an interest in that area. Another was the need for each appliance to have a tablet device installed. DFES will consider both of these requests, along with others, and provide a response in due course.
- We were also advised that DFES will be initiating a new committee, the Volunteer Bush Fire Service Training Advisory Group, 'VBFSTAG'. The idea will be to enable volunteers to advise DFES of issues around their training via this committee. Each region will be asked to provide a nominee for this committee in due course so we may be looking for volunteers!
- Please keep yourselves safe and thank you for your dedication and support.

7.2 Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

- As per CESM report.

7.3 Shire Bush Fire Brigades Alexandra Bridge

- Nothing to report.

The Alexandra Bridge report was provided at the meeting.

Cowaramup

- Cowaramup has returned to full capacity after the COVID-19 restrictions were lifted. We have recommenced weekly and monthly training and all Station and Vehicle checks as required.
- We have had two new members sign up and attend regular training sessions and we hope to have them fire ground ready before the upcoming fire season.
- We have a few burns we would like to get completed in spring, that we couldn't complete in autumn due to COVID-19. Cowaramup also has members showing interest in completing Prescription and Prescribed burning training, when this training becomes available.
- The Brigade and Shire have been approached by the Parkwater homeowners Committee, in regard to burning and fire plans in place for Parkwater. We will attend their next meeting at the end of August to assist them with any questions or requests they may have.

- We have received the AEDs for the 4.4 and LT. The brigade would like further clarification on where DFES think we are to locate the AED in the LT. One option would be to mount on the underside of the locker lid.
- Our 4.4 has also just had its internal pump controls installed inside the cab.
- At the Brigades AGM, held on the 18 June 2020, the Brigade voted on Quentin Blunsdon as a nominee for the DCBFCO position. Quentin accepted the Brigade's nomination.

East Augusta

- Training monthly during winter.
- Maintenance runs being carried out on the 1.4.
- HSV returned to Manjimup.
- AGM committee members re-elected en bloc with Peter Brindley as FCO and Frank Bartoll as Captain.
- CCTV cameras installed.

Gracetown

- Training continuing at irregular times due to many members absent from area.
- Defibrillators have arrived and currently getting placed in vehicles.
- Maintenance runs being carried out on vehicles.
- Brush Pile has been well utilised by the community with several large burns. Great training arena for new and experienced members.

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

Karridale

- Currently Maintenance only, no training.
- Thanks to our Captain, Bindi, who looked after our shed and appliances during COVID-19 restrictions.
- 3 callouts on the same weekend after last meeting, 2 to assist other Brigades.
- New shed extensions function well, except for minor flooding problem which Shire/ Builder are rectifying.

Kudardup

- Nothing to report.

The Kudardup report was provided at the meeting.

Molloy Island

- Training is continuing on Monday nights with good attendance.
- AGM completed; John Matten has retired as Captain after 11 years in the position.
- No other members put forward a nomination to take over the role as Captain.
- CCTV security cameras have been installed.

Hamelin Bay FCO, Simon Hanson, congratulated John Matten on his term as Captain of Molloy Island BFB.

Rosa Brook

- Nothing major to report since last meeting.
- Training has been continuing over winter.
- We have had 3 new members join over winter.
- Our AGM was held on the 15 June with the following changes to committee positions:
 - Lieutenant Osmington - Alan Darnell
 - Lieutenant Rosa Glen - Lloyd Powell
 - Training Officer - Richard Dossor
 - Asst Maintenance Officer - Matt Thomas
- All other positions remain unchanged.

- The Osmington FCO position has also had the following nomination:
 - Osmington FCO - Shaun Palmer
- At the AGM the Brigade also moved to recognise the work of some of our members, past and present, awarding the following members with Life Membership:
 - Doris Arthur
 - Rob Bootsma
 - Keith Scott

Wallcliffe

Training

- Members have applied for numerous LSW BFB Training Courses for the balance of this year's training period. Our Sunday and mid-month training sessions have been well attended as have our BA training sessions.

