

Bush Fire Advisory Committee - Mullewa

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Name	Bush Fire Advisory Committee - Mullewa	Meeting No.	2-2023
Meeting Date	14 September 2023		
Meeting Time	9:30am		
Meeting Location	Chambers Room, Mullewa District Office – City of Greater Geraldton		
Attendees	<p>Deputy Mayor Cr Jerry Clune (Fire Control Officer/Chair) Cr Michael Librizzi Cr Steve Cooper Cr Tarleah Thomas</p> <p>Aaron Halliday – CGG Training Officer Andrew Gaze – CGG Manager Regulatory Services Brendan Weir – Tenindewa Captain/Fire Control Officer (Online) Craig Moran – Mullewa Central Captain Darren Simmons – CGG Mullewa District Office Manager Gerard Rowe – Mullewa South Captain Julia French – DBCA District Fire Coordinator John Prins – DBCA Regional Leader - Fire Neil Johnstone – CGG Emergency Operations Officer/ Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Peter Barneston – Tenindewa Fire Control Officer Phil Melling – Director Development Services</p> <p>Moana Wilson–Minutes</p>		
Apologies	<p>Anita Kirkbright - DFES A/Volunteer Management Support Officer Anthony Crudelli - Mullewa VFRS Captain Brett Steele – Mullewa South Fire Control Officer Daniel Critch – Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Murray Preston – Casuarinas Captain Matt Dadd - DFES Acting Area Officer (Fire Midwest) Zac Grima – Tardun/Pindar Captain/Fire Control Officer</p>		
Leave of Absence	Nil.		
Purpose of Committee	<p>The City of Greater Geraldton Bush Fire Advisory Committees are formally appointed Committees of Council established under section 5.8 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i>, and are responsible to that body.</p> <p>The City of Greater Geraldton Bush Fire Advisory Committees provide advice regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matters relating to the preventing, controlling and extinguishing of bush fires; • Planning layout of fire breaks in the district; • Prosecutions for breaches of the <i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i>; • The formation of Brigades; and • Coordination and cooperation between Brigades and Agents. <p>Refer to Committee Book</p>		

All Committee Members, including external members, are subject to the same rules as a Council Meeting concerning confidentiality, public statements, conflicts of interest and behaviours of members, pursuant to the [Local Government \(Model Code of Conduct\) Regulations 2021](#).

The Presiding Member is to refer to the following Policy, Meeting Procedures and Regulations when chairing a meeting.

[Meeting Procedures Local Law 2011](#)

[Council Policy 4.4. Operation of Advisory Committees](#)

[Council Policy 4.2 Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates](#)

1 Welcome & Apologies

The Chair welcomed the members and each gave a short introduction. Apologies were noted as per page one.

2 Acknowledgement of Country

I would like to respectfully acknowledge the Yamatji people who are the Traditional Owners and First People of the land on which we meet/stand. I would like to pay my respects to the Elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Yamatji people.

3 Disclosure of Interests

Nil.

4 Applications for Leave of Absence

Nil.

5 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Committee Recommendation:

RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the Mullewa Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting held on 8 February 2023 as previously circulated, be adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings.

COMMITTEE DECISION:

MOVED CR LIBRIZZI, SECONDED CR COOPER

RECOMMEND that the minutes of the Mullewa Bush Fire Advisory Committee held on 2 February 2023 as previously circulated, be adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings.

CARRIED 4/4

Not Voted: 0

No Votes: 0

Yes Votes: 4

Name	Vote
Deputy Mayor Clune	YES
Cr. Cooper	YES
Cr. Librizzi	YES
Cr. Thomas	YES

6 Voting Members

The Council members present expressed a commitment to extending the voting rights to the local brigade representatives at the reformation of Council committees after the October 2023 elections. It was acknowledged that the expertise and experience of brigade members needs to be represented as voting members of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee.

7 Agency and Brigade Updates

7.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Neil Johnstone provided update and highlights were as follows:

- New team at the City, thank you for your patience and understanding;
- Training in Mullewa next week for half a dozen new members;
- AVL in all appliances are being replaced with 4G devices as 3G is being closed out;
- City received \$285K MAF funding, 7x works zones – work are underway and acquittal due June 2024;
- City mitigation works are 80% complete and should be finished in a few weeks;

- Firebreak inspections start 5 October 2023;
- New infringement process will mean property owners who were infringed last year will receive infringement at first inspection rather than at failure of a second, however these property owners will be email reminded this fortnight to advise same; and
- **REMINDER:** Fire reports to be submitted in a timely manner as these reports also assist in the application for new appliances.

