



GREAT EASTERN DISTRICT OPERATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES **DRAFT**

Merredin Volunteer Fire and Rescue Station Monday 11th March, 2019

The meeting was declared open at 1230 hours by the
A/Chairman, Murray Dixon

1 Record of Attendance

Wayne	Della Bosca	Chair (Late arrival)	Shire of Yilgarn
Torben	Bendtsen	Executive Officer	DFES
Tracy	McBride	Minutes Secretary	DFES
Julie	Flockart	Representative	Shire of Merredin
John	Flockart	DCBFCO	Shire of Merredin
Kellie	Bartley	DCEO	Shire of Merredin
Stephen	Crook	CBFCO	Shire of Merredin
Kim	Friis	Ranger	Shire of Merredin
Murray	Dixon	CBFCO	Shire of Narembeen
Peter	Barnes	DCBFCO	Shire of Trayning
Phil	Smith	CBFCO	Shire of Mukinbudin
Alan	O'Toole	DCEO	Shire of Bruce Rock
Simon	Bell	A/CESM Kellerberrin/Tammin	Shire of Kellerberrin/Tammin
Geoff	Ryan	FCO	Shire of Kellerberrin
Jack	Walker	Regulatory Officer	Shire of Mt Marshall
Dirk	Sellenger	CEO	Shire of Mukinbudin
Damian	Tomas	CBFCO	Shire of Mt Marshall
Jamie	Criddle	CEO	Shire of Westonia
Ron	Burro	CBFCO	Shire of Yilgarn
Dave	Gossage	President	AVBFB
Greg	Durrell	Regional Manager	DBCA P&W Service
Antony	Sadler	Superintendent	DFES
Justin	Corrigan	Area Officer Lower W/Belt	DFES
Phillip	Hay	Incoming DO Avon	DFES
Tyron	McMahon	A/Area Officer Upper Wheatbelt	DFES
Stuart	Parks	A/Area Officer Central Wheatbelt	DFES

Apologies

Graeme	Keals		DBCA P&W Service
Ian	Dalton	CBFCO	Shire of Bruce Rock
Frank	Corsini	CBFCO	Shire of Westonia



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2 Agenda Item – Operational Fleet Project, CS Brad Delavale

Overview of project

- Previous project Future Fleet lacked communication, methodology and governance giving a negative view, hence change to new Operational Fleet Project
- Google search “operational fleet” comes up in top options
- PAT teams continue past the end of project to ensure continual improvements
- 2.4B – not a lot of call for this appliance
- Be pro-active in fleet requests
- Training - have been given agreement to get a better delivery method of training.
- Compressed Air Foam Systems are considered

Power point attached.

3 Confirmation of Previous Minutes

That the minutes of the meeting held on Monday the 10th September, 2018 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Phil Smith

Seconded: Murray Dixon

All in Favour

4 Business Arising from Previous Minutes - nil

5 Action List

5.1 Terms of Reference – motion that the proposed changes to the Terms of Reference be adopted.

Moved – Phil Smith

Seconded – Murray Dixon

All in favour

6 Correspondence

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

All correspondence accepted, all in favour.



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7 **Agenda Item**

7.1 Bushfire Operations Committee Report – Murray Dixon

- 17 members representing DOAC/ROAC/DFES/WALGA
- Will represent issues across the spectrum from fleet to legislative concerns
- Initial test case – large farmers/mining not attending to their fires
- Asking for recommendations from DOAC/ROAC's to push up to BOC
- Terms of Reference are still in draft, shall circulate when available.

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

Submitted notes attached.

- Acknowledge Brad Delavale and Jon Kirk in the Operational Fleet area, doing a fabulous job
- Volunteer conference – let us know if you would like to put forward any topics
- ESL – Insurance is an eligible item for new vehicles, DFES doesn't approve applications, ensure vehicles are added to "capital" form
- COE – training will be available to anyone not just volunteer members, Pathways is dead for BFB's
- New training system due approx. April

9 **P & W Report – Greg Durell**

- Draft Regional Management Plan released, comment via link on DBCA website
- Operational funding received
- Chopper rolling in Yellowdine and Marvel Lock area
- 120km fire access track upgrade – Bonnie Rock
- 6 planned burns – mostly Yilgarn area
- 1 specie recovery Mollerin Reserve
- dry summer will impact burn program

Comment – Wayne – breaks created by chaining on edge of reserve had a very effective outcome for fire recently

10 **Local Government Reports**

Shire of Merredin – Stephen Crook

- lightning causing interesting incidents – not faced before
- all vehicles operated well
- Battery issue with the 4.4
- Repeater went down during harvest – commarine attended
- Issues with basic training needs still ongoing – large amount of seasonal workers through shire

Q – Kim Friis - Crown land funding? Can DFES look at extra/additional funding?



