

# Bush Fire Advisory Committee – Greenough

## Meeting Minutes

<b>Meeting Name</b>	Bush Fire Advisory Committee – Greenough	<b>Meeting No.</b>	1/2022
<b>Meeting Date</b>	27 January 2022		
<b>Meeting Time</b>	7:00 PM		
<b>Meeting Location</b>	Function Room, Civic Centre, 63 Cathedral Avenue		
<b>Attendees</b>	Cr Jerry Clune – Councillor - Moonyoonooka FCO (Chair) Cr Steve Cooper Brendan McCann – Walkaway Captain/FCO Neil Johnstone – Moonyoonooka Captain/FCO Mark Teale – Waggrakine Captain Russell Hayes (Observer) Ian Grant – Eradu Captain/FCO Bruce Garratt – Walkaway FCO Daniel Treasure – Moonyoonooka FCO Kieran Mussen – DFES District Officer – Coastal Management Wayne Ellis - CGG Coordinator Emergency Management Murray Smith - CGG Emergency Operations Officer Chris Lee – CGG Director Infrastructure Services Mary Beer - Secretariat	<b>By Invitation</b>	District Officer, Dept. Fire & Emergency Services
		<b>Apologies</b>	Nic Defries Daryl Hamersley Rob Roffey Warren Treasure
		<b>No Attendance</b>	Cr Kim Parker Peter Freeman – Eradu FCO Trevor Morrison – Waggrakine FCO Len Hamersley – Walkaway FCO Guy Isbister – Geraldton VFRS Captain Brodie Selby – DBCA District Fire Coordinator Richard Boykett - DBCA Regional Leader Fire Management
		<b>Distribution</b>	All

### 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The acting Chair opened the meeting at 7:03 pm and welcomed all present and announced apologies. Introduced Cr Cooper and advised Cr Parker as the new Council member.

### 2. NOMINATION OF CHAIR (BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE)

Motion by Wayne Ellis: Recommendations for a new Chair for the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting, Greenough. Only one nomination was received – Chairman appointed unopposed.

**Recommendation:** Cr Jerry Clune

### 3. REVIEW – TERMS OF REFERENCE

Term of Reference (ToR) is currently being reviewed. Reviewed Terms of Reference will be sent to members in mid-February for feedback. Chair requested ToR to be sent out earlier before the next meeting. Once finalised will be presented at the next BFAC meeting.

### 4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee (Greenough) held on 23 September 2021 as previously circulated, be adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings.

**Accepted:** M Teale  
**Seconded:** N Johnstone

## 5. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Nil to report

## 6. AGENDA ITEMS

## 7. AGENCY AND BRIGADE REPORTS

### Chief Bush Fire Control Officer's Report – Murray Smith

- Mullewa meeting – Issues with Total Fire Bans (TFB) being issued. Triggers occurring northern areas of Mullewa.
- **Neil Johnstone** – Suggested splitting Mullewa Shire and City/Greenough Shire boundaries regarding fire bans.

**Action: Cr Clune to follow up on whether boundaries can be split.**

### Discussions arising

- Concerns were raised about graders being used during fire bans. An exemption was requested to enable the use of graders during a fire.
- **Kieran Mussen**: Explained the fire danger ratings for TFBs. TFB currently has three zones. Trigger point being over 60. There are some changes to occur in September 2022 to TFB regarding the WA Bush Fire Act.
- Bush Fire Safety Awareness training is on March 12 and 13 2022. Ready for enrolments.
- MAF: Areas of mitigation works happenings were explained.
- There were no enrolments for the January bush fire training course and this was challenged to the Council, as to volunteer response for training.
- **Chris Lee** proceeded to explain the essentials of the training. It is a requirement of WHS Legislation. The City must enforce the State's WHS legislation.
- **Bruce Garrat**: Enquired about volunteers that have been involved in fire fighting for 40 years. Are they required to do the training?
- **Neil Johnstone** expressed that the notification of the volunteer training was handled incorrectly by the City. Communication through the Brigades and Captains before the letter of training notification would have been better received.

### 7.1. Coordinator Emergency Management – Wayne Ellis

- Extra work on mitigation MAF funding.
- Finished with the annual City firebreak compliance.
- WHS legislation implementation has been moved to March 2022. No notice of changes is required once implemented.

### 7.2. Department of Fire and Emergency Services – D.O. Kieran Mussen

- A survey about the West Australian Fire Fighting Index was conducted in September 2020, 66 Local Governments surveyed by WALGA and DFES regarding the implementation of a new system regarding the Fire Behaviour index.
- Thanked the Strike Team for their contribution to the Gascoyne Complex incident southeast of Carnarvon.
- During the demobilisation of a light tanker from the Gascoyne Complex fires an accident occurred and the vehicle was a write-off. The driver did not sustain any serious injuries. Investigations are ongoing regarding the cause. Advised members to be mindful of driver fatigue.
- COVID: DFES asked Kieran to advise BFAC of COVID processes. (See attached).
- The City is to have a system for the status of COVID vaccinations for volunteers.
- **Chris Lee** advised, The City understood that DFES sent a letter to volunteers requesting Brigades/volunteers to upload their COVID records to the volunteer hub. Then DFES will provide the vaccination status to the City. The City does not have a system for volunteers.