Membership

- Currently 63 Active trained firefighters, 10 Probationary members and 14 Auxiliary members. Total 87 BFB/FRS members.

Brigade Activity

- Bushfire - 1, Structural fires - 3, Fuel reduction burns -1, Interstate deployment - nil, State deployment - nil.

Transition to DFES

- At the last Shire Council meeting they voted unanimously to allow Wallcliffe to transition to DFES management. The Shire CEO has written to the DFES Commissioner to request that the transition takes place.

Defibrillators

- Have been supplied and are currently being located on the appliances.

Witchcliffe

- It has been a very quiet period.
- Regular fortnightly training continues and is well supported for this time of year.
- Newer members are engaging enthusiastically. We have 4 that are booked in for their second weekend (Bushfire Skills) training that was cancelled earlier in the year.
- We have a good level of interest in extra training courses as well with 9 registrations so far.
- We held our AGM on the 19 June 2020, two months later than usual due to COVID-19.
- The only change in positions was a change of secretary and training coordinator. We added a new second lieutenant role to our elections as a pathway to mentor any fire fighter interested in leadership.
- We also unveiled the first of our Honour Boards as we seek to record the history of our Brigade. We have so far recorded our last 20 years of history from 2000 onwards. Information available prior to then is quite patchy but it remains a work in progress.

7.4 Community Emergency Services Manager / Shire Training Officer

Prevention

Mitigation Works

- Acquittal has been submitted and accepted. Funding round grant has been approved which will mean that we now have funds available to undertake works during the spring window. 34 treatments approved consisting of a mix of mechanical and HRB. We are in the process of drawing up prescriptions and applying for the relevant permits to take where required

Preparedness

Training

- Limited training is back up and underway. The new training courses are very assessor reliant and in future, once we clear the backlog as a result of the COVID-19 shutdown, we will be looking at capping maximum numbers on courses to ease the workload on the volunteer assessors. Priority at this stage is those members that were on the cancelled courses. Sector Commander course date may change due to lack of numbers and combining with the regional course, once a decision has been made, we will let you know.

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.

Carpet Cleaning

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

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

- Tagging and Testing was successfully completed in May/June 2020.
- Brigades with any faults have been notified.
- Next tagging and testing to be carried out in May 2021.

First Aid Kit and Fire Extinguisher Servicing for Bushfire Appliances

- Brigade Fire Extinguisher servicing was completed in May 2020.
- All Brigade Fire Extinguishers will be serviced again in Nov 2020.
- First Aid Equipment will also be serviced again in Nov 2020.

Gutter Cleaning

- All relevant Brigades will be cleaned again in late 2020 prior to Fire Season.

Pest Control Treatment

- Some Brigades were treated in May 2020.
- Remaining Brigades will be treated in October 2020.
- Treatment is carried out on an annual basis, however, if you have any pest control issues throughout the year, please let us know.

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 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.

BFB New Membership Application Procedure

- The Shire recently created a Bush Fire Brigade New Membership Application Procedure and updated a number of related documents including:
 - BFS Application to Join a Bush Fire Brigade Form (updated)
 - VNPC Consent Form (updated)
 - Volunteer Firefighter Induction Checklists Form (updated)
 - PPE Order Form (updated)

- BFS Update of Membership Information Form (updated)
- The above-mentioned Procedure and documents were taken to the May 2020 BFAC meeting for review and feedback and have since been finalised and distributed to all Brigades.
- Please ensure any older versions of these forms are archived or deleted.
- As requested by a few of the Brigades, we have now also made the following forms electronically fillable:
 - BFS Application to Join a Bush Fire Brigade Form
 - VNPC Consent Form
 - PPE Order Form
 - BFS Update of Membership Information Form

PPE Orders

- Please use the new Shire PPE Order Form to ensure that your orders contain all the required information.
- 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

- Most of the Brigades have now held their 2020 Annual General Meetings.
- As per the Shire's Bush Fire Procedure (August 2018), please ensure that, following your AGMs, you send a copy of the following documents through to Lisa for registration and so that any relevant updates can be made:
 - AGM Minutes of Meeting
 - Brigade Financial Statement
 - Updated Office Bearers List

Brigade Membership 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.

Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS) and Shire Budget

- The LGGS 2020/21 application has been approved with the Shire receiving the sum of \$300,000 for the year 2020/21.
- Lisa is currently in the process of sourcing all your 2020/21 ESL Wish List requests.

DFES AED Rollout

- All Brigades have now received their new AED as a result of a DFES initiated program. Supporting information regarding this program was non-existent. As per previous email, should any Brigades feel they will benefit from an AED course please let me know and I will endeavor to source additional funding.

Appliance Servicing

- We are in the process of reviewing and receiving tender applications for the continuation of the current servicing contract. Once awarded, annual servicing will get underway. Where we can squeeze in a service as a result of emergency work, we will, otherwise all other servicing will have to wait until the end of September.

Transition

- Currently sitting with the FES Commissioner, nothing received as of the date of this report.

Response

- Nil

Recovery

- Nil

Following the CESM report, Gordon Temby, Wallcliffe BFB, enquired about the possible production of bushfire awareness and information material for short-term accommodation in the region.

Adam Jasper advised that he was in the process of resourcing a program in line with the current bushfire plans and requirements relevant to short-stay accommodation.

Mr Temby then also enquired as to the 'Red File' updates prior to fire season.

Adam advised that the updates would proceed as per usual and distributed prior to fire season in the electronic format as per last year.

7.5 Shire Executive Officer / Representative

- Nothing to report.

7.6 Shire Coordinator Ranger Services

DRAFT 2020-21 Firebreak Notice and Bushfire Information Booklet

Sharon McTaggart, Coordinator Ranger Services, gave a presentation (refer Attachment 7.6.2) on the proposed changes to the 2020-21 Draft Firebreak Notice and Bushfire Information Booklet (refer Attachment 7.6.1).

Ms McTaggart advised the meeting that the main proposed amendment to the Notice is the increase in the width of trafficable firebreaks from two (2) metres to three (3) metres for residential and rural residential lots 4001sqm and over. Rural lots (excluding plantations, vineyards, orchards and olive groves) will also require 3-metre wide trafficable firebreak within 100 metres of a boundary that abuts a road reserve, except where the land is being actively grazed or maintained to less than 10cm.

Ms McTaggart stated that this change would be implemented over a number of years and that the Shire would work with landowners to find suitable solutions to any issues they may have, and variations may be required where it is not practical to widen existing firebreaks.

During the presentation, Ms McTaggart made note that our Shire is one of only two Local Governments in Western Australia that still have the 2-metre firebreak requirement, so this change will bring us into line with other Local Governments within WA and the rest of the country, as well as comply with DFES and the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) standards and guidelines.

Ms McTaggart touched on some other minor amendments to the proposed Notice which included changes to the wording in the General Information section of the booklet to more clearly explain Permit requirements during the Spring/Summer and Autumn Restricted Burning Periods and the information regarding the use of campfires during these periods has also been amended to include firepits.

Following the presentation, a discussion took place and various members of the Committee provided Ms McTaggart with their feedback, which included comments around:

- *The cost to landowners to make changes to their firebreaks and possible penalties from the Shire for non-compliance.*
- *That the current width of firebreak ploughs is 1.8 or 2.4 metres, therefore, increasing the width of firebreaks to 3 metres would require double the work and time to complete this requirement.*

- Support for the introduction of 3-metre wide mineral earth firebreaks, with a 4-metre x 4-metre vehicle clearance, on all new developments, but not support for any retrospective introduction for existing 2-metre mineral earth firebreaks, and that landowners should be encouraged to widen their firebreak vehicle clearances to 4-metres to allow for fire appliance access. Also, that in bush areas, consideration should be given for adequate turn arounds and passing areas.

Ms McTaggart responded to all questions and advised that all feedback would be taken on board for review prior to the completion of the Notice.

