

Mullewa Bushfire Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – 26 September 2017

Meeting Name	Mullewa BFAC meeting	Meeting No.	2 / 2017
Meeting Date	Tuesday, 26 September 2017		
Meeting Time	2:00 PM		
Meeting Location	Boardroom, Mullewa District Office Video-conference, Executive Meeting Room		
Attendees	Cr. T. Thomas (video-conf. Geraldton) Cr. J. Critch (video-conf. Geraldton) A. Payne, CGG (video-conf. Geraldton) Brett Steele (FCO, Mullewa South, Chair) Daniel Critch (FCO, Tenindewa South) 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) Brendan Wilson (CGG Emergency Mgt)	By Invitation	A. Payne, CGG Risk Officer
		Apologies	Z. Grima (FCO, Pindar/Tardun)
		Distribution	Attendees & invited guests Mullewa Bush Fire Brigade Captains Mullewa Fire Control Officers Council, CGG

Terms of Reference:

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

1. Welcome & Apologies

2. Insurance presentation – Adrian Payne, CGG Risk Officer

Adrian provided an overview of insurance features and issues, resulting from FCO concerns at the March meeting. This included insurance claims (where approved & payable) being based on market value of machinery, not replacement value. Where private machinery is used at a fire (under the control of a Bush Fire Brigade or Fire Control Officer), records such as vehicle registration, photos, times, running hours and general condition of machines need to be captured prior to commitment on a fire-ground. Insurance coverage is provided to a maximum of \$1M.

Darrin queried whether operator loss of income is covered, in the event that a machine (used for incoming producing purposes) is damaged at a bushfire. – Taken on notice, response to be provided.

Post meeting note: Email from LGIS to A. Payne 1620h, 26 Sept 17 - The motor vehicle policy provides cover for the market value or reasonable cost of repair up to \$1,000,000 however it does not cover the consequential loss suffered e.g. downtime from not having the vehicle available.

3. Review of minutes from previous meeting

3.1. Minutes of March 2017 were accepted.

4. Reports

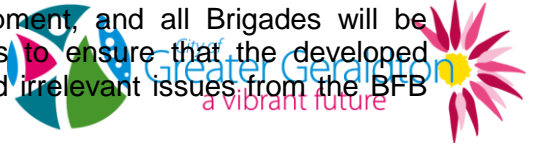
4.1. From Captains & Fire Control Officers

- Brett Steele – Nil
- Murray Preston – Nil
- Peter Barnetson – Nil
- Brendan Weir – Nil
- Darrin Fulker – Nil
- Daniel Critch - Nil

4.2. From Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

- Mid-West Gascoyne Emergency Services Directories have been produced and mailed to all Brigades, contact CBFCO if you have not received one or need a replacement.
- Reminder to report all fires through 000, and encourage community to do the same.
 - Brett Steele queried the need for this in rural areas where 95% of fires are extinguished within 30mins of starting. Murray Smith noted this is still extremely important as the resources assigned to each region and LGA are partially determined by the amount of incidents that occur there. If no incidents are recorded, then there is no justification for replacement or addition resources. Where a fire truck is located in an area that has no incidents, the fire truck may be re-allocated to a different area with a documented need.
 - Daniel Critch enquired what happened when 000 was called. Murray noted that an operator will ask questions of the caller to determine what response services were required. 000 operators are trained to interrogate callers to extract as much information as possible, and caller ID details are captured, so the caller can be recontacted in the event of further information being required.
 - Brendan Weir noted that poor mobile phone reception in many Mullewa areas will prevent 000 calls being made. Murray noted this is an ongoing problem that cannot be easily overcome. UHF, VHF & WAERN radios are available in all fire trucks and FCO vehicles, but Captains / FCO's can contact CBFCO once the fire is extinguished (and safely within mobile phone service), whom will still create and register the incident. This will ensure incidents are captured (for resource justification) and personnel records are updated in the event that a volunteer is injured whilst attending or if equipment is damaged.
- A training audit/review is presently underway to determine what members training levels are versus what each Brigade's profile should be. Most brigades are compliant (based on audit results to date), however some members will need to have their aged qualifications mapped across to the DFES "Pathways" training continuum, in order to ensure ongoing qualifications.
- Current brigade membership lists were disseminated to attendees, to review current volunteers on – this is important as some Brigades have identified members that have moved away from the area, or have passed away, but are retained on the member list, and therefore continue to be insured, affecting insurance premiums.
- Fire trucks are now being serviced by the CGG Depot in Geraldton
- Fire Control Officer ID cards are being developed, and planned to be issued shortly.

- Brigade Operating Procedures are under development, and all Brigades will be requested to participate in a consultative process to ensure that the developed procedures are suitable, and that inefficiencies and irrelevant issues from the BFB Local Law are removed.



5. General business

- Attendees discussed proposed date changes for the Restricted Burning season to commence on 14 Feb 2018, instead of 28 Feb 2018, as gazetted. All attendees agreed to this date change, and a review of the Restricted and Prohibited Burning season dates is to be a standing agenda item for future meetings.
- Darrin Fulker enquired about merit payments. Brendan Wilson advised that feedback had been received that the administrative efforts Brigades were asked to undertake has increased significantly, and that some members felt merit payments to each Brigade were warranted. Brendan noted he would send all Brigades an email, to seek to capture what each Brigades administrative effort is, to quantify this problem, before determining how it could be addressed.
- Daniel Critch noted he has a vehicle mounted WAERN radio, which has developed a fault and requires repair. Murray to arrange repair through ML Communications.

Post meeting note: Purchase order has been sent to ML Communications and Daniel Critch has been advised.

- Brett Steele enquired about the water storage tank at Eves x South Ardingly Road. Members discussed the proposed outlet sizes and access arrangements and determined the following:
 - 2" male camlock fitting to be available at the tank
 - 8 x 3.10 Reserve keys to be made available to Mullewa FCO's to enable access into the tank compound
 - Need to determine if the tank access hatch requires locking.
- Harvest & Vehicle Movement Bans were discussed. Generally, FCO's were happy with the process, but sought increased communications prior to a ban being imposed. Poor mobile phone reception was noted, and the group determined the following:
 - The "Calc-FDI" smartphone app (uses CSIRO calculations) is suitable for use when assessing the Fire Danger Index
 - Remote weather stations of BoM & Dept. of Ag are useful data sources
 - A text message 'pre-warning' of a ban is good and often very useful.
 - Text message communication was preferred to voice, owing to mobile phone reception issues.
- Brendan Weir and Daniel Critch decided to consolidate the Tenindewa North and Tenindewa South brigades, owing to only four members being held in Tenindewa South. This consolidation would affect their brigades only, and not alter their respective Fire Control Officer boundaries. The consolidated brigade will be titled Tenindewa.
- Murray noted the Geraldton Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting is to be held on Saturday, 7 October 2017. Mullewa committee members are welcome to attend the Geraldton meeting if they would like to.

6. Date of next meeting

The next meeting was agreed for Thursday, 1st February 2018. Noting the time until the next meeting, attendees will be sent an email reminder, meeting request and text message prior.

7. Close