- The City does not have access to the volunteer hub.
- **Neil Johnstone:** asked when captains will have access to the hub.

**Action: Kieran to follow up about providing the City access to the volunteer hub.**

- **Bruce Garrat:** Generated discussion on who is responsible for the ad hoc volunteer's insurance in the event of an accident

**Action: Cr Clune advised further research is required to determine who is responsible for insurance for ad hoc volunteers.**

- Timeframes given to volunteers for attending an incident in the Midwest was clarified as one day travel to, three days deployment, one day travel back.

### 7.3. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

- No attendance. Nil to report.

### 7.4. Cape Burney Bush Fire Brigade

- No attendance. Nil to report.

### 7.5. Eradu Bush Fire Brigade

- Requested further clarification regarding training.

### 7.6. Moonyoonooka Bush Fire Brigade

- Quiet Christmas/New Year period.
- 27 incidents since July.
- Quite a few pole top fires.

### 7.7. Waggrakine Bush Fire Brigade

- Six incidents since the last BFAC meeting.
- Promoting members to receive COVID vaccinations. One person has not received the vaccination.

### 7.8. Walkaway Bush Fire Brigade

- Two incidents.
- Two new members joined the brigade.

## 8. GENERAL BUSINESS

- **Cr Clune:** Why does the training have to be from the DFES modules? Suggested the Council set up their own training schedule and make it more flexible.
- **Cr Cooper** advised that the DFES training may be recognised nationally and Council training maybe only recognised as in house.
- **Murray Smith:** A Fire Awareness course is six/seven hours, which assesses the volunteers. The four day training in DFES is structured for the brigade, not volunteers. A portion of the Brigade is made up of farmers.
- **Chris Lee** outlined issues around the upcoming WHS Legislation requiring the City to develop a separate training schedule vs recognised DFES standard and compliant training.
- **Cr Clune:** How does the City solve the problem for the ad hoc volunteers and current volunteers not trained under the new WHS legislation?
- **Chris Lee:** As a suggested resolution, there are two types of training, a six hour training and a four day training. Would it be more suitable for the four day training be staggered over the winter? Would this be more suitable or attractive for volunteers to do the training? Members were in favour.
- Suggestion was made to separate ad hoc volunteers as a third identity volunteers group.
- A meeting will be held with WALGA on Tuesday and Chris Lee will obtain some clarification on ad hoc volunteers and if flexible training schedules be acceptable.

**Action: City to determine and come back with a model to Captains on flexible training schedules with a weekday option.**

- **Mark Teale:** Separate farmer response units from structured Brigades and getting them to do a six hour training was suggested.

**Action: Chris will attend to WALGA meeting next week to seek clarification on what other Brigades are putting in place regarding ad hoc volunteers training and insurance for their equipment.**

**Neil Johnstone** expressed that more or better consultation to occur between the City and BFAC members.

**Bruce Garrat:** what is the policy of using shire machinery?

**Wayne Ellis:**

- RFQ has been created for City contractors to be utilised for their machinery in an emergency.
- Contractors will be responsible for their machinery and themselves under the contractor's insurance.

**Bruce Garrat:** If another farmer attends a bush fire to assist with their machinery, are they or the machinery covered by the Bush Fire Act?

**Daniel Treasure** advised that whoever the property owner of the fire is, the property owner is responsible for the insurance claims.

**Wayne Ellis:** Advised if an Incident Controller requests for them to assist with their machinery, they are insured under the Bush Fire Act.

**Neil Johnstone** queried whether contractors were vaccinated and trained.

**Wayne Ellis:** Advised that vaccination records were managed by the City. Further investigation will be done to confirm if a City contractor is required to do training.

**Kieran Mussen** advised DFES introduced logbooks for the emergency contractors and a checklist if contractors hold comprehensive insurance.

**Action: Wayne to check on training for contractors.**

**Mark Teale:** If volunteers are not immunised do they have to leave the brigade or can they stay as brigade volunteers.

**Wayne Ellis:** They can currently remain registered as a brigade member should they wish, however they will be a non-active associate and will not be able to attend any incidents or brigade activities.

**Action: Wayne to see how to monitor attendees at fires that are/are not vaccinated.**

## 9. NEXT MEETINGS:

MARCH 2022 – To be scheduled

SEPTEMBER 2022 – To be scheduled

## 10. MEETING CLOSURE: 9.15 pm