

# Mullewa Bushfire Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes – 1 March 2017

<b>Meeting Name</b>	Mullewa BFAC	<b>Meeting No.</b>	1 / 2017
<b>Meeting Date</b>	Wednesday, 1 March 2017		
<b>Meeting Time</b>	10:00 AM		
<b>Meeting Location</b>	Boardroom, Mullewa District Office		
<b>Attendees</b>	Cr. T. Thomas	<b>By Invitation</b>	
	Brett Steele (FCO, Mullewa South, Chair)	<b>Apologies</b>	Cr. J. Critch, Cr. L. Graham
	Daniel Critch (FCO, Tenindewa South)	<b>Distribution</b>	
	Zac Grima (FCO, Pindar/Tardun)		
	Darrin Fulker (FCO, Mullewa Central)		
	Murray Preston (FCO, Casuarinas)		
	Peter Barnetson (FCO, Ambania)		
	Brendan Weir (FCO, Tenindewa North)		
	Murray Smith (CBFCO)		
	Craig Wing (Deputy CBFCO)		
	Darren Cole (DFES, CESM)		
	Brendan Wilson (CGG Emergency Mgt)		

### Terms of Reference:

To act as an advisory body to Council on matters of Bush Fire for the Mullewa Ward.

#### 1. Welcome & Apologies

#### 2. Review Committee membership and relevant areas

Nil actions

#### 3. Review of minutes from previous meeting

3.1. Minutes of September 2016 were accepted.

#### 4. Reports

##### 4.1. From Captains / Fire Control Officers

- Murray Preston – Nil
- Peter Barnetson – noted two fires, a pole top fire and small farm fire
- Brendan Weir – Nil
- Zac Grima – noted two fires, a lightning strike and a fire on Tropiano farm
- Daniel Critch – noted a fire at Nigel Moffitts' and a pole top fire at Glenn Thomas'
- Darrin Fulker – noted two incidents – one at Ian Olmans' property, the other being a report of smoke, but no actual fire cited (may have self-extinguished).
- Brett Steele - Nil

#### 4.2. From Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

- FCO appointments and training – Murray noted updated refresher training would need to be undertaken by all FCO's. Certificates and ID cards will be issued when completed. Appointments are proposed for 2 years at a time.
- Mobilisation – one call number, SMS, deployment lists – Murray noted to FCO's to use the 02 group call number, in order to reach the CBFCO or DCBFCO.
- Prescribed burns – Attendees were advised of proposed DPaW hazard reduction burns and encouraged to participate.

#### 4.3. From Community Emergency Services Manager

- Training – Darren advised the new training calendar is available, and promulgated on eAcademy. Training in the use of eAcademy was offered (either individually or by Brigade) to all members. This will become the only way for members to access training, so all are encouraged to participate.
- Incidents – there has been 77 incidents since the last meeting. 8 of these were Mullewa Central Brigade, and 3 x were the Tenindewa North Brigade.
- Fire Reports – all were encouraged to continue to complete their incident reports. Incident reports form a significant basis of justification for appliances and equipment. Where brigades show no incidents, it is difficult to justify increased expenditure.
- 000 – Darren reminded all to advise callers (when notifying of a fire) to call 000. FCO's and suitable brigade members can still attend an incident whilst awaiting 000 process to occur, but often 000 telephonists can extract greater, relevant information from callers than individual FCOs or brigade members.

### 5. General business

- Murray Smith asked all to ensure that DFES Commcen are notified of planned burns (permits). This is a condition of the permit, but also provides DFES with awareness when planned burns and active fires (incidents) may be depleting local resources. Brendan Weir noted that the Mullewa area generally has depleted resources year-round.
- Update contact details (for group call) – attendees were asked to update their contact details
- Water tanks project (update) – Brendan advised attendees that the project is at tender, closing on 7 March. Installation of the tanks is expected to be undertaken in April or May 2017.
- Future Capital Works Program – Brendan provided attendees with a draft list of potential future capital projects. The committee advised that several of the projects were unlikely to be required. Consultation will occur on remaining projects closer to the proposed delivery year to determine suitability, requirements etc.
- Darrin noted that the insurance claim for Ken Giles' tractor (Urawa Nature Reserve fire) has been extremely frustrating – the fire occurred on DPaW land, and Ken was operating under the IC's guidance. The insurance claim has taken a long time to process, and resulted in a small sum insufficient to repair the tractor. Darrin noted it

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appears as if no one was advocating for the claimant. Brendan Weir noted that he damaged his gearbox at the Wicherina fire, which resulted in a small payout based on a percentage calculation. Clarity of insurance claims and process is required.

- The altering of prohibited/restricted burning period dates was discussed. The dates were not altered in 2017 as the process to effect this is time consuming, and the extension period would have expired prior to the extension process being completed. Attendees agreed that the period for 2018 should commence 15 Feb to 15 Mar.
- Daniel noted that priming of tanks when the tank has run dry is problematic, Darren advised that tanks on appliances should never reach a condition where it has run dry, and the low water sensor alarm is activated for this reason.
- Murray Preston enquired about portable pump sets for use on water sources that are otherwise inaccessible. Darren advised this should be an eligible ESL expense and will be investigated for the coming season.
- Brett Steele advised that some Harvest/Vehicle Movement Bans (HVMB) were lifted when weather conditions were worse than when the ban was initially applied. Daniel advised that weather conditions can be very localised. All agreed that greater communication during a HVMB would solve this. The potential integration of zones was discussed to better target HVMB's – i.e. rather than a HVMB applying to 'the old Shire of Mullewa', a zone within that area may only be affected. It has not been determined where zone boundaries would be, and this would be refined further in consultation with FCO's.
- Attendees agreed that the usual March meeting should be held in February to better manage fire permits, and review seasonal conditions, which may affect their issuing.

### **6. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting was agreed for Wednesday, 20 September 2017.

### **7. Close**