QUESTION FROM THE GROUP: If a property owner is inspected on the 5th and received a reminder last year will that property owner be infringed straight away?

ANSWER: Yes, though those that could potentially be infringed at first inspection will receive an email reminder the fortnight prior on top of the already issued and gazetted Fire Hazard Reduction Notice 23/24.

7.2 City of Greater Geraldton Emergency Operations Officer

Andy Gaze addressed and thanked the group for their presence and dedication advising that he is looking forward to working with everyone and appreciates the experience with special thanks to his City team.

NOTED: Coordinator Emergency Services position is still vacant however interviews are this week and there is hope that a successful candidate will be determined within the fortnight.

7.3 Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Apology – please see emailed update.

7.4 Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attraction

Julia French and John Prins provided update and highlights were as follows:

- Mark Teale, Fire Operations Officer starts next Monday to assist with fire duties – new position;
- Water bomber reloader training coming up 29/10/2023 at 12PM and participants welcome - will continue to liaise with Neil and the SES for participants;
- Water bombers aren't confirmed for Geraldton but it is highly likely – hoping they'll be located in Geraldton and Narrogin;
- Crew member and crew leader training will be undertaken shortly;
- 23/24 prescribed burn options for Autumn are in preparation now to improve performance;
- Map circulated and attached for mitigation works detail; and
- Will provide a program update at the next BFAC.

7.5 Mullewa Central Bush Fire Brigade

Nil to report.

7.6 Mullewa South Bush Fire Brigade

Neil is already actioning a truck pump issue.

NOTED: The inside of the pump air intake wasn't sealed and got dusty meaning the pump required replacement.

7.7 Tenindewa Bush Fire Brigade

The DFES training structure was queried for content and it was remarked as being too demanding for the employers and not relevant to the Mullewa farmer brigades. Completion of the four day course including ladder and axe training should not be a requirement.

NOTED: Local brigades believe the training required is not moulded to or relevant to the area which may result in a lack of volunteers. It is important that farmer and town brigades be differentiated and training times reduced for the Mullewa brigades.

A motion was proposed.

Committee Recommendation:

RECOMMENDED that the City review the brigade training policy to ensure that training is tailored to specific requirements and the varying regions they cover.

COMMITTEE DECISION

MOVED CR THOMAS, SECONDED CR LIBRIZZI

The Committee RESOLVES to recommend that the City review the brigade training policy to ensure that training is tailored to specific requirements and the varying regions they cover. A Council Policy item relating to brigade training is to be delivered at a future Council meeting for determination.

CARRIED 4/4

Not Voted: 0

No Votes: 0

Yes Votes: 4

Name	Vote
Deputy Mayor Clune	YES
Cr. Cooper	YES
Cr. Librizzi	YES
Cr. Thomas	YES

7.8 Pindar/Tardun Bush Fire Brigade

No present, no update submitted.

7.9 Casuarina Bush Fire Brigade

No present, no update submitted.

8 General Business

8.1 Water Tank

The new tank install was queried and the group was advised the tank was proposed for Depot Hill Road. Neil Johnstone will be following up the application but it is not likely to be here for this season.

8.2 Training

The DFES training structure was queried again and an additional recommendation proposed:

Committee Recommendation:

RECOMMENDED that an investigation into the application of Recognised Prior Learning be undertaken for the types of training required by the brigades.

COMMITTEE DECISION

MOVED CR LIBRIZZI, SECONDED CR COOPER

The Committee RESOLVES to recommend that the City investigate the application of Recognised Prior Learning for DFES approved training to limit the classroom time that is currently required for BFB members to be compliant with City training requirements.

CARRIED 4/4

Not Voted: 0

No Votes: 0

Yes Votes: 4

Name	Vote
Deputy Mayor Clune	YES
Cr. Cooper	YES
Cr. Librizzi	YES
Cr. Thomas	YES

9 Date of next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 21 March 2024 (Recommended).

10 Close

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 10:11am.