



MINUTES
FOR THE
Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC)
Annual General Meeting
21 March 2019

**SHIRE OF MERREDIN
BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
21 MARCH 2019
INDEX – MINUTES**

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1.0 OFFICIAL OPENING

Chairperson – S Crook

Meeting commenced at 1711hrs

S Crook welcomed all members to the meeting held tonight.

2.0 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

DELEGATES

Name	Organisation	Position
Stephen Crook (SC)	Shire of Merredin	Chief Bushfire Control Officer Chair
John Flockart (JF)	Korbelka Brigade	Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer Captain
Chris Hooper (CH)	Korbelka Brigade	Fire Control Officer
Neil Smith (NS)	Nukarni/Nokaning Brigade	Fire Control Officer
Glenn Crees (GC)	Collgar Brigade	Fire Control Officer
Kael Crees (KC)	Collgar Brigade	Lieutenant
John Goodier (JG)	Korbelka Brigade	Fire Control Officer
Cam Gethin (CG)	Hines Hill Brigade	2nd Lieutenant
Colin Millar (CM)	Hines Hill Brigade	Captain
Paul Wanless (PW)	Muntadgin Brigade	Captain
Cr Mal Willis (MW)	Shire of Merredin	Council Delegate

OFFICERS

Name	Organisation	Position
Kellie Bartley (KB)	Shire of Merredin	Deputy Chief Executive Officer Minute Taker
Kim Friis (KF)	Shire of Merredin	Senior Ranger

NON VOTING DELEGATES

Name	Organisation	Position
Nil		

APOLOGIES

Name	Organisation	Position
Joe Alvaro (JA)	Nukarni/Nokaning Brigade	Representative
Michael Caughey (MC)	Nukarni/Nokaning Brigade	Captain
Steve Higgins (SH)	Collgar	Captain

3.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Confirmation of Minutes of 14 March 2018 (*Attachment 1*)

CMRef 82157 Bush Fire Control Officers Annual General Meeting Minutes of Meeting 14 March 2018

RECOMMENDATION: That the minutes of the Bush Fire Control Officers Annual General Meeting Minutes meeting held 14 March 2018 be confirmed.

CORRECTION REQUIRED TO MINUTES:

Correction noted on Page 5 - replace name of John Flockart with Colin Miller

Moved: Colin Miller

Seconded: Kim Friis
Carried

4.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

4.1

- Noted that on Page 5 – new burning permits (WALGA Still looking at new permits)
- Committee is happy with current permits at present. To be further discuss at general business.
- KF – Nungarin (old permits still exist) Kim working with CEO at Nungarin for improvements.
- Collgar – Safety of the shed and the structure. At present shed is ok, windy weather may cause concerns in the future.

5.0 ELECTION OF OFFICER BEARERS – 2019/2020 FIRE SEASON

To nominate for the vacant positions, nominations must be made by an accredited Fire Control Officer. Kim Friis was nominated as Returning Officer by Stephen Crook, seconded John Flockart.

Carried

The Returning Officer declare all Bush Fire Brigade positions vacant and called for nominations for the below positions:

Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Nominated: Glenn Cress nominated Stephen Crook

Moved: Glenn Crees

Seconded: John Flockart

There being no further nominations Stephen Crook was elected to the position of Chief Bush Fire Control Officer. Stephen Crook accepted the position of Chief Bush Fire Control Officer.

Carried

Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Nominated: John Flockart

Moved: Colin Miller

Seconded: Glenn Crees

There being no further nominations John Flockart was elected to the position of Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer. John Flockart accepted the position of Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer.

Carried

Fire Control Officers

Nominated: As listed below

Moved: Glenn Crees

Seconded: Neil Smith

That the following people be appointed as Fire Control Officers of the Shire of Merredin for the 2019/2020 fire season:

Name	Brigades
Chris Barnett	Burracoppin
Nigel Edgecombe/David Beck*	Burracoppin South
Steve Higgins/ Glenn Crees	Collgar
Colin Miller/Cam Gethin	Hines Hill
Chris Hooper/John Flockart/John Goodier	Korbelka
Darren Major/Paul Wanless	Muntadgin
Joe Alvaro/Michael Caughey/Neil Smith	Nukarni/Nokaning
Kim Friis/ Stephen Crook	Shire of Merredin

CARRIED

* Noted that David Beck added to list after voting. All committee members agreed to officer being added.

Fire Weather Officers

Moved: J Flockart

Seconded: John Goodier

That the following people be appointed as Fire Weather Officers of the Shire of Merredin for the 2019/2020 fire season:

Region	Name
North East	Chris Barnett
South East	Nigel Edgecombe
North	Neil Smith
South West	Chris Hooper
Central	Stephen Crook
South	Paul Wanless
West	Cam Gethin

CARRIED

Dual Fire Control Officers

Moved: John Flockart

Seconded: Glenn Crees

That the following people be appointed as Dual Fire Control Officers of the Shire of Merredin for the 2019/2020 fire season:

Region	Name
Bruce Rock	Chris Hooper and John Flockart
Kellerberrin	Cam Gethin and Colin Miller
Nungarin	Michael Caughey, Neil Smith, Kim Friis

CARRIED

Noted: Kim Friis added to Nungarin as requested by Adam Majid, Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Nungarin.

6.0 BRIGADE REPORTS

6.1 Chief Bushfire Control Officer

Thank you all for nominating, to be noted that David Beck to be added to South Burracoppin as Fire Control Officer for the Burracoppin South Brigade.

