

Bush Fire Advisory Committee – Greenough

Meeting Minutes

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| Meeting Name | Bush Fire Advisory Committee – Greenough | Meeting No. | 1/2023 |
| Meeting Date | 8 February 2023 | | |
| Meeting Time | 3:45 pm | | |
| Meeting Location | Function Room, Civic Centre, 63 Cathedral Avenue | | |
| Attendees | Cr Jerry Clune – Councillor - Moonyoonooka FCO, Chair Cr Steve Cooper – Councillor Cr Kim Parker - Councillor Rob Roffey – Cape Burney Captain/FCO Neil Johnstone – Moonyoonooka Captain/FCO Jaymie Knight– Waggrakine Captain Daniel Treasure – Moonyoonooka FCO Warren Treasure – Moonyoonooka FCO Chris Lee – CGG Director Infrastructure Services Phil Melling – CGG Director Development Services Wayne Ellis - CGG Coordinator Emergency Management Murray Smith - CGG Emergency Operations Officer Stuart Wain – CGG Emergency Training Officer Elle Woinar – Secretariat | By Invitation | Kieran Mussen – DFES District Officer – Coastal Shane Karatti - Geraldton VFRS Captain DBCA Regional Leader Fire Management Ritchie Boykett – DBCA Julia French – DBCA |
| | | Apologies | Ross Mckim Brendan Mccan Trevor Morrison Daryl Hamersley Ian Grant Peter Freeman Bruce Garratt |
| | | Distribution | All |

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair opened the meeting at 3:48 pm, welcomed the members and apologies were noted.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Committee Recommendation:

RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting Greenough held on 29 September 2022 as previously circulated, be adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings.

3. ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

3.1. Total Fire Ban Boundaries

- N Johnstone raised whether boundaries can be so not everyone is affected as it's an inconvenience.
- K Mussen advised there will be a review at the end of the fire season.
- Cr J Clune asked if can we put in a submission to change.

- Discussion - Vehicle Movement Bans - M Smith advised a Harvest Vehicle Movement Bans (HVMB) wasn't in place on the day of the Glengarry Fire. It was noted that resources were already stretched, leaving Mullewa open to risk Response – the HVMB triggers were not met.

Action - K Mussen to enquire further about action to split the district's fire weather boundaries.

4. AGENDA ITEMS

4.1. Plant and Equipment Replacement Proposals

- Three sheds that are due for replacement are being submitted to LGGS. These are Moonyoonooka, Cape Burney and Waggrakine.
- Mullewa Central truck is due for replacement this year.
- Three new vehicles are being requested, two LTs (Cape Burney and Walkaway) and a 12.2 bulk water tanker.

4.2. Glengarry Fire Debrief Results

- A total of 1544ha had been burned and produced a 28km fire perimeter.
- At the peak of the response there were 11 fire trucks, two water bombers, an air attack platform, two graders, four water carts, three traffic management crews, and approximately 50 City volunteers involved in the incident.
- Although the fire was contained and controlled within seven hours, City and farm units continued to patrol and knock down breakouts and flare-ups over the next three days.
- Cr J Clune suggested a report be submitted as this was a significant fire.
- N Johnston raised that two City Officers may not have completed their training.
- J Knight advised Waggrakine didn't get to debrief.
- M Smith advised email was sent regarding debrief.
- N Johnstone raised the question of why City machinery cannot be used for fires.

Action – K Mussen to send through DFES Debrief documentation.

Action – W Ellis to draft a report of the Glengarry fire debrief for circulation at a committee meeting to be held in six weeks.

Action – Cr J Clune advised he would raise at Concept Forum.

5. AGENCY AND BRIGADE REPORTS

5.1. Chief Bush Fire Control Officer's Report – M Smith

- Personal Protective Equipment
Reminder to review your PPC/E and order replacement or new items as required.
Use the online form to complete the request.
Go to CGG webpage, go to Emergency Services, go to volunteers, click on link (half way down page).
Review your respiratory filter cartridges – might need to be replaced.
- Leadership training
Suggested training for captains and lieutenants to improve incident management.
Advanced Bushfire – 22 April
Crew Leader – 30 April
Sector Commander – 5-6 August
- Air Operations
Use of water bombing aircraft has been very beneficial to firefighting operations – particularly the Glengarry fire.
They continue to be forward based out of either Geraldton or Jurien Bay as risks indicate.

With their success, there is a good chance that they will return for the 2023-24 fire season.

- AVL / VPOWER Checks

You have all received meeting invites to conduct the monthly AVL check – which takes about 10 minutes.

If you need help there is a one page “how to” I can send to you.

As you are going the AVL checks please complete the VPOWER checks on the appliance.

All appliances have VFR books so if a fault is picked up lodge a report so we can have it remedied.

- Fire Reports

Please ensure these are completed in a timely manner – paper is fine, the electronic version is available if you wish to use it.