7.7 Department of Fire and Emergency Services

DFES LSW Incidents

Storm 24-25 May

- This event was the most severe in the past two years, with forecast winds to 125km/h. Across the Lower-South West region we received more than 50 Requests for Assistance (RFAs, or callouts) from Sunday after through to Monday night. Approximately two-thirds of these were in the Busselton area (Yallingup to Capel); 10 in Augusta-Margaret River, and the remainder across the inland areas.
- The storm caused structural damage to two properties, with widespread minor damage, uprooting of trees, loss of power, and subsequent loss of telephone and communications networks.
- Approximately 80 SES volunteers responded during the incident, with Donnybrook, Busselton and Margaret River SES units remaining in operation for over 24 hours. The most common callouts were for trees on houses/vehicles and for roof damage.

Storm 28-29 June

- This minor storm resulted in 22 Requests for Assistance (RFAs) across the region; with most (14 RFAs) from the City of Busselton area. Widespread minor damage with roof damage, trees blocking access and minor flooding.

Land search 30 June

- 33 SES volunteers from across the SW and LSW regions supported WAPOL in searching for a missing person swept off rocks at Wyadup.

VFRS

- As is common this time of year Brigades have had several Road Crash Rescue incidents including a Log Truck leaving the road and ending up on its side and a driver in a 4WD towing a caravan lost control and ended up with his vehicle on its side with the caravan lucky remaining on its wheels. There has also been an increase in structure fires which together with the colder weather and COVID-19 stay at home restrictions the likely reasons for this.

Training

- Training is starting to increase since the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions. We have had an increase in members across the Manjimup District which has placed a demand on training for the VFRS. Emphasis over the next 2 months for staff is on upskilling VFRS in Breathing Apparatus procedures for large complex incidents.
- An initiative in sending out training themes to volunteers with articles to read and videos to watch has also been implemented. This allowed volunteers stuck at home to still be involved in Brigade training and maintain enthusiasm.

Burn Smart Campaign

- The Burn SMART campaign was created after an Office of Bushfire Risk Management investigation into escaped private planned burns in the South West and Great Southern Regions in May 2018.
- The campaign is not about discouraging people from conducting planned burns. Instead it aims to improve people's perceived personal risk and sense of accountability when lighting a fire.
- It recognises that it is essential for private property landholders to take responsibility to reduce fuel on their property.

- The Burn SMART campaign material includes regional radio and social media and online advertising. It is accompanied by educational resources developed by the Bushfire Centre of Excellence to guide landholders in undertaking planned burns. This information is available on the DFES Website and the Volunteer Hub.

7.8 Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service

- Nil – not in attendance.

7.9 Bush Fire Ready Facilitators Reports

Bush Fire Ready Facilitator (North)

- No community meetings since the last BFAC meeting. I did recently attend a Shire staff meeting regarding the recently completed Bushfire Risk Management Plan. This plan involved a great deal of work by shire staff and correlated a lot of information about the potential fire risk throughout our Shire.
- I have been asked to attend a Bushfire Preparedness meeting in Rosa Brook and at the McHenry Farm subdivision next month. Any other Brigades requiring information or wanting to conduct meetings please contact me.

Bush Fire Ready Facilitator (South)

- Met with Charlotte Powis, DFES Community Preparedness Advisor, in Augusta to discuss Bushfire Ready in the southern section of the Shire.
- Investigating grant funding in conjunction with community groups to increase Bushfire Ready preparedness.
- A workshop held in Denmark on fire wise property planning, biodiversity and fire resilience which incorporated bushfire ready increased the profile and understanding of community preparedness and resilience. I will be looking for support to implement this workshop if you or a member of your Brigade can help me with coordinating such an event can you please ask them to contact me on 0417 998 461.
- Met with Adam Jasper, Greg West, Sharon McTaggart, Charlotte and Gordon Temby on 21 July to discuss current effectiveness of existing bushfire ready groups. Discussions were also tabled around the new bushfire risk matrix for the Shire of Augusta Margaret River. The Shire in conjunction with DFES will launch a social media and mail out to support landholders whose properties were assessed at the highest risk. I have proposed that each Brigade has a Bushfire Ready facilitator to help communities be more resilient and prepared. Can you please speak with your members to see if anyone is interested and if so, please register them for the next facilitator training.