Chief Bush Fire Control Officers Report 2018/2019

This time last year I was reporting on the disappointing number of brigade callouts for controlled burn escapes. This fire season we have had none of those, but an unprecedented number of callouts to lightning strikes.

A brief summary of call outs to date for the summer;

Started with a lightning strike on Cahill Rd, Nangeenan, three brigade units and six farmer units.

Late October a storm brought down a tree across a major power line at Nangeenan starting a crop fire. The incident escalated with a farmer trapped in his vehicle after driving into the downed power lines when blinded by smoke. Involved three brigades and seven private units. While the response from brigade and farmer owned units was very quick, the Western Power crew took over an hour, and three phone calls to respond. Header fire on the South Hines Hill Rd, multiple farmer units, four brigades plus Nth Baandee and Merredin Shire tanker.

More severe lightning storms saw a total of seventeen reported fires, units managed to attend seven, rain extinguishing the rest. Another three crop fires were reported found in the following weeks, all extinguished by the rain.

On Merredin's Gala Shopping night, an arsonist lit seven fires along the Bruce Rock Rd. With volunteers working well into the early hours. Merredin FRS attended along with three bush fire brigades. BFB's were still mopping up the following day, and the incident was not closed for 48 hrs due to the Arson Squad determinations.

And brigades responded once again to two separate lightning strikes last Sunday.

All seven of the brigades have responded well when called out, with no reports of injuries or damage to vehicles. Losses include approx. 120 Ha of crop, 50 Ha stubble, 300 m of road verge bush.

Belka "whats app" messenger worked well on call out, and I recommend all brigades adapt the system.

Issues arising during incidents were dead batteries on the Nuk/Nok 4.4, and a failure with the shire tanker pump.

On Friday December 16th, the Merredin WAERN radio repeater tower went down. This was at the peak of harvest and severe fire weather conditions. Deputy Chief John Flockart contacted DFES and worked with Com Marine technicians and it was fixed by the Sunday lunchtime.

TFB's were rolled out on the Feb 26 and 27 but were emailed through to me very late on the morning of the ban, and the shire office didn't receive them at all. A please explain from our Ranger alerted DFES to a breakdown in the email rollout. DFES is now adding an SMS alert as well as email to TFB alert given 1600 hrs the day previous.

HB were imposed by Local Govt on Dec 15, Dec 23 and Jan 12. TFB were imposed by the Minister on Feb 26 and Feb 27.

For those FCO's that may not be aware that there was a change in the shires bush fire services administration, with Deputy CEO Kellie Bartley taking over our administration from Peter Zenni. I would like to take this opportunity thank Peter for his contribution to BFS over the last three years.

We will continue to work with the Senior Ranger, and I thank him for relieving me of some of the many permit requests I have to deal with inside the town boundary. Kim has also assisted Nungarin Shire with their HB notifications.

CBFCO for Narembeen, Murray Dixon was nominated as our DOAC representative on the new Bushfire Operations Committee.

A report given by Volunteer Assoc President Dave Gossage at the recent DOAC meeting, mentioned that the need for a training course relevant to each LG needs was once again before the Commissioner and the association was working hard to get an outcome sooner rather than later. DOAC representatives also expressed concern over the large number of untrained seasonal and corporate farm employees.

An ongoing concern is the lack of capacity to the east of our shire, with both the Burracoppin, Sth Burracoppin, and Collgar fast attack units seriously lacking water capacity. Given that the NE of the shire has only seen one or two incidents in the last few years, it is very hard to push for bigger units, I believe this situation has also led to the lack of support given by volunteer members in the area. This is something we need to work on in the immediate future.

Thankyou

Stephen Crook
CBFCO – Merredin Shire

Fires

- Arson fire along Bruce Rock Road on Gala Night (December 18) fire was located near cemetery and houses with seven individual fires being lit on the night.
- Collgar assisted with this incident. Arsonist arrested on the night and has been charged.

Lightning Strikes

- Brigade has attended lightning strikes in the Collar and South N/Hill Road
- #### *General*
- Nukarni/Nokaning – battery issues – now fixed.
 - December 16 – Merredin Repeater Tower 259 channel on the Friday weekend. Communication issues was reported and fixed by the Sunday morning. SES tower at Tank Hill similar issues.
 - Total fire ban roll out 26 & 27 February – SC received emails at 7am & 9.30am the following morning. Shire also did not receive the advice at the required timeframe of the day before. Issues noted at DOAC meeting – advice to go out via SMS rather than emails. It had effected seven Shires. Requirement to be advised at least by 4-5pm the day prior. Hopefully now resolved as discussed at DOAC meeting.
 - 3 harvest bans: 12 January, December.
 - Total fire bans: 26 & 27 February.
 - Welcome and acknowledged that Kellie Bartley (DCEO) has taken over from Peter Zenni from the Shire. Appreciate the work that Peter has achieved over this period and excited to be working with Kellie in the future.
 - KF has been working with Nungarin and new CEO. Issues with Harvest Bans and KF has been assisting in this with the Shire.
 - Brigades responses have been well received with no issues.
 - Lack of corporate assistant in the East (Burracoppin & South Burracoppin) with reduced water and low water pressures. Water tanks decommissioned.

- NE on 1-2 major to get a case to increase the opportunity for 2.4 or bigger to assist with these Brigades.
- Commence the rotating of meetings around each Brigade and use the units to assist with training options on these meetings. Next meeting is proposed at Burracoppin.

