

Bush Fire Advisory Committee – Greenough Meeting Minutes

Meeting Name	Greenough BFAC Meeting	Meeting No.	2 / 2019
Meeting Date	Thursday, 17 October 2019	Meeting Time:	7.00pm
Meeting Location	Cape Burney Bush Fire Brigade Station 5 Hull Street, Cape Burney		
Committee Members	Cr Bob Hall, Chair Cr Michael Reymond Murray Smith, Emergency Operations Officer, Chief Bush Fire Control Office Wayne Ellis, Coordinator Emergency Management Captain and Fire Control Officer - Cape Burney Brigade Captain and Fire Control Officer - Eradu Brigade Captain and Fire Control Officer - Moonyoonooka Brigade Captain and Fire Control Officer - Waggrakine Brigade Captain and Fire Control Officer - Walkaway Brigade	By Invitation	DBCA, DFES, VFRS
		Apologies	Cr Jerry Clune Neil Johnstone (Moonyoonooka) Ian Grant (Eradu) Kieran Mussen (DFES)
		Distribution	Attendees, Councillors

1.1 Attendance and apologies

Cr Hall welcomed all and declared the meeting open at 7.10pm.
Apologies noted as above.

1.2 Introductions and announcement of visitors

Refer to attendance register attached.

2.1 Review of Minutes

Minutes of the Meeting held 11 March 2019, as previously circulated, accepted as true and correct.

2.2 Review of actions from previous meeting

Following Action Items were closed as now complete:

GBFAC-002: St John Ambulance Training Calendar

GBFAC-003: Working with Children Checks and Police Clearances

GBFAC-005: Weather stations

GBFAC-006: Fuel Load, north Side of Chapman River

GBFAC-007: Mobile Repeater / Eradu

3.1 Weather Stations

Map of Proposed Radar and Weather Station Sites distributed with the Agenda.

The City advised it expects to issue a Request for Tender (RFT) for installation of the additional stations during the current financial year.

3.2 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer's Report

Water Tanks: The City is looking for new water tank locations at Nunierra and Pindar. Looking at locations that will also support rural roads with their wet grading program.

New 3.4 Appliance: 3.4 Tanker delivered to Walkaway in July. The unit has already attended two fires.

Fire Truck Servicing:

- Pre-season checks almost complete.
- Foam Audit complete, all trucks now have fresh foam.
- Hose testing complete, only a few failures this year

Nil.

5.1 Coordinator Emergency Management

Introduction of the City's new Coordinator Emergency Management, Wayne Ellis. Wayne advised Firebreak inspections have commenced.

5.2 Department of Fire and Emergency Services

As DEFS was an apology to this meeting, CBFCO Murray Smith provided an update:

Kieran Mussen has now been appointment as District Officer, following the retirement of Gordon Purvis. Kieran will be relocating to Geraldton for the role and looks forward to meeting the brigades and the volunteers in the near future.

5.3 Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Water Bomber Reloading Training will be undertaken by Parks & Wildlife on 27 October.

New Regional Fire Coordinator commencing in early 2020, to replace Bev Gardner who has returned to Bunbury.

5.4 Cape Burney Bush Fire Brigade

In the last financial year, Cape Burney had 11 callouts, with another four already in the current financial year. Tools including a flir k2 thermal imaging camera and uhf handheld radio have been added to the truck thanks to Western Power and the association grant. 25mm lyflat hoses, pelican lamp, hooligan tool and a hot stick have also been added, thanks to the City.

Kevin White has stepped down from all active duties. The Brigade thanks Kevin for his service and notes that he will be sorely missed on the fire ground.

One new member has passed the introductory courses.

5.5 Eradu Bush Fire Brigade

No report provided. (Apologies noted).

5.6 Moonyoonooka Bush Fire Brigade

The haystack fires in the Rudds Gully area were the main incidents attended by the Brigade. Attended a number of car fires, along with a fire in the Chapman River on the morning of the Sunshine Festival.

5.7 Waggrakine Bush Fire Brigade

The Brigade has 40 current members and attended 16 incidents in the past year, including eight outside of the Brigade's designated area.

Held an Anniversary Dinner in May 2019 to celebrate serving the community for over 20 years.

