



SHIRE OF WONGAN-BALLIDU BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF MEETING

Dear Committee Member

The next meeting of the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu Bushfire Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, 13 September 2023, at Council Chambers, Shire of Wongan-Ballidu, Cnr Quinlan and Elphin Crescent, Wongan Hills, commencing at 3.00pm.

Stuart Taylor
Chief Executive Officer

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1. DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS:

The Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, Ross Lane declared the meeting open at 3:05pm and welcomes all that are present.

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES:

Attendance:

Ross Lane	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Chris Wilding	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Vicki Booth	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (Zoom)
Shayne Booth	
Ben Moss	
Clint Pascoe	
Shaun Kalajzic	
Jarrood Hood	
Steve Whyte	
Mal Sutherland	
Matt Reynolds	
Rob Steel	AO Mortlock DFES (Zoom)

Staff:

Sam Dolzadelli	Acting Chief Executive Officer
Danica Mullins	Minutes

Apologies:

Cr Mandy Stephenson	Shire President
Darren Sadler	
Erik Thenander	
Andrew Robertson	
Craig Bowles	

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

3.1 Minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held Wednesday, 12 April 2023

That the Minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, 12 April 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Moved: Steve Whyte

Second: Jarrod Hood

That the Minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held 12 April 2023, be CONFIRMED as a true and correct record of the meeting.

CARRIED 9/0
RESOLUTION: BFAC010923

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

Remote Weather stations

DCEO is currently in progress to make the information available for public use on the shire website. There could be the possibility of having the history also available in an excel table for future decision making.

Maps

Currently still a work in progress. There are no digital maps, working with Landgate to get a current map to update. The aim is to have a contact list on the back of the map.

Rural Bush Fire Truck and Shed

DFES has approved the grant funding over 10 years. The shed might end up bigger than originally planned. The commitment has been made by DFES. There is discussion for the site to be moved to where it can be seen and easily accessible by all required.

5. APPOINTMENT OF FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS:

The Bush Fire Brigades Local Law requires each brigade to hold an Annual General Meeting prior to the first Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting each year. At the Annual General Meeting of a Bush Fire Brigade, up to two Brigade Members are to be nominated to the Bush Fire Advisory Committee to serve as Fire Control Officers for the Brigade area until the next Annual General Meeting.

At the previous BFAC meeting, it was resolved that the Wongan Hills VFRS and Ballidu VFES Fire Control Officer and BFAC Representative appointments would be presented at the September BFAC meetings going forward, to improve the timing alignment with their respective Annual General Meetings.

5.1 **Appointment of Fire Control Officers and BFAC Representatives for the Wongan Hills Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service Brigade**

Moved: Steve Whyte

Seconded: Shaun Kalajzic

That the following persons be APPOINTED as Fire Control Officers and BFAC Representatives for the Wongan Hills Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service for a one-year term until 25 September 2024:

1. Craig Bowles
2. Matt Storer

That the following persons be APPOINTED as non-voting BFAC Representatives for the Wongan Hills Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service for a one-year term until 25 September 2024:

1. Ben Moss

CARRIED: 9/0

RESOLUTION: BFAC020923

5.2 Appointment of Fire Control Officers and BFAC Representatives for the Ballidu Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services Brigade

Moved: Chris Wilding

Seconded: Clint Pascoe

That the following persons be APPOINTED as Fire Control Officers and BFAC Representatives for the Ballidu Volunteer Fire & Emergency Service for a one-year term until 25 September 2024:

1. Jarrod Hood
2. Steve Whyte

CARRIED: 9/0

RESOLUTION: BFAC030923

6. MINUTES OF BUSH FIRE BRIGADES ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS:

In accordance with Clauses 3.6 & 3.9 of the Shire of Wongan-Ballidu Bush Fire Brigades Local Law a Bush Fire Brigade must hold an Annual General Meeting prior to the first Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting each year, and the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting are to be forwarded to the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and tabled at the next meeting of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee.

The Wongan Hills Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service hold their AGM in June each year, and the Ballidu Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services hold their AGM in August each year. The AGM minutes from these meetings will be tabled at the September BFAC on an annual basis.

6.1 Minutes of the Wongan Hills Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service Annual General Meeting 2023

- As attached to the minutes

Moved: Clint Pascoe

Seconded: Ross Lane

That the Minutes of the Wongan Hills Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service Annual General Meeting held on 23 June 2023 be received.

CARRIED: 9/0

RESOLUTION: BFAC040923

6.2 Minutes of the Ballidu Volunteer Fire and Emergency Service Annual General Meeting 2023

- As attached to the minutes

Moved: Jarrod Hood

Seconded: Steve Whyte

That the Minutes of the Ballidu Volunteer Fire and Emergency Service Annual General Meeting held on 08 August 2023 be received.

CARRIED: 9/0

RESOLUTION: BFAC050923

7. GENERAL BUSINESS:

7.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officers Report

Ross Lane presented the Interim Report as attached to the minutes.

7.2 DSATCO mulch fire – Review of incident and future mitigation

Discussion was made regarding the incident that occurred at DSATCO on 16th September. There was two mulch piles and hay bales that were alight. As the mulch piles were directly underneath powerlines. Western Power had to be called to turn off power for over 12 hours to 40 customers. There were no firefighter units from owners on site at the time the incident occurred.