6.2 Burracoppin Brigade

As Captain or any members not present, it was noted nothing to report.

6.3 Burracoppin South Brigade

As Captain or any members not present, it was noted nothing to report.

6.4 Collgar Brigade (presented by Glenn Crees)

Collgar has called for AGM and nil attendance occurred.

Fire Season

4/5 fires have been attended in this season

One burning permit issued

Cam Gethin arrived to the meeting at 5.40pm.

6.5 Hines Hill Brigade (Presented by Colin Millar)

Fire Season

- 9 call outs attended
- 18 permits issued since harvest

General

- One issue since that has occurred is the low water reserve level alarm, sensor fault and parts on the way which starts for the crew protection button, it goes off and does not turn off until sometime. Have spoken about this before and there is nothing to assist this problem at present.
- KF has advised that this has been emailed to DFES due to safety protocol and nothing can be done at the present moment to correct the fault.
- Less than 750 litres.
- Faulty sensor.
- Very quiet season to date
- Colin acknowledged the work that Cam Gethin and Luke for the assistance they have provided this season. Cam has been there while I recovered from a leg injury.
- Health and Wellbeing from DFES should be noted as they have been helpful in assisting when an injury has occurred. The response to see how I was and the continued assistance in the recovery process has been exceptional. It must be noted that is has been an excellent service provided on this occasion.
- Incident reporting system that is in place online to register is very user friendly and that once you have used it once, it is easier each time.
- SC – Has anyone else used it?
- KF – Shire uses this on each occasion with selection process made easy due to the tick/select the box concept. Receipt is given on submitting the process.
- Colin mentioned that it is easy to have it also on your phone and that it assists with having one person take down notes as well to assist with using the website while out on the job.

6.6 Korbalka Brigade (Presented by John Flockart)

Fire Season

- 13 fires attended (18 in total if you include the additional fires from arson attack on the same night)
- Arson fire was late in the afternoon (Gala Night) and included 4/5 fires
- 1 early power pole fire due to magpie assisting in sparking the fire.
- All fires have been related to lightning

General

- Incident on Sunday evening (17th March 2019) Commsec called and was identified as 2 + 1 = 3 fires but in actual fact ended up just being 1 fire in total. I had mistakenly been out by 5 kms for location to the fire.
- AGM – had been held in early week with NIL attendance. AGM to be conducted in the coming week.
- Most things are ok with the truck other than our size of water tank.
- Fellow support of brigades works well with other services as at times we are wearing 2/3 hats at incidents.

6.7 Muntadgin Brigade (presented by Paul Wanless)

Fire Season

- Attended 5 fires during harvest season.
- Mainly related to lightning strikes in the region along Merredin Road
- Nil permits issued to date.

General

- Incidents where lightning strike has occurred near Nth Muntadgin and no service.
- Near windfarm and harvest require repeater in truck – requested to try through LGGS funding. (WAERN – WA Emergency Radio Network)
- Self-application to do the whole truck.
- I couldn't get anyone to weigh in and can be used with phone.
- Kim advised that in the training module
- Can we apply to get into trucks as Munty is bad service.
- Kim advised that Telstra has been advised of low level of service to the region. Further discussions to be had with regards to service with Telstra via DFES contacts. May need to review other services if level of service does not improve.
- Stephen C asked if this is applied to LGGS.
- Kellie advised that we can apply any components to LGGS that is defined in the guidelines.

6.8 Nukarni/Nokaning Brigade (presented by Neil Smith)

Fire Season

- Have had a number of fires, numbers to be confirmed

General

- Power is now connected to the fire truck and shed.
- All members are on the "whats app?"; recommend other brigades and farmers to see if this will assist in preparedness of incidents.
- Fire season has been good.
- AGM has been held in pre-harvest.

6.9 Shire of Merredin (presented by Kim Friis & Kellie Bartley)

General (Kim)

- It has been a busy year and there has been an internal reporting structure with the DCEO taken over from Peter Zenni. Thanks is to be noted for the work Peter has assisted with the group.
- LGGGS Funding – the LGGGS funding is to be completed by 29 March, there is a need to try to increase the allocations this year with regards to the funding.
- As rainfall has been limited for this season so far, need to review and try to apply for additional resources via the LGGGS funding opportunities.
- Kellie presented the LGGGS funding spent so far this year, identifying the areas of insurances, PPE, utilities, maintenance of plant and equipment, training costs etc. (refer to attachment)
- Kellie advised that going forward to review the opportunities as outlined in the LGGGS guidelines. As closing period for the 2019/20 closes next week, that any urgent requests and quotes to be sent to Kim asap.
- Kim identified that the lack of telephone reception in the areas of Collgar & Munty. Once again, reports need to be submitted for Kim to follow up on the continued lack of service in some areas within the shire.
- Stephen Crook asked with regards to the fire truck 4.4 Hines Hill truck needs to be replaced.
- Glenn Crees – their unit is only a ute/light tanker? Require a bigger vehicle to help cover the area that is located west of the Shire. (Collgar/Sth Burra)
- Kellie advised that through the 2019/20 LGGGS indicative program and to review how can we influence this with the funding. This would include looking at the strategic aspects of volume of traffic and vast area within the agricultural region and the increase of corporate farmers to the east of the shire.
- Kellie will proceed in the coming year to help identify the resources required for each Brigade and how to increase the LGGGS funding going forward 2020/21 + years.
- AGM need to be attended and recorded. Kellie/Kim are able to assist in achieving these outcomes. Possible opportunity to review and align with Mal Willis morning breakfasts. Stephen advised that all AGM may be best to be completed pre-bush fire season. Colin Miller advised that they have 3 meetings a year and have a BBQ which helps to attract numbers. It has been quite successful.
- Training & Training Dates 2019 – training is proposed for August 2019. Date to be confirmed.
- Firebreak Orders 2019/2020 – Kellie advised that Firebreak Notice will be required to be in draft by May 19 ready for approval and sign off prior to issue for the 2019/2020 season.
- Books – Kim handed out relevant books and any additional books please see Kim.