Cadets were successful at the recent interstate competition. This result is a credit to the volunteers, their families and other supporters.

Have been successful with Western Power grant, along with some other small grants.

Capital Works Nomination submitted for construction of a training area, including sealing of entrance and driveway. (Submitted November 2017).

5.8 Walkaway Bush Fire Brigade

The Brigade has attended seven incidents and held eight training sessions.

Promotional activities in the local community have been undertaken.

Brigade received a new 3.4 appliance in July that has already been utilised at two incidents. Further training on the unit will be provided to volunteers in coming months.

5.9 Comment from the Chair

Cr Hall commended the services of the volunteer Bush Fire Brigades and their dedication to training the youth.

6.1 Business from the Waggrakine Bush Fire Brigade

Mark Teale referred to document distributed to Committee prior to meeting, including a number of proposed recommendations, which were discussed and resulted in the following motions.

Motion 1

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That the Capital and Operating Grant submission for the current financial year and the Annual Operating Grants Acquittal for Bush Fire Brigades for the previous financial year is tabled at the pre-summer BFAC annually.

MOVED M. Teale, **SECONDED** L. Hamersley
CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

Motion 2

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That requirements of the LGGS to be communicated to the Brigades by the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, to allow them greater opportunity to meet their requirements.

MOVED M. Teale, **SECONDED** D. Treasure
CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

Motion 3

That the BFAC Terms of Reference are amended to cover consultation with and feedback from each Bush Fire Brigade in relation to suitable expenditure of available Capital and Operational funds.

MOVED M Teale, **SECONDED** none
No seconder, motion lapsed

Motion 4

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That Waggrakine Bush Fire Brigade's Captain be appointed as a second Fire Control Officer for the Waggrakine Bush Fire Brigade.

MOVED M.Teale, **SECONDED** R. Roffey
CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

Additional discussion points from the Waggrakine BFB:

Night time Burning: Request made to consider night time burning. CBFCA state this is not possible due to environmental concerns and legislative requirements. Parks & Wildlife provided additional feedback on their experience with night time burning, advising this was only permitted with Ministerial approval and limited to five days per year.

Unrestricted Burning at Semi Rural Properties: Requested made for unrestricted burning period at semi-rural properties during winter. Following discussion amongst the BFAC members present, the request was not supported.

DFES Training Calendar: Request made for greater input in the DFES training calendar. The CBFCO will raise this request with DFES

6.2 Business from the Moonyoonooka BFB

Raised that water distribution at the Moonyoonooka standpipe is slow and there are no suitable water points at the high-risk area of Giles Road. The City Coordinator Emergency Management noted the concerns and advised any water tanks installed need to be dual purpose to accommodate wet grading as well as firefighting. Point noted by the Committee.

6.3 Business from the Walkaway BFB

Queried why the City enforces firebreaks in broad acre farming areas when the same does not apply in neighbouring shires, similar shires throughout the state and in NSW and Victoria. The City's Coordinator Emergency Management noted the comments and advised further investigation is required, including investigating legislative requirements.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That the City investigate why firebreaks are compulsory in broad acre farming areas throughout the local government area, as this requirement is ineffective in preventing fires, and not enforced in immediate neighbouring shires.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

Chair Cr Hall thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 8.57pm. .

CURRENT ACTIONS AT COMPLETION OF MEETINGS:

ACTION NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	STATUS
GBFAC-001	Full Face Respirators Respirators were distributed to Moonyoonooka, Cape Burney and Waggrakine brigades for trial during the 2018-19 fire season however no chance to trail due to the quiet season. Plan to continue trial as half face respirators are retired. Note there is no obligation for volunteers to use the full face respirator if they do not wish to do so	Murray Smith	ONGOING
GBFAC-004	Current FCOs All Fire Control Officer positions expire as of 31 October. The City will send an email requesting nominations from all Brigades for the next two-year period. The CEO will review and endorse requests. New ID cards will be issued once positions are confirmed.	Murray Smith	ONGOING
GBFAC-008	DFES Training Calendar CBFCO to discuss with DFES how Bush Fire Brigades can have greater input in the training calendar.	Murray Smith	NEW (October 2019)