



GREAT EASTERN DISTRICT OPERATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES DRAFT

Merredin Volunteer Fire and Rescue Station Monday 10th September 2019

The meeting was declared open at 1224 hours by the
Chairman, Wayne Della Bosca

1 Record of Attendance

Wayne	Della Bosca	Chair	Shire of Yilgarn
Phillip	Hay	Executive Officer	DFES
Andrae	Moore	Minutes Secretary	DFES
Ron	Burro	CBFCO	Shire of Yilgarn
Alan	Nicholson	DCBFCO	Shire of Yilgarn
Murray	Dixon	CBFCO	Shire of Narembeen
Peter	Barnes	DCBFCO	Shire of Trayning
Gary	Coumbe	CBFCO	Shire of Nungarin
Graeme	Keals		DBCA
Jack	Walker		Shire of Mt Marshall
Damian	Thomas	CBFCO	Shire of Mt Marshall
Phil	Smith	CBFCO	Shire of Mukinbudin
Dave	Gossage	President	AVBFB
Alan	O'Toole	DCEO	Shire of Bruce Rock
Ian	Dolton	CBFCO	Shire of Bruce Rock
Geoff	Ryan	CBFCO	Shire of Kellerberrin
Frank	Corsini	CBFCO	Shire of Westonia
Stephen	Crook	CBFCO	Shire of Merredin
Paul	Simpson		Rural Fire Division - DFES
Connor	Smith		Rural Fire Division - DFES
Simon	Bell	CESM Kellerberrin/Tammin	Shire of Kellerberrin/Tammin
Kellie	Bartley	DCEO	Shire of Merredin
Nic	Warren		Shire of Yilgarn
Dirk	Sellenger	CEO	Shire of Mukinbudin
Jamie	Criddle	CEO	Shire of Westonia

Apologies

John	Flockart	DCBFCO	Shire of Merredin
------	----------	--------	-------------------



GREAT EASTERN DISTRICT OPERATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

That the minutes of the meeting held on Monday the 9th March 2019 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Ron Burro

Seconded: Phil Smith

All in Favour

3 Business Arising from Previous Minutes - NIL

4 Action List

4.1 *To gain feedback/information in reference to streamlining firebreak orders with a focus on Corporate bodies*

Comments from the floor

* Ron Burro said that the Shire of Yilgarn will be following up with infringements more

* Murray Dixon mentioned that he review of the Emergency Services Legislation will mean more power to enforce this but this is still a while off

* Wayne Della Bosca said that Shires do have power now but it needs to be enforced more. Barriers are important as they assist with burning back. Needs to be worked on by all Shires to improve the matter

* Nungarin and Kellerberrin don't have fire break orders – they abolished them a few years back and it is proving hard to reintroduce them now

* An increase in Hobby farmer numbers has also caused issues

* Bruce Rock said they have been sending out Non-compliant notices over the past 3 years and it has worked very well. 99% under control now.

* Dave Gossage said this is a common thing across other regions also.

- Consistency across Shires is a big part of it.

- Corporate and Absent land owners are the biggest issues across the regions.

- Section 33 is a very powerful tool to use to get things back under control.

- DFES and AVBFB happy to assist shires with enforcing these

5 Correspondence - NIL

6 Matters arising from the Correspondence – NIL

7 Submitted Agenda Item

7.1 Bushfire Operations Committee Report – Murray Dixon

- Minister presented – Gave a rundown on the Emergency Service Legislation Review – At least 12months away as they currently have no one to write it.
- Appliance Lighting issue was raised



GREAT EASTERN DISTRICT OPERATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- WAERN Radio Issue for some areas was raised - being investigated for solutions
- Mapping of Committee Areas to see if there are any gaps
- Discussed BFB Training Modules
- Responsibilities of ownership for Corporate Land – Need to be same across the board
- Asking for recommendations from DOAC/ROAC's to push up to BOC
- WALGA Rep- Mel Pexton asked for DOAC minutes to be brought to BOC meetings.

- Attended the WAFES Conference- Very good event – encourage others to attend every 3 or 4 years
 - It had great speakers
 - ie. Mayor of Christchurch
 - A pilot that spoke about Drones and issues relating to them
 - eAcademy
 - Workplace Health and Safety – Changes coming that does include 'volunteers'
 - AVBFB AGM
 - Other DOAC Members noted that they were unaware the WAFES conference was on -Phil Hay said that the invitation from DFES went to all shires and the VA also sent it out. Phil Hay also suggested it be sent to all DOAC contacts too.