7.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

John Flockart has requested two motions to be put forward.

7.1 That the Shire of Merredin review the risk to resources in the 2020 allocations for the LGGs grant funding.

Moved: J Flockart

Seconded: Colin Miller

Comments

John Flockart - The request for the Shire of Merredin to review the LGGs funding as the new regional DFES officers has recommended to review the next 5/6 years for the region. We need to make sure that the justification to why we make the changes and the reasons to make sure the risk to resources is reviewed. Having a \$1 Billion Dollar Collgar farm and the new \$180-million-dollar solar farm that will be commencing on the 1 April 2019, shows that the community is at high risk with the increase in possible risk. How does the community risk increase and how would be assist should there be a fire in either site.

As we have seen this week a large stubble fire shutdown the whole of Kalgoorlie region for 2 ½ Days.

Kim Friis - Kim advised that going forward the Shire has identified the areas to start making progress on trying to increase the LGGs. It is not a simple process and will take time over the year. We are lucky to have Kellie's experience with LGGs funding and grant acquittals.

Stephen Crook – Risk to resources do need to be reviewed and to see where we can get possible increases.

Kim Friis – most important is to make sure we are registering our call outs via the Comms Centre and making sure incidents are being captured on the system to help assist with grant support. Light tankers will need to be justified via DFES and the need to increase to larger capacity tankers in the future. Possible chances to try to keep the light tankers when we will also require to increase to the 4.4 vehicles.

Stephen Crook – As a committee and captains of each Brigade, we need to make sure we are working with the Shire to help assist in the ESL Funding process.

Item was voted on

CARRIED

7.2 That the Shire of Merredin review the LGGG grant funding for the Bush Fire Brigades.

Moved: J Flockart

Seconded: Glenn Crees

Comments

Kim Friis – previous ESL have just been advised of totals and claims have been just signed off with what DFES advises of the grant funding amount each year.

Colin Miller – we can be called out and leave the shed, we have had times we have been called out for a 3 day of control burn which can be community based call out. This can be not recorded as it is control burns. The shire tip had a 24-hour rubbish burn which we attended and is not recorded. There has been up to 6 other times this has occurred.

Kim Friis – controlled burns will be need to be reviewed with regards to reporting to make sure these get registered. There should be a possible number issued to the incident.

Item was voted on.

CARRIED

John Flockart

I would like to request for a vortex hand held radio 12V charger as I was caught out and the 240V is not consistent for use. As I attended an incident and the radio was knocked, by the time we arrived at scene, it was flat.

CBFCO already has one at home for personal use and does use at times, DBFCO requests for an additional 1.

Noted: 12 Volt chargers to be added to LGGG Grant funding application.

LGGG budget – review of 4.4 at Hines Hill as now the Solar Farm is in the location and increase potential risk. It has been recommended a possible vehicle swap.

John has identified if a light tanker with 400 litres. Cannot always be useful if a fire is 5-15 kms away from water. Larger farms in the eastern area may be of concern. It would be good to request a bigger unit for Hines Hill. 2nd priority would be a 3.4 or 4.4 tanker. As the larger areas like Nokaning may be needed.

Kim – the Shire also can assist with water trucks, however when road construction and the work days Monday – Friday, these water trucks are not available due to the shire use.

PPE – review of PPE clothing, options to get overalls. To be requested in LGGG funding application.

Fuel Cards – Has this been sorted?

Repeater stations – this is required as limited or no service can be lacking within areas of the region.

Mal Willis mentioned not to rely on the phones too much as service can be out for more than 8 hours. Telstra has been unable to assist in improving this across the Wheatbelt region.

Neil Smith has requested that full PPE to be reviewed and what else is required for protective gear. Stephen has suggested to make sure that we have enough PPE gear in our trucks and certain farm vehicles due to the nature of vast space between incidents and where the location may start on the fire.

John Flockart has recommended and remind members to make sure they are at least covered in long sleeve cotton shirt, long pants, rigger gloves and make sure that you purchase wool socks.

DOAC Meeting was held on 11th March 2019. Stephen Crook, Kellie Bartley, Kim Friis, John Flockart attended. The question of whether the Shire claim the insurance on the LGGS occur. Kellie has confirmed through Shire that this does happen. All insurances are offset and reclaimed back through the LGGS grant funding acquittal.

The number of insurance that is paid by the active list of roughly 150 members.

Kim has requested that all captains/members to review each Brigade listing and identify any names required to be taken off the listing.

Stephen would like to make sure all relevant members have their permit books. Issues concerning the South Burra Road Standpipe.

DOAC Meeting comments

Concerns are with regards to Corporate Farms and their employees. It is hard to fight fires with workers that are from this region. We need to encourage the basic training to protect their own patch or if they come to an incident. They become volunteers on the fire ground. Need to make sure the Corporate farms that are unattended are across their requirements. They will need to make sure they do continue to work with these corporate farms to make sure they are responsible for their own fuel loads.

