

Bush Fire Advisory Committee

Minutes | 9th April 2025



CONTENTS

| Agenda Item | Page |
|---|------|
| ITEM 1 OPENING & ANNOUNCEMENTS | 3 |
| ITEM 2 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES | 3 |
| 2.1 Fire Control Officers / Weather Monitors..... | 3 |
| 2.2 Shire | 3 |
| 2.3 Invited Observers / Visitors/Agencies..... | 3 |
| 2.4 Apologies..... | 3 |
| ITEM 3 DEPUTATIONS / PRESENTATIONS / SUBMISSIONS..... | 4 |
| 3.1 Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plan | 4 |
| ITEM 4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING | 4 |
| 4.1 Confirmation of Minutes – 19 th October 2024 | 4 |
| 4.2 Business Arising..... | 4 |
| ITEM 5 CORRESPONDENCE | 4 |
| 5.1 Inward | 4 |
| 5.2 Outward | 4 |
| ITEM 6 CBFCO / DCBFCO / FCO / CESM REPORTS | 4 |
| 6.1 CBFCO Report..... | 4 |
| 6.2 DCBFCO Report | 5 |
| 6.3 FCO's Reports..... | 5 |
| 6.4 CESM Report | 5 |
| 6.5 Shire Report | 5 |
| 6.6 Other Agency Reports..... | 5 |
| ITEM 7 DISCUSSION POINTS | 5 |
| 7.1 General Business..... | 5 |
| 7.2 Restricted Burning Period/Prohibited Burning Period (RBT/PBT) | 6 |
| 7.3 Post-Season Debriefing..... | 6 |
| ITEM 8 NEXT MEETING DATE..... | 6 |
| ITEM 9 CLOSURE | 6 |

SHIRE OF QUAIRADING

The Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 9th April 2025 commencing at 5:00 pm.

ITEM 1 OPENING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the Meeting and declared the Meeting open at 5:00 pm.

ITEM 2 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

2.1 Fire Control Officers / Weather Monitors

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Mr T Mills | Fire Control Officer, Representative South Caroling BFB |
| Mr L Johnston | Fire Control Officer, Representative South Caroling BFB |
| Mr H Hughes | Fire Control Officer, Representative Wamenusking BFB |
| Mr M Davies | Fire Control Officer, Representative Balkuling/Doodenanning BFB |
| Mr M Peacock | Fire Control Officer, Representative Balkuling/Doodenanning BFB |
| Mr H Harris | Fire Control Officer, Representative Balkuling/Doodenanning BFB |
| Mr B Willson | Fire Control Officer, Captain North Quairading BFB |
| Mr T Hadlow | Fire Control Officer, Representative North Quairading BFB |
| Mr A Duncan | Fire Control Officer, Captain Central BFB /VFRS Captain |
| Mr G Mills | Fire Control Officer, Captain, Wamenusking BFB |
| Mr D Mastin | Brigade Lieutenant, Central BFB |
| Ms S Zorzonek | VFRS Representative |

2.2 Shire

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Cr T Stacey | Shire President, Chair |
| Cr J Hippisley | Deputy Shire President |
| Ms N Ness | Chief Executive Officer |
| Mr J Idland | Community Emergency Services Manager |
| Ms S Caporn | Executive Manager of Works and Services, Minute Taker |

2.3 Invited Observers / Visitors/Agencies

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Ms Kayla James | Bushfire Risk Mitigation Coordinator |
| Mr Evyn Johnson | Department of Fire and Emergency Services |

2.4 Apologies

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Mr N Gelmi | Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, FCO Wamenusking BFB |
| Mr J Corrigan | Department of Fire and Emergency Services |

ITEM 3 DEPUTATIONS / PRESENTATIONS / SUBMISSIONS

3.1 Bushfire Risk Mitigation Plan - Presentation

The Bushfire Risk Mitigation Coordinator of the Shire of Northam, Ms Kayla James, has prepared an updated version of the Shire's current BRM Plan for the Committee's review and input. The Draft Plan is provided with this agenda.

Kayla will give some insight into her role and her responsibilities as BRMC and answer any questions regarding the BRM Plan.

The Draft Plan has been circulated to the group for comment. Kayla would appreciate feedback in the next few weeks.

ITEM 4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 Confirmation of Minutes – 19th October 2024

RESOLUTION: BFAC 006-24/25

MOVED **Linden Johnston** **SECONDED** **Hayden Harris**

That the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held on the 19th of October 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

CARRIED

4.2 Business Arising

Nil.

ITEM 5 CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 Inward

Nil

5.2 Outward

Nil

ITEM 6 CBFCO / DCBFCO / FCO / CESM REPORTS

6.1 CBFCO Report

N Gelmi sent in his written report as follows:

"The last fire season has been one of the quieter seasons, with no major fires.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sarah and Dean for their time and effort over the last season, as we didn't have a CESM.

Thank you to FCOs for volunteering their time.

Thank you to the Shire for supplying equipment.”

6.2 DCBFCO Report

Role vacant.

6.3 FCO's Reports

Nothing to report.

6.4 CESM Report

New CESM John Idland addressed the group. He commenced in the role a week ago on Monday 31st March.

AFDRS – Australian Fire Danger Rating System – acknowledged as being weighed too heavily with High danger ratings so looking to put more grassland observers into the system.

6.5 Shire Report

Natalie Ness addressed the meeting. Presentation at the Central Country Zone Meeting from LGIS. There are two bodies of work that we need to implement in our Shire – one about how to claim if assets are lost as a result of an incident and one around management of volunteers. She will update the meeting at a later date once more information is known.

6.6 Other Agency Reports

Evyn from DFES addressed the meeting. He spoke about Fire Weather Danger Ratings and DFES Legal recommends that the overarching Fire Weather District be used (Quairading is part of the Avon District), and not the sub-district. Some other LGAs are using the sub-district which is not the recommended position. The meeting discussed a recent example of York having a Moderate rating and Quairading being Moderate rating but overall Avon rating being High.

ITEM 7 DISCUSSION POINTS

7.1 General Business

Issuing of permits to burn by FCOs:

- Fire Danger rating, 4pm versus 12pm or 12am John Igland is working on clarifying with DFES to take forward and raise with BOM.
- wind speed, previous CESM had a position of 12kph – some FCOs were writing permits up to 25kph.
- registering permits through CESM (send photo to CESM phone)
- permit location – issue with some landowners having a permit for one location and then burning another location.
- Permit duration – 7 days
- Permit system -hard copy books versus online system

The Meeting requested a refresher on writing permits into the next agenda and also a community education campaign around fire mitigation, permits etc and smaller landholdings who may not be equipped to extinguish fires.

7.2 Restricted Burning Period/Prohibited Burning Period (RBT/PBT)

The following dates have been made public to the community with the Shire's Fire Break Notice 2024/25:

Restricted Burning Period:

- 16th October 2024 – 17th October 2024*

Prohibited Burning Period:

- 18th October 2024* – 28th February 2025

Restricted Burning Period:

- 1st March 2025 – 29th March 2025

*period amended by BFAC at their October 2024 meeting.

7.3 Post-Season Debriefing

Saskia mentioned getting crew for trucks was difficult when everyone is busy with seeding and harvesting. Central had a truck with crew but is there a better way? Farm response can be unpredictable. John is still getting to know people and our area and expects to be more knowledgeable next season.

ITEM 8 NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting (Pre-Season) is scheduled to take place on **Wednesday, 17 September 2025** commencing at 5:00pm in the Council Chambers.

ITEM 9 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Chairperson closed the meeting at 5:49 pm.