Bush Fire Advisory Committee

Minutes | 30th September 2026

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SHIRE OF QUAIRADING

The Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 30th September 2026 commencing at 5:00 pm.

ITEM 1 OPENING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the Meeting and declared the Meeting open at 5.04 pm.

ITEM 2 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

2.1 Fire Control Officers / Weather Monitors

Mr T Mills	Fire Control Officer/Weather Monitor, Representative South Caroling BFB
Mr L Johnston	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, Representative South Caroling BFB
Mr G Hughes	Fire Control Officer, Representative Wamenusking BFB
Mr M Peacock	Fire Control Officer, Representative Balkuling/Doodenanning BFB
Mr B Wilson	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, Captain North Quairading BFB
Mr T Hadlow	Fire Control Officer, Representative North Quairading BFB
Mr N Gelmi	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, FCO Wamenusking BFB

2.2 Shire

Cr T Stacey	Shire President, Chair
Cr R Faltyn	Councillor, Deputy Chair – joined via Zoom
Mr N Warren	Chief Executive Officer
Ms S Caporn	Executive Manager of Works and Services, Minute Taker

2.3 Invited Observers/Visitors/Agencies

Mr H Harris	Captain, Representative Balkuling/Doodenanning BFB
Mr D Mastin	Brigade Lieutenant, Central BFB
Ms S Korzonek	FRS Representative

2.4 Apologies

Mr M Davies	Fire Control Officer, Representative Balkuling/Doodenanning BFB
Mr A Mills-Heath	Community Emergency Services Manager
Mr G Rowels	Department of Fire and Emergency Services (has requested to be removed)
Mr J Corrigan	Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Mr A Caporn	Captain, Wamenusking BFB
Mr A Duncan	Central BFB

ITEM 3 DEPUTATIONS / PRESENTATIONS / SUBMISSIONS

Nil

ITEM 4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 Confirmation of Minutes – 15th April 2026

RESOLUTION: BFAC 001-26/27

MOVED Saskia Korzonek **SECONDED Mark Peacock**

That the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held on the 15th of April 2026 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting.

CARRIED

4.2 Business Arising

ITEM 5 CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 Inward

Nil

5.2 Outward

Nil

ITEM 6 CBFCO / DCBFCO / FCO / CESM REPORTS

6.1 CBFCO Report

John has left and Alan has taken over the CESM role. Welcome Allan. Before John left, he got all the trucks all serviced and ready to go for the season ahead. Thanks to Ben and Lyndon for their assistance as Deputies. Three permits issued so far for small fire pits in October mainly for this weekend coming. Attended the Northam meeting – coming out of that, there will be a water bomber based in Bruce Rock this harvest. The latest on EV cars is that fire responders should let them burn – don't try and put them out and keep out of the smoke.

6.2 DCBFCO Report

Nothing to report from Lyndon or Ben.

6.3 FCO's Reports

Nil

6.4 CESM Report

Brigade Engagement

I have attended a couple brigade AGMs, which have been a great opportunity to meet members and start building relationships with our local volunteers. I appreciate the warm welcome I have received so far and look forward to continuing to work with everyone.

Handheld Radios

Upon returning from annual leave, I will look into arranging for the handheld radios currently held in my office to be mounted in the brigade appliances.

Water Bombing Course

The water bombing course is scheduled for 9 October 2026, with the following sessions:

* Quairading – 11:30 am

* Cunderdin – 3:00 pm

At this stage, no further information has been released regarding where the water bombing aircraft will be stationed for the upcoming fire season. I will pass on any updates as they become available.

General

I am settling into the CESM role well and look forward to continuing to meet and work alongside the brigades across the three shires.

I am currently away and the phone isn't being monitored and nor are my emails. I will be back at work on the 12th of October.

6.5 Shire Report

Post heading out on social pages regarding permits and fire breaks. Origo tank request from the last meeting has been progressed through Council and the Annual Budget. Purchase is underway and expected to be installed in the next few weeks. Access will still remain for existing private systems.