Dave Gossage – BF Assoc President – addressed for need to training, 1-day training back in front of the commissioner for discussion. Training to be reviewed as to do we require 1 day, online and then 2-day training courses.

Colin Miller requested if the training can be split over days to help assist being able to attend.

Kim advised that training should be in line with the National training standards and it may sometimes take longer to complete.

Neil Smith wants to know about what is happening with the ID badges for private vehicles. Can this be reviewed as Mike Caughey has requested this for a number of years. Have been advised to come in and pick up.

7.3 – Collgar Harvest Ban Callout

Glenn Crees – Harvest Ban Callout

Concerned with Collgar and the open flame work that occurred on Christmas/Boxing Day in 2018. If a local government harvest ban is in place, then does this not apply to them as well. With reduced numbers of residents being away on holidays, no support would be able to assist due to lack of numbers to assist. Can this be addressed?

Kim advised that if it was emergency work then they are able to do so. Although on Boxing Day, LG Harvest ban was in place, and how can they still weld in this weather?

To be followed up to see what is the statutory protocol.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Schedule of Meetings:

Pre-season - Fire Control Officers 2019	October 2019
Bush Fire Control Officers AGM 2020	19 March 2020 at 1700hrs

9.0 MEETING CLOSURE

There being no further business Stephen Crook declared the meeting closed at 1908hrs and thanked all those in attendance tonight.



AGENDA

GREAT EASTERN DISTRICT OPERATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

11th March, 2019 @ 12:30hrs

Serial	Item	Responsibility
1.	Meeting Open - Welcome Attendance List - to be passed around Apologies	Chairperson
2.	Submitted Agenda Item 2.1 Operational Fleet Project	Chief Superintendent Brad Delavale Project Director
3.	Acceptance of Previous Minutes	Chairperson
4.	Business arising	All
5.	Action List – as per attached	Chairperson
6.	6.1 Correspondence Out Trevor Tasker-in appreciation 6.2 Correspondence In Commissioner Darren Klemm – Nomination Request, Bushfire Operations Committee Email – Operational Fleet Project Change Manager, Kirstin Smith – requesting CS Brad Delavale’s attendance 6.3 Matters arising from Correspondence	Executive Officer
7.	Submitted Agenda Item 7.1 Bushfire Operations Committee Report	Murray Dixon-committee representative
8.	Association Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades	Representative
9.	P&W Report	Graeme Keals Greg Durell
10.	Local Government Reports	CBFCO's
11.	Reports from DFES	DFES Officers
12.	Late Items	Chairperson
13.	Next Meeting	9 th September, 2019

Thank you for your attendance.

Meeting held in Council Chambers
Cnr King & Barrack Street's, Merredin
14 March 2018 Commencing 14.10pm

Attendance

Stephen Crook CBFCO (Chairperson), John Flockart DCBFCO (Korbelka), Neil Smith (Nukarni / Nokanning), Nigel Edgecombe (South Burra), Joe Alvaro (Nukarni/Nokanning), Kael Crees (Collgar), Glenn Crees (Collgar), Paul Wanless (Muntadgin), Colin Miller (Hines Hill), Kim Friis (Shire of Merredin), Jamie Holmes (Shire of Merredin), Peter Zenni (Shire of Merredin)

Apologies

Mick Caughey, Darren Major, Cam Gethin

Welcome and Awards

Stephen Crook opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

Confirmation of Minutes

Moved: C Miller Seconded: G Crees

That the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee held on 7th March 2017 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings with the following clarification:

On the 2nd page of the minutes on two occasions the FDI Index is incorrectly shown as being 34 degrees. The minutes should refer to a FDI of 32 (and there should be no mention of degrees).

CARRIED

Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Nil

Election of Office Bearers – 2018/19 Fire Season

To nominate for the vacant positions, nominations must be made by an accredited Fire Control Officer. Kim Friis was nominated as Returning Officer by John Flockart, seconded Nigel Edgecombe. The Returning Officer declared all Bush Fire Brigade positions vacant and called for nominations for the below positions:

Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Nominated: Stephen Crook

Moved: John Flockart Seconded: Neil Smith

There being no further nominations Stephen Crook was elected to the position of Chief Bush Fire Control Officer.

Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Nominated: John Flockart

Moved: Glen Crees Seconded: Neil Smith

There being no further nominations John Flockart was elected to the position of Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer.

Fire Control Officers

Moved: Glen Crees Seconded: John Flockart

That the following people be appointed as Fire Control Officers of the Shire of Merredin for the 2018/19 fire season:

Neil Smith	Nukarni/Nokanning	C Barnett	Burracoppin
Michael Caughey	Nukarni/Nokanning	S Higgins	Collgar
J Alvaro	Nukarni/Nokanning	G Crees	Collgar

Bush Fire Control Officers – Annual General Meeting MINUTES



J Goodier	Korbelka	D Beck	South Burracoppin
J Flockart	Korbelka	N Edgecombe	South Burracoppin
C Hooper	Korbelka	D Major	Muntadgin
C Gethin	Hines Hill	P Wanless	Muntadgin
C Miller	Hines Hill	Kim Friis	Merredin Area

CARRIED

Fire Weather Officers

Moved: Glen Crees Seconded: Joe Alvaro

That the following people be appointed as Fire Weather Officers of the Shire of Merredin for the 2018/19 fire season:

North East	C Barnett
South East	N Edgecombe
North	Neil Smith
South West	C Hooper
Central	S Crook
South	P Wanless
West	C Gethin

CARRIED

Dual Fire Control Officers

Moved: Glen Crees Seconded: Joe Alvaro

That the following people be appointed as Dual Fire Control Officers for the 2018/19 fire season:

Bruce Rock	C Hooper and J Flockart
Kellerberrin	C Gethin and C Miller
Nungarin	M Caughey and N Smith, Kim Friis.