Ensure you put as much information in there as you can – try not to leave fields incomplete.

Put an urgency on them if there are injuries, vehicle damage or property losses (for insurance purposes).

5.2. Coordinator Emergency Management – W Ellis

- 47 incidents – with 12 being in January.
- 19 Total fire Bans (TFBs) called by the state – 10 in January.
- The City has called eight HVMB's. Four in January.
- Glengarry Fire – 13 December 2022.
- The complete training list for the year at present time has been included in the “Smoke Signals” Newsletter that was circulated to all Captains on Friday last week.
- The City would like to ask that the Captains encourage their brigades to register and attend the available courses that would further develop each member's individual competencies and abilities.
- The City is continuing to improve the volunteer application process. Starting with the training course planned for 1 and 2 April, when a new volunteer has been confirmed as enrolled in all required training courses they will be contacted to provide their completed PPE request forms before starting the training. This will assist in ensuring that, on completion of the training, their PPC requirements can be met.
- Currently the prohibited burning period will revert to restricted burning period at midnight of 14 February 2023. The “no permit required” period for those districts that qualify will start on 7 April.
- The City has received two replacement vehicles as a part of the Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS) which is managed within the ESL framework.
- A new 3.4 urban has replaced the 2.4 urban at Cape Burney.
- A new LT has replaced the LT stationed at Waggrakine.
- Stuart Wain is the new Emergency Training Officer and will be concentrating on ensuring all WHS requirements in regard to City volunteers are being met, including onboarding and induction requirements.

5.3. Department of Fire and Emergency Services – K Mussen

- Thanks to volunteers for deployments in the Kimberleys.
- Water Bombing statistics document circulated to the committee.
- Cooler start to the season for fires.
- Communications ground controller repeater towers – Mullewa channel needs to contact the waterbombers direct.
- Aerial controller on the phone's wrong channel.
- Couldn't drop any loads.
- Air tanker Boeing 737 Airliner crashed during a bushfire mission in Fitzgerald River National Park. Further investigations are underway.
- Aerial support can be requested if the fire is quite large.

- AVL – Portable units in managers' vehicles to track fire shape.
- Fire hydrant servicing is in consultation it will take over local government areas.

K Mussen to circulate the information to Captains regarding the hydrant map.

5.4. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions- J French

- No attendance. Nil to report.

5.5. Cape Burney Bush Fire Brigade - R Roffey

- Seven callouts.
- Three deployments.
- Meadow Station fire near Billabong Roadhouse.
- New tanker training 20 November. The official hand over 11 December.
- Three new members (one a support member).
- Two volunteers transferred to Cape Burney.
- 17 Volunteers. Four are supported members.
- Cape Burney doing a joint exercise with VRSM in February.

5.6. Eradu Bush Fire Brigade – I Grant

- Nil Attendance. Nil to report.

5.7. Moonyoonooka Bush Fire Brigade – N Johnstone

- 20 incidents since November.
- Glengarry Fire – Major one.
- 30 members at current.
- No other issues.

5.8. Waggrakine Bush Fire Brigade – J Knight

- 28 members at current.
- 14 incidents since the last BFAC.
- Couple of pending applications for memberships with City.
- FCO is now vacant.

5.9. Walkaway Bush Fire Brigade – B McCann

- Six Incidents since the last BFAC.
- Currently have 44 Members.
- 15 Appliance Crew.
- 27 Farmer Response.
- Two Support / Life Members.
- 95% of Members are fully trained with the other 5% assigned to complete courses in April.
- Submitted request for Light Tanker – on hold due to backlog of the in-build program.
- Submitted request for high season – Request denied.
- Unhappy with the City's decision to cancel 'Santa Lolly Runs' due to Working with Children Check Cards. Some more notice would have been nice i.e. three months instead of one week before the event.
- A plan is required on who can sign off on applications in order to get members compliant with regulations. Still waiting for the application form to be signed with no response from the City.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1. C Lee – A recent structure change within the City sees the Emergency Management Department transition over to the Development Services directorate with Director Phil Melling. Thank you all for your patience and understanding.

6.2. Discussion - Can the City Emergency Officers invest in a drone?

Action - P Melling to look into the implications of drones and if it's viable.

6.3. Cr J Clune - raised roadside numbers in rural areas require updating and replacing.

Action - The City to follow up on.

6.4. N Johnstone - raised that it is important that when operating fires contractors have had appropriate training and wear appropriate PPE. K Mussen advised DFES do offer courses if required.

6.5. D Treasure - raised can the City look at vehicles with radios and fridges used for crew changes rather than pulling front line vehicles off the fire. M Smith – advised the City will look at the possibility of supporting this.

7. NEXT MEETING:

Next meeting to be held in September 2023, date to be confirmed.

8. CLOSE OF MEETING

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting 5.07 pm.