7.2 Rural Fire Division (RFD) Presentation

Overview-

- Paul Simpson from RFD spoke about the creation of the RFD and its structure
- The functions of the Bushfire Centre of Excellence to improve rural and regional bushfire management
- Funding for mitigation
- Support Staff for Volunteers
- Training available through RFD
- Mobile Weather Station has been built
- Creation of 4 levels of Joint Bushfire Committees to ensure things are heard and handled appropriately
- Section 33 notices are being reviewed to ensure consistency and a common template will be developed.

Murray Dixon asked about the courses mentioned- how old they were or if new.

-Paul said they are updated and about 6 months old.

Murray Dixon also asked about eh mobile Weather Station – It gives readings of 3ms but is there a calculation of DAFS for 10m?

- Paul said this is int eh Green book and he will find out about this for them
- Phil Hay to share this with all.

Power point Attached



GREAT EASTERN DISTRICT OPERATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

8 Association of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades of WA (Inc) – Dave Gossage

- Attended the WAFES Conference – Very good event for social and knowledge sharing
- Training – Launched new packages at the conference -This has been restructured and gone back to a format that is like the module version of the past. Able to alter to suit the needs of individual brigades.
 - Volunteers concerns have been listened to in these changes
 - BA, Chainsaw and Machinery have been put into the training structure
- Fit for Purpose Vehicles is ongoing – they are changing the way they are developed, asking the end users what they want on their appliances before the build happens. I.e. On road/off road, cab size etc
- ESL – instigated an ESL Working group – the increase in Shires ESL doesn't seem to match the overall increase the ESL has had.
 - They have requested the Eligible items list be removed from the ESL manual. If you think you need an item that is not in there, you are able to ask for it. Bring items to the AVBFB and they can take it forward. It is a myth that you cannot have something if it is not on the lists.
- Protection Gear on vehicles- Drop Down Curtains have been found to be too low in some vehicles and this is going to be fixed. It was thought this had been completed but at the conference Dave discovered this is not the case. If yours has not yet, speak to the AVBFB to follow up for you.
 - Noise levels with the 2.4s- Engineering review has ben done and they are looking at ways to rectify the issue.
- An event with the mining industry has been planned. The volunteer Bushfire will be having this event with the mining industry on Langley Park in Perth on 21-22 November this year. Family focus to help educate the public on the BFB.
- AVBFB has a new 1800 number for the country – 1800238 657
- Preserving the Heritage of BFBs is being developed.

-Wayne Della Bosca commented that the trucks are getting too complicated- if something were to go wrong in the field, they wouldn't be able to fix it themselves.
– Dave Gossage said this is being looked at now.

-Morine Rocks 4.4 also needs to have a deflector bar for trees installed on it.
- Dave Gossage noted this.

9 P & W Report – Graeme Keals

- June 7th fire at Jarrahwood gave them a clear idea into the dryness of the lands now
 - Soils are dryer, so fuel will also be dryer – Be aware
- Bushfire Mitigation – Conducting Chopper Rolling along Emu Fence Road north from Marvelock Road, SE of great Eastern Hwy – Plan to do more chopper rolling south or Marvelock Road.
- More works depend on the UCL Mitigation funding.
- Preseason prep is underway – training next



GREAT EASTERN DISTRICT OPERATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Duty Officer number hasn't changed – 9881 9200 – out of hours this diverts to an answering service with options that can direct you to Duty officer.

Wayne Della Bosca commented that breaks created by chaining from 5-6 years ago is still effective. They had a fire that hit that area and couldn't get through it.

10 Local Government Reports

Shire of Merredin – Stephen Crook

- Quiet winter with just 1 pole fire out of town
- Medium to high fuels levels in the area
- Have been catching up on PPE using ESL funding
- 4.4 appliance is on its way – Paperwork is with the LG
- LEMC meeting was held- conducted risk assessments of area- Main concern at the moment is construction of large solar panel area. Higher traffic levels and population there at the present. Will still be under construction through fire season.
- Working currently on their fire breaks.