CARRIED

Reports

Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Report 2018

CBFCO Report AGM 14th March 2018

13 incidents last summer, only 4 so far this season.

Poor season and low fuel loads over most of the Shire, there were no reported harvest fires.

We had callouts for lightning strikes in Oct for Korbelka and Collgar BFB

In January a small scrub opposite Chicken treat, one farmer trailer and Collgar BFB on standby as backup for Merredin FRS.

Late January, Com Cen callout to a car fire on Bruce Rock Rd for Korbelka, Hines Hill BFB's and two farmers unites. Merredin FRS HSR and Lt Tanker, and Bruce Rock FES HSR. Merredin Police assisted with road traffic. We had plenty of fire power there.

March 13 a Com Cen callout to bushfire on Great E. Hwy, attended by Hines Hill, Nth Baandee, BFB's, and Merredin Shire Ranger with the Shire tanker.

March 13 a Com Cen callout to rescue to children trapped behind a fire in Merredin townsite. The Merredin FRS, Police and Ambulance had already been asked to respond, and Bush Fire Services would remain on standby. This incident was written up as a proverbial storm in a teacup, badly reported by a member of the public, causing undue stress on emergency services.

The people that ring 000 straight away are doing the right thing but must be more accurate in where and what the emergency is, and what services they require. Another instance was the Bruce Rock Rd car fire being reported 10 km north of the actual incident.

Hines Hill 4.2 unit was taken for a fit out of a deluge sprinkler system, cab air filter, and fire curtains. It took over six weeks to get it back, with maintenance issues on its return. All trucks bigger than the 1.4 light tankers will be fitted with the deluge sprinkler systems over the next twelve months.

I am currently trialling a new type of weather meter, a lot cheaper than the Kestrel, but can't find a humidity readout, or the average and max wind speed.

On the 3rd November we were given an update on how ABC Local Radio would broadcast Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban information. We were given three deadlines each day to get HB's listed, and set times each day that HB's would be broadcast.

- There will be designated tune-in times for listeners to hear harvest bans – on weekdays it will be 10.05am, 12.35pm and 2.05pm. (and 1.05pm in the Perth metro area.). On weekends the times will be 12:35pm and 2:05pm.
- All harvest bans need to be sent to our designated email address - harvestbans@abc.net.au
- The deadlines to get those harvest bans to the ABC are 9.45am, 11.45am and 1.45pm.

As well the usual Harvest bans imposed over the Xmas, New Year period, Shire Harvest bans were imposed on 17-12-17, 22-12-17, and 3-1-18. I put this HB on at midday when I recorded a FDI of 27 and rising, having only received two other readings from the two fire weather officers to my south who were well under the 32 FDI, and not happy with my decision. My index hit 42 FDI at 1500 hrs, and not a reading from any of the other FWO. I was aware of three FWO away on holidays, as were a lot of farmers. Common sense prevailed, but the system breaks down when Fire Weather Officer's do not take readings.

Total Fire Bans were imposed 25-12-17, 5-1-18, 16-2-18

The TFB/HB on the 16-2-18, this was the second HB I had imposed without input from any of the other Fire Weather Officers. With no response to my SMS for FDI readings to be taken, I put the HB on with my FDI at 30. Bruce Rock and Narembeen shires beat me to it for the first time in my tenure. My index hit 78 later that afternoon.

On November 7, council advised me of the appointment of councillors Mal Willis and Roy Butler to the Merredin Bush Fires Advisory Committee but have yet to meet with them.

Following discussions at our pre-season meeting, the Shire has written to DEFES requesting they set aside 2 training days in the second and third week of August. At our DOAC meeting, 12/3/18, the issue of the training pathways as set out in the e-learning Volunteer Portal, was about to undergo change. Volunteer Association President Dave Gossich signalled a return to the original training modules 1-12 that volunteers completed in the past. Even better news was that the basic/introductory modules 1-5, were to be shortened, simplified and structured more to our needs.

Finally, at the recent DOAC meeting I received a copy of the new Burning Permit as adopted by Esperance and Yilgarn Shires. Although I believe this permit is sufficient for our needs, I understand that WALGA has been working on a new permit form specific to the five different fuel zones in the state. Once we have received a draft, we will compare and have a suitable permit form to trial in the next restricted period and recommend to shire at our next AGM.

Stephen Crook
Merredin CBFCO

Shire of Merredin

Peter Zenni commented that the Shire is trying to work cooperatively with the CBFCO and the volunteers. Shire plant and equipment has been used in support of the role on an ongoing basis. Shire Ranger is contactable via the phone 24/7. The BFB vehicles have now been fitted with Vehicle locator devices. These need to be tested on a monthly basis, suggested that vehicles be given a run during the VLC locator device testing to turn the engines over etc. Also suggested that Brigade vehicles be utilised when volunteers are attending training or other BFB activities as this helps to keep the vehicles active during the off season.

Kim Friis highlighted that Western Power grants are available for Brigade related equipment/expenses up to \$5,000 per brigade. The information relating to the availability of the grants and the grant application process has been disseminated with very little take-up. All Brigades are encouraged to apply for this funding.