7.10 Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions

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

7.11 State Emergency Services

Incidents & Events

- Assist other agency: Five incidents during the quarter (Cowaramup 8 May, Contos 21 May, Margaret River 1 June and 3 June, Wilyabrup 2 June). Mostly ambulance assistance in remote locations, with one structural damage incident on Station Rd.
- Severe weather:
 - Major severe weather event on 24/25 May had ICC staffed overnight. 8 RFAs, total 151.2 hours of volunteer time. Loss of power and communications services but backup generator and radio links worked well. There is ongoing clarification on using the 'command' radio links shared by SES, VFRS and BFB.
 - Five other events (Redgate winery 17 June, Brookfield 28 June, Margaret River and Augusta 29 June, 6 July and 2 August).
- Land search: Three land searches during the quarter (Pemberton 22 June, Yallingup 30 June, Margaret River 14 July).

Training

- COVID-19 restrictions relaxed and return to regular SES unit and regional training in July.
- Vertical Rescue and Cave Rescue training in July.
- Members completed storm damage, chainsaw, and flood boat courses.
- Leadership team completed AIIMS, Search Team Leader, Mental Health.
- Weekly Monday night training proceeding well with 15-20 members.
- Planned inter-agency Land/Marine Search exercise with WAPOL/Marine Rescue/SES for September.

Administration and Other

- Adrian Yates completed A/DO role and returned to Unit Manager. Dave Hull completed A/Unit Manager role for over four months and did an exceptional job.
- There have been several incidents where VFRS/BFB Brigades were deployed by DFES COMCEN when SES should be the primary response due to ATU and basket stretcher capability. LSW DFES staff are working with BGUs and COMCEN to clarify call-out response.
- AGM scheduled for Monday 31 August at 6.30pm.
- Tablet devices with 3G mobile connections rolled out to SES vehicles to support managing storm events.
- The backup generator is now hardwired to the meter box – no more dragging heavy cables around.
- Atmospheric conditions are limiting the ability to communicate with HF radios.
- ESL/LGGS funding approved for 2020/21 financial year and acquittal of 2019/20 FY funding.

8.0 General business

8.1 Western Power Presentation – Carlos Gamez, Western Power

Western Power Representative, Carlos Gamez, gave a presentation on the management of vegetation around their asset base.

Following the presentation Carlos answered questions from various members.

Adam suggested that any other specific concerns should be forwarded to him to be collated and sent through to Western Power for a response.

The Chair thanked Carlos for attending the meeting.

8.2 Nomination of Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer – David Holland, CBFCO

Due to the resignation of Brett Trunfull from the position of Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (DCBFCO) in February 2020, and the subsequent appointment of Adam Jasper as interim DCBFCO, Brigades were advised that a call for nominations for the position of DCBFCO for the remainder of the term were to be forwarded through to the Emergency Services Admin Officer prior to the 19 August BFAC meeting.

For the position of Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, one nomination was received:

- Witchcliffe BFB nominated Quentin Blunsdon.

Quentin Blunsdon accepted the nomination and provided a resume for the position (*please refer to Attachment 8.2.1*).

RECOMMENDATION/BFAC DECISION BFAC2020/07

That the Bush Fire Advisory Committee recommends the CEO, under delegated authority, appoint Quentin Blunsdon to the position of Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for the balance of the original 2019-21 term, expiring with the 2021 local government elections.

Moved: Diane Holland, Witchcliffe BFB

Seconded: Tim Garstone, Cowaramup BFB

Carried: 14/0

8.3 Nomination of Rosa Brook BFB Osmington FCO – Rosa Brook BFB

Due to the resignation of Keith Scott from the position of Osmington FCO, nominations for the position were called for at the Rosa Brook BFB AGM in June 2020 and the following nomination has been received:

- Shaun Palmer – Osmington FCO

The nominee has accepted the nomination.