Ross to liaise with DCEO, Chris Wilding and Darren Sadler to formulate a letter to both DSATCO and the Feed Mill regarding actions to be taken to ensure bushfire risk is mitigated as best as possible. This is to include the placement of stacks away from powerlines, firebreaks around the site and the requirement of firefighter units to be on site when machinery is in use, as well as adequate water supply on the premises which can be pumped efficiently.

Jarrod Hood exited the meeting at 3:43pm.

7.3 Controlled burn of land north-east of the WHDHS

A meeting to be set up with DFES, DCBA and Education Department regarding the burn. This is to figure out exactly where the burn is to take place on the block. The controlled burn will potentially take place next burning period.

7.4 Bushfire risk mitigation activities

DCEO attended a training session regarding the bushfire risk mitigation system. A meeting to be arranged with DCEO and Ross Lane regarding bushfire risk mitigation around the Shire. This is to identify the risks that should be treated as a priority and

to look at the funding available through the Mitigation Activity Fund (MAF) through DFES.

7.5 Acknowledgements

Vicki Booth resigned as Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officers and Training Officer. Ross Lane thanked Vicki for all her contribution and commitment to BFAC over her years as DCBFCO and Training Officer.

Ross Lane also thanked Clint Pascoe for all his contribution over the years as BFAC member. Ross welcomed Ben Moss as he stepped into captain of Wongan Hills VFRS.

7.6 Motion moved on the floor

Motion: Appointment of new Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer

Moved: Ross Lane

Seconded: Vicki Booth

Nomination – Vicki Booth nominated Steve Whyte, declined.

Nomination - Steve Whyte nominated Jarrod Hood.

As Jarrod Hood was absent from the meeting at this time, it was decided by the committee to postpone the appointment of a new DCBFCO until the April 2024 BFAC meeting as the Bushfire Policy and Local Law does not require more than one person in this position.

7.7 Training officer

Potential to liaise with DFES to organise and undertake training in the absence of a Training Officer. DCEO to liaise with Rob Steel and Tracy from DFES to organise the training. Rural bush fire and basic training courses – e.g. for seasonal workers each year. Discussion was held on the potential to look at a workplace assessor, who would be qualified to tick volunteers off as competent to attend a fireground. Training to be booked for the week of 9th – 13th October or 16th – 20th October if possible.

It was briefly discussed about the idea of transitioning the training to an online method which would assist in achieving a higher completion rate and reduce cost. Further discussion to be had between Ross, DCEO and DFES on this idea.

Vicki Booth exited at 4.35pm

7.6 Townsend Road – Ballidu Minutes

Currently Townsend Road in Ballidu needs to be cleared on the verge of either side of the road. There is no current firebreak and needs to be cleared. Leading up to harvest the road currently doesn't allow for more than one truck on the road. The road cannot be graded until the regrowth dies which won't be for another month. A grader to go out there and grade the road closer to harvest and clean up the road.

Chris Wilding mentioned the Shire has purchased a mulcher for this type of activity. DCEO to liaise with Shire's Works Manager to look into this.

7.7 Action List

- **AUSVISION (FEED MILL)** – Chris Wilding and Clint Pascoe completed and inspection on 12/09/2023. Document with fire extinguishers and hydrants checked and passed. Couple of things picked up but overall, the whole inspection went well.
- **BALLIDU TIP** – Both tips are currently full. There are 2 cameras on site for ongoing monitoring.
- **FIRE VEHICLE STICKERS** – Ongoing for captains to remind their volunteers. Current stickers are valid up to 30.09.2024.
- **FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS** – Reminder to encourage landowners to keep their water access full coming into the current fire and harvest season.

7.8 Information Given to Responders

Chris Wilding brought up about getting more information from the communications person/team when going to call outs. He gets the information in a call but never in a text message. Rob Steel to investigate to see if he can get the text messages with the location and the contact for both Ross and Chris. The potential of using the WhatsApp group to pin drop the location or provide more information that way as well.

7.9 Two Way Radios

Chris Wilding has some to install into volunteer's vehicles. If any need to be repaired or replaced to get in contact with Chris to organise.

Mal Sutherland exited at 5.06pm

Clint Pascoe exited at 5.07pm

7.10 Water Tanker

The motion that was put to Council during the April Council Meeting for Council to consider retaining the current water tanker in addition to acquiring a new one was approved. Therefore, the Shire has ordered a new water tanker to be delivered and will be retaining the current water tanker for future use. The old water tanker will be placed at Cadoux when the new tanker arrives. The current wait is around four to five months, which will be during the middle of the fire season. A discussion to be

had between the Shire and the Cadoux/Manmanning Brigade closer to arrival date to determine the arrangement formally.

Clint Pascoe returned at 5.08pm

7.11 Grants

The operating grants have been approved. A Celfi phone booster, a thermal imaging camera and charger have all been ordered for the truck. The water trailer modifications that are required have also been approved. In addition to this, general operating grant of \$36,000 was approved. Out of this, eight rake hoes (two for each Shire Brigade) have already been ordered. There is ample funding for more PPE, foam and training as well as other small items.

Ben Moss exited at 5.16pm

Ben Moss and Jarrod Hood returned at 5.17pm

8. NEXT MEETING:

April 2024 (TBA)

9. CLOSURE:

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 5:20pm

Ross Lane
Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Date:_____