Vehicle servicing, it's imperative that any problems with vehicles are brought to the attention of the Shire Ranger. A couple of the Brigades had ongoing problems with spare tires. Need to run vehicle engine, pumps and check vehicles by using them and hopefully spot and report any problems as they are identified.

Hines Hill vehicle deluge unit had a failure which caused a pipe to rupture taking the vehicle out of commission for about 1 week. All other units ok.

Reminder that attendance reports should be filled out correctly for each incident.

200 volunteers currently on Shire books, only about 40 are active firefighters. Suggestion that Brigade captains review Brigade membership lists. DFES preference is only for active volunteers to be Registered with DFES.

Reporting Procedure to be finalised by Kim Friis and disseminated for discussion and adoption by FCO's.

List of Brigade members to be sent out for assessment of active vs inactive members, DFES ID number status to be clarified.

Korbelka

4 callouts for the season, these have already been covered in the CBFCO Report. Vehicle fires are the responsibility of VFRS, however if the callout relates to a vehicle fire try and attend in case a person in the car involved requires assistance in getting out.

John Flockart mentioned information disseminated at the recent DOAC meeting relating to changes in the provision of training services and associated training framework away from a training pathway designed for professionals such as SES and VFRS and rewriting the syllabus to cater to the needs of Bushfire Volunteers.

Phone call teleconference with Sharon (DFES Training Officer), she explained the process involved in accessing the E-Portal for provision of training services.

Moved: C Miller Seconded: N Edgecombe

That the proposed training day dates be accepted subject to Dowerin Field Day considerations.

CARRIED

Clarification, training dates confirmed as Monday and Tuesday 20th, 21st August 2018. Proposed training dates set for 28th and 29th August 2018 clash with Dowerin Field Days. These will be rescheduled for the 1st week in September 2018.

Collgar

1 Incident attended. Problems being experienced with the deterioration of the shed used to store the Brigade vehicle. Suggested that Brigade representatives liaise with Shire officers in relation to the structural adequacy of the shed.

South Burracoppin

Very quiet season. 1 false alarm (lightning strike). Brigade has some very keen and active members.

Nukarni/Nokanning

No callouts this season. Held a training day/get together for local members in August.

Muntadgin

Attended 1 fire related callout (lightning strike) with about 0.5 acre burnt out.

Hines Hill

2 fire related callouts attended during last week. Apart from that;
9 permits issued,
2 faults repaired to equipment.

General Business

Vehicle Isolation Switch

John Flockart mentioned that problems are being experienced with Isuzu vehicles whereby if the vehicle isolation switch is not turned on correctly the system will crash requiring the vehicle to be sent to Perth to be reset.

Vehicle Fittings

John Flockart mentioned that location of the fitting for the new box (storage of hats) is causing problems with members hurting their hands when attempting to access/wind hoses.

Kim Friis to follow up on this.

FCO Roles and Responsibilities

The CBFCO reminded all FCO's of the need to keep an eye on firebreaks especially in the Muntadgin district. FCO's have a primary responsibility for this role and Should lease with the Shire in relation to any ongoing non-compliance issues.

New Burning Permits

WALGA is finalizing the layout of the new burning permits. These will be presented for discussion by FCO's and the Shier representatives once finalized. Shire of Yilgarn has adopted the Shire of Esperance's permit format. Both options to be assessed.

Post Season Vehicle Servicing

Kim Friis will start the process of post season servicing of vehicle and equipment towards the end of the month. It is requested that as soon as Brigade members become aware of any problems

Bush Fire Control Officers – Annual General Meeting MINUTES



with plant or equipment that these are brought to the attention of the Shire Ranger as a matter of urgency.

Next meeting

The next BFB AGM will be held in March 2019 – date and time to be confirmed closer to the time.

Closure

There being no further business to discuss the Chairman thanked everyone in attendance and declared the meeting closed at 4.25pm.

Operational Fleet Project

Delivering a Fit for Purpose Fleet Together



UPDATE | February 2019

What has been happening?

- First Project Advisory Team (PAT) Chair briefing session held late January - PAT chairs for Urban Pumper, HAZMAT Structural Rescue, Bulk Water Carrier and 2.4 Broadacre Tanker were taken through how PATs work, their responsibilities and their project stream activities. A second session will be held early in February for remaining project streams. PATs will be finalised by the end of February 2019.
- Following the second OFP Reference Group meeting late January, we now have acceptance of the CAPA and General Rescue Utility concepts.
- New project team members – Welcome to Uchit Luktuke and Skye Pichler.

What is next?

- OFP Roadshow to kick off in February – our Project Director will be travelling around the state providing updates and briefings to various services.
- Second PAT Chairs Briefing session 7th February 2019.
- Number of PATs will be kicking off over the next two months to support development of First of Types, concept design and evaluations.

Project Overview Presentation now available

Share the word with your Brigade/Group/Unit (BGU) – complete with speaking notes
For your copy - visit the [DFES intranet](#) or the [Volunteer Portal](#) (scroll to bottom of page).

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHT

3.4 Urban Tanker PAT User Trial Outcomes

In December 2018 volunteers from Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS), Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services (VFES) and Bush Fire Service (BFS) from across the state gathered to participate in a hands on trial of the first new series 3.4 Urban Tankers off the production line.