Shire of Westonia – Frank Corsini

- Have had lightning strike fires but relatively quiet
- Fuel loads are extreme

Shire of Mt Marshall – Damian Tomas

- Dry in the area but not very high
- Lots of paddocks have been left out this year meaning there are breaks in crops which could be useful this year as fire breaks.
- Training has been going well – Beacon had 18 people of IFF recently.
- Manager has medals to be presented.

Question about how they are produced/applied for as there are others that are due for them. Do the VFES medals combine the service from long standing BFB before the transition to VFES?

- DFES will get Tracy McBride (DFES Volunteer Management Support Officer) to make contact about the medals and step you through it.

Question – What about BFB service that there isn't records of when they started? Back into Bushfire Board days? Dave Gossage stated that a Stat Dec from the member stating when they joined is enough to have the medal applied for.

- Murray Dixon suggested each brigade start with their FCOs and work through to get dates of when members started.

Shire of Mukinbudin – Phil Smith

- Very quiet – The growing season just hasn't been there meaning crops are low
- Manageable fuel loads



GREAT EASTERN DISTRICT OPERATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Shire of Yilgarn – Ron Burro

- Lean Fuel loads
- Getting a new Shed for the Morine Truck
- Trying to ensure sheds are built on Local Government land and not private property going forward.

Question – Are demountable sheds an option? So, they can be moved around with changing members

- Wayne Della Bosca commented that these have been discussed before, but they cannot be used as it needs to be a permanent structure on Shire land. Demountable leads to arguments on claim of ownership from land owners from where it is set up

Shire of Kellerberrin – Geoff Ryan

- Doodlakine received new truck about 6 weeks ago
- Moderate fuel loading – depends greatly on the weather in the next few weeks.
- Fire breaks getting done currently

Shire of Trayning – peter Barnes

- Slightly busy in past 6 months
- Lost 1 house
- Lightning strikes
- Getting a new shed in next 12 months
- 3.4 appliance is on its way
- Yelbeni truck will be moving to Trayning.

Shire of Narembeen – Murray Dixon

- Quiet Season
- 6 people just been through Structural Fire Fighting course
- Discovered that training is wanted by their younger members during the week instead of weekends.
- Medals – Can we get some advice on how the medals are to be worn?
 - Will be attached to minutes of this meeting

Shire of Nungarin – Gary Coumbe

- Fire 5-6 weeks ago – they lost a house- wooden structure
- Fuel level is low and diminishing fast
- Waiting for a truck- currently have 1.4 at Nungarin BFB

Shire of Bruce Rock – Ian Dalton

- Quiet Winter
- Shackleton are waiting for the 4.4 Rural to replace their broadacre
 - Phil Hay mentioned these are still in the tender phase.



GREAT EASTERN DISTRICT OPERATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

11 Reports from DFES – Phil Hay – DO Avon

- New Regional Duty Coordinator phone number – 1800 966 077 – this is not a public number – Incident number only
- Will include flyer with minutes
- \$350,000 has been spent on townsite mitigation
- Chiefs, if you have concerns about areas in your townsites that may need some mitigation, please advise DFES as we can help with this.
- Interested to know how many Shires have had contact with their DFES managers in past 2 months – Contact confirmed from Traying, Mt Marshall and Yilgarn
- Season outlook shows drought stress

12 Late Items

- Ron Burro – Goldfields Midlands Directory – He is still using the 2014/15 directory as they haven't received an updated one. – Andrae Moore advised tis is on her list of tasks in next month or so.
- Please advise DFES how many copies your shire require, and the managers will be delivering them for you as soon as possible.
- Ron Burro – Firebreaks by Corporates – biggest offender for not doing them is the WA Railways. They haven't done any, yet they are allowed to rail grind.
- Wayne Della Bosca noted that there is a shire that has fined WA Railways for this and WA Railways are now busily doing breaks in that shire area.
- The land is leased to arc Infrastructure and therefore they can be served notices. This will mean they have to implement the notice.
- AVBFB has met with them and they are aware of the concerns – They have said they will be starting breaks/ spraying/ grading soon

Meeting closed 1425hrs

Date for the next Merredin DOAC is Monday March 9th 2020. This will be the AGM and the election of Officers.

To be held at the Merredin Volunteer Fire and Rescue Building.