6.6 Other Agency Reports

Seasonal outlook hasn't been released yet but expecting elevated thunderstorms. Wetter in east and drier in the west.

ITEM 7 ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

7.1 Appointment of Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

RESOLUTION: BFAC 002-26/27

MOVED Haydon Harris **SECONDED Lyndon Johnston**

That the Bush Fire Advisory Committee recommend to Council that Council appoints

Nigel Gelmi as Chief Bush Fire Control Officer until October 2027.

CARRIED

7.2 Appointment of Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

RESOLUTION: BFAC 003-26/27

MOVED Haydon Harris SECONDED Tom Hadlow

That the Bush Fire Advisory Committee recommend to Council that Council appoints

Lyndon Johnston and Ben Wilson as Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer until October 2027.

CARRIED

7.3 Appointment of Fire Control Officers

RESOLUTION: BFAC 004-26/27

MOVED SECONDED

That the Bush Fire Advisory Committee recommend to Council that Council appoints the following persons, subject to their acceptance, as Fire Control Officers for the Shire of Quairading until October 2027:

Mr T Mills; Mr G Hughes; Mr M Davies; Mr M Peacock; Mr B Wilson; Mr T Hadlow; Mr N Gelmi; Mr L Johnston

CARRIED

7.4 Appointment of Fire Weather Monitors

The Role of the Fire Weather Monitors is to keep an eye on current weather conditions at the request of the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, or Deputy in the Chiefs absence in order to decide whether a harvest vehicle movement and hot works ban will be implemented at any given time on a day that is required should the weather conditions warrant it.

RESOLUTION: BFAC 005-26/27

MOVED Ben Wilson SECONDED Mark Peacock

That the Bush Fire Advisory Committee recommend to Council that the following persons be appointed as Fire Weather Advisors until October 2027:

Town	Sarah Caporn
North West Area	Mark Peacock, Mitchell Davies
South West Area	Todd Mills
South East Area	Greg Hughes
North East Area	Ben Wilson
Advisor	Allan Mills-Heath (CESM)

The meeting noted that this role was less important with the Origo weather monitoring with real time results. The BFAC acknowledged that the appointments should still occur and run concurrently to sense check results.

CARRIED

ITEM 8 DISCUSSION POINTS

8.1 Pre-Season Synopsis

Pre-Season Update
At this stage, I have not received a pre-season update regarding what to expect for the upcoming fire season. I will provide further information as it becomes available.

8.2 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 2026/27:

Restricted Burning Period (permits required):

- 1st October – 31st October

19/10/26 – COMMITTEE AGREES TO NO PERMITS AFTER THIS DATE.

Prohibited Burning Period:

- 1st November – 28th February

Restricted Burning Period (permits required):

- 1st March – 31st March

8.3 2027 Meeting Schedule

Agreed meeting dates:

- Wednesday, 31st March 2027 (Post-Season)
- Wednesday, 22nd September 2027 (Pre-Season)

8.4 General Business

Truck at Yoting - Adam Duncan suggested a truck be based at his property in Yoting for the harvest period similar to prior years. The meeting agreed that this was a good idea and were supportive.

Deluge Pumps - Nigel mentioned the idea of starting deluge pumps from inside of the truck cab. Most Quairading brigades don't have this capability but it might be a significant cost for upgrade. Good practice is not to enter fire grounds until your pumps are running as there's recirculating features with taps etc. They can then be adjusted from inside the cabs. Request was for the Shire to write to DFES and ask them.

Electronic Permits – current status and who receives the forms. Permits are cancelled with weather conditions and public holidays. Receiver should be aware of those conditions. Length of permits and small versus larger land holdings. The meeting agreed that the electronic permits makes sense and supported the CESM being the central point and they then send it out to those FCOs in that area of the Shire for a sense-check prior to a permit being issued.

ITEM 9 NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting is Wednesday 31st March, 5pm, in Council Chambers.

ITEM 10 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Chairperson closed the meeting at 5.38 pm.