Working with end users in the build program provided them the opportunity to point out things not necessarily noticeable to the supplier. Following valuable feedback, a number of immediate changes will address challenges with radio microphone locations, suction inlet valve interference with rear recovery, safer removal of standpipe and bar mounting and inclusion of a wheel brace extension bar.

Four 3.4 Urban Tankers are being delivered to Halls Creek, Wyndham, Brookton and Toodyay. New to Service trials will now commence once handed over to the brigades.



3.4 UT PAT Video - [Click here for highlights](#)

"Thank you for the opportunity to be part of the user trial...it gives me confidence when someone asks 'Why?' instead of saying 'That's just how it is'."

Andrew Waters, BFS, Pink Lake, Esperance



Government of Western Australia
Department of Fire & Emergency Services

For further details or feedback on this update, please contact the project team OperationalFleetProject@dfes.wa.gov.au or visit us at the [DFES Intranet](#) or the [Volunteer Portal](#).



Operational Fleet Project

Delivering a Fit for Purpose Fleet Together



How to Get Involved...Register your interest to become a member of a PAT

There are many ways to become involved in the Operational Fleet Project:

- Register your interest to be a member of a PAT. Please note that membership is limited and we may not be able to accommodate all requests.
- Contact a PAT member for the latest updates and to provide feedback. Names are listed in Volunteer Portal and Intranet.
- Be part of 'New to Service' trials if your brigade/group/unit (BGU) is receiving a new appliance. Over a 3 month period following delivery end users will be conducting evaluations. Outcomes captured will be considered as part of our continuous improvement model.
- Share the word – share our user friendly project overview presentation with your service. Click links below or email us directly to receive a copy.
- Email your feedback or questions to the project OperationalFleetProject@dfes.wa.gov.au.
- For more information on how to get involved, PAT member names & project presentation click here for [DFES Intranet](#) or click here for [Volunteer Portal](#).

What's next for our priority fleet?

- Ultra Light Tanker: Working with Procurement to finalise the tender evaluation. PAT members being finalised. More specific details to follow.
- Light Tanker: Working with Procurement to finalise the tender evaluation. PAT members being finalised. More specific details to follow.
- 2.4 Broadacre Tanker: Contract awarded to GH Varley Pty Ltd. Initial contract meeting to be held.
- 3.4 Urban Tanker: Most recommendations from PAT User Trial have been accepted and applied to production. Delivery to BGUs in progress.
- 4.4 Broadacre Tanker: Tender evaluation activities have commenced. Volunteers are involved with this process.
- Road Crash Rescue Tender: Currently with Procurement to finalise tender evaluation. PAT members being finalised. More specific details to follow.
- General Rescue Utility & CAPA: Concept Design received endorsement by Project Reference Group, functional requirements for both vehicles have commenced, prior to tender.
- Flood Rescue Boat: Tender has been issued, awaiting responses from the market. Tenders close on 19th February 2019.
- Country & Urban Pumpers: Initial contract meeting has been held with Paull Group JV, with first orders being placed shortly.
- Bulk Water Carrier & HAZMAT Structural Rescue: Currently in build. PAT members are being finalised to participate in user evaluations.



Government of Western Australia
Department of Fire & Emergency Services

For full status update on all Fleet Project Streams
click here for [DFES Intranet](#) or click here for
[Volunteer Portal](#).






Kellie Bartley

From: Kim Friis
Sent: Thursday, 21 March 2019 1:14 PM
To: Kellie Bartley
Subject: Fwd: Dual Fire Control Officer

Include in minutes please

Regards,

Kim M.J. Friis. KSJ, FCILT.
Senior Ranger.
Fire Control Officer.
Senior Animal Welfare Investigator.
(Sent from phone).

Shire of Merredin
PO Box 42 MERREDIN WA 6415
P: (08) 9041 1611 M: 0400 240 787 F: (08) 9041 2379 E: ranger@merredin.wa.gov.au
W: www.merredin.wa.gov.au  shireofmerredin

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Adam Majid" <ceo@nungarin.wa.gov.au>
Date: Thu, Mar 21, 2019 at 12:34 PM +0800
Subject: Dual Fire Control Officer
To: "Kim Friis" <ranger@merredin.wa.gov.au>

Hi Kim

Given that Nungarin is in an MOU with Merredin for the purposes of Ranger services, it is our intention to appoint you as a Dual Fire Control Officer.

I will advise you once we have completed the necessary actions to bring effect to this matter.

Cheers

Adam

Regards

Adam Majid
Chief Executive Officer | Shire of Nungarin
T (08) 9046 5006 | M 0427 465 006 | F (08) 9046 5007 | E ceo@nungarin.wa.gov.au
PO Box 8, Nungarin, WA 6490

Shire of Merredin
ESL 2018/2019

Balance	Job	Current Budget	Notes
\$10,752.27	2202 - Mtce of Plant & Equipment Total	\$ 21,000	\$10K to spend by end of May 2019
\$ 36.36	2205 - Clothing & Accessories Total	\$ -	Nil budget transfer required
\$ 4,441.96	2206 - Utilities Rates & Taxes Total	\$ 4,765	will be spent by EOY (June 19) Synergy, Western Power, Water Corporation, Whisper etc
\$ 420.73	2207 - Other Goods & Services Total	\$ 3,650	Training costs and refreshments
\$11,339.42	2208 - Insurances Total	\$ 10,912	Insurances and internal allocations
\$26,990.74	Grand Total	\$ 40,327	

ESL Funding 2018/2019

\$ 39,287.00