RECOMMENDATION/BFAC DECISION BFAC2020/08

That the Bush Fire Advisory Committee recommends the CEO, under delegated authority, appoint Shaun Palmer to the position of Osmington Fire Control Officer for the balance of the original 2019-21 term, expiring with the 2021 local government elections.

Moved: Andrew Newnham, Rosa Brook BFB

Seconded: Gordon Temby, Wallcliffe BFB

Carried: 14/0

8.4 Nomination of Wallcliffe BFB Prevelly FCO – Wallcliffe BFB

Due to the resignation of Bob Baker from the position of the Prevelly FCO, nominations for the position were called for at the Wallcliffe BFB AGM in June 2020 and the following nomination has been received:

- Rodney Dilkes – Prevelly FCO

The nominee has accepted the nomination.

RECOMMENDATION/BFAC DECISION BFAC2020/09

That the Bush Fire Advisory Committee recommends the CEO, under delegated authority, appoint Rodney Dilkes to the position of Prevelly Fire Control Officer for the balance of the original 2019-21 term, expiring with the 2021 local government elections.

Moved: Gordon Temby, Wallcliffe BFB

Seconded: Andrew Newnham, Rosa Brook BFB

Carried: 14/0

8.5 Nomination of Wallcliffe BFB BFAC Proxy – Wallcliffe BFB

Due to the resignation of Greg West as the Wallcliffe BFB BFAC Proxy, nominations for the position were called for at the Wallcliffe BFB AGM in June 2020 and the following nomination has been received:

- Robert Barnett – Wallcliffe BFB BFAC Proxy

The nominee has accepted the nomination.

RECOMMENDATION/BFAC DECISION BFAC2020/10

That the Bush Fire Advisory Committee recommends Council appoint Robert Barnett to the position of Bush Fire Advisory Committee Proxy for the balance of the original 2019-21 term, expiring with the 2021 local government elections.

Moved: Gordon Temby, Wallcliffe BFB

Seconded: John Matten, Molloy Island BFB

Carried: 14/0

8.6 Mitigation Activity Fund Update – Adam Jasper, CESM

Adam Jasper, CESM, gave a brief presentation and update on the Shire's Mitigation Activity Fund.

Following the presentation, Adam called for and responded to questions.

8.7 Bush Fire Planning Officer Request Outcome – Adam Jasper, CESM

Adam Jasper, CESM, informed the meeting that the Shire had received a response from the DFES Bushfire Risk Management Branch regarding the request for consideration of funding for a full time Bushfire Risk Management Coordinator for the Shire of Augusta Margaret River. The response was that, at this stage, there were no plans to extend the current contract or for additional funds for the position.

Adam noted that there has since been further discussion of the matter at a recent CapeROC meeting and correspondence regarding a continuation of funding was being drafted.

8.8 Training Course Nomination Acceptances – Wallcliffe BFB

- Can the Captain and Training Officer be informed of all LGA and DFES nominations for training courses that have been accepted by the relevant authorities?

Peter Thomas, DFES, informed Gordon that Brigade Trainers can access that information via the eAcademy Training Report.

Adam added that he would look into the capacity in eAcademy for the Trainer to be notified along with the member when training courses have been completed.

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.

Simon Hanson moved the following motion to officially acknowledge the Captaincy of John Matten, Molloy Island BFB:

MOTION/BFAC DECISION BFAC2020/11

That the Bush Fire Advisory Committee recognise the contribution to the Molloy Island Bush Fire Brigade, and the Shire, by their previous Captain, John Matten, and thank him for his dedication and efforts over the 10 years of his Captaincy.

Moved: Simon Hanson. Karridale BFB

Seconded: Andrew Newnham, Rosa Brook BFB

Carried: 14/0

Simon also queried the correct size fitting landowners were required to have on their water tanks following a number of recent phone calls, with landowners stating that various building licenses and documents had conflicting size requirements.

The Chair stated that this Committee had previously discussed this and that an 80mm female camlock was the recommended option. The Director of Sustainable Development and Infrastructure Services will investigate to ensure that consistent information is provided to building applicants.

As there were no further items to discuss, the meeting was closed at 7.45pm.