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Westonia – Jamie Criddle

- Corporate issues, 24% of Shire owned by corporate business and increasing
- Training of transient people
- Appliance – not quite fit for purpose looking at changing request
- Lightning strikes

Mt Marshall – Damian Tomas

- 9 Lightning strikes through Nov-Feb
- Various TFB's and HVM bans
- Aaims course completed
- PPE – trying hard to encourage 1st responders to wear PPE – ACT requires “appropriate” attire, sturdy boots and long garments
- Power outage – lost all telephones/communications again

Comment-put pressure on Telstra

Dave Gossage-suggests resolution to write to Telstra and ask what their Emergency Management Procedures are, more pressure from variety of groups the better

Shire of Mukinbudin – Phil Smith

- Quiet
- Bonnie Rock truck attended header fire
- Mukinbudin truck turned out to false alarm

Shire of Yilgarn – Ron Burro

- Fuel loads different in areas of shire
- Justin held a successful FCO course
- 9 fires – 1 harvester, 2 had potential for being catastrophic
- Railways – don't seem to have to abide by firebreak order? We need to be uniform across the board
- Local Governments should be encouraging brigades to go outside areas, Bodalin truck was sent, still have not heard when it's coming back after a plethora of breakdowns that required maintenance.
- Change out of appliances for modifications being carried out during inappropriate times.

Shire of Kellerberrin – Geoff Ryan

- Doodlakine was sent on deployments, repairs needed and completed but need a quicker repair process
- Lightning strikes
- Windrow lighting along highway – advise Comcen to avoid 000 calls
- Using “Whats App”

Questions – Dave Gossage – do trucks get replaced when borrowed?

Answer – Torben – when we can

Question – standby fleet availability? Dave – working on standby fleet for BFB



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Shire of Trayning – Dylan Tarr

- Lots of variety in call outs

Shire of Narembeen – Murray Dixon

- Lightning strikes
- VFES has been created, great BFB interest, bringing young people back to town
- Experience issues with large conglomerates

Shire of Bruce Rock – Ian Dalton

- Had large fire on the 28th December including aide from outside Shires and P&W Service

11 Reports from DFES

Antony Sadler – Superintendent

- Thank you for invitation to attend
- Will try to get around to all Local Governments over the next 12 months
- Staff turnover – acknowledged Torben's long dedication to the region and welcomed Phil Hay to his position.
- Planning going forward is BFB capability in the Goldfields
- Thank you to Wheatbelt brigades for all their assistance in recent months, was integral to the operations.
- Volunteer Management Support Officer (VMSO) role introduced – Tracy will be in this role and will make contact with everyone in due course
- Stuart Parks – AO Central Wheatbelt
- Wellness visits currently running this week, all welcome to attend

12 Late Items

- Fire breaks – try to get feedback to bring back to the next meeting, corporate focus is more cropping, less stock, higher fuel loads.

Action – for members to bring back information to next meeting in regards to streamlining firebreak orders.

- Wayne Della Bosca – thank you to Torben for the many years of support including in the training area
- Dave Gossage – re-introducing the Peer Support Program
- Murray Dixon attendance at Corporate Meeting – issues with training, not turning out to assist, some LG's put HVM ban on so they are required to cease operations, Fire Management Plans, Mining ERT-MOU for firefighting, setting fuel loading for different vegetation's sets up Legislative options COMMENT – LG's can re-cover costs through court, can set charges for appliances through rates.
- Mt Marshal – TFB – Westonia/Mt Marshal were not notified, notification process was not fulfilled. COMMENT – Tyron McMahan – can set up SMS messaging groups through the new Telstra Integrated Messaging Service (TIMS) to improve notification process. All agreed.
- Torben Bendtsen – a general thankyou to all involved over his many years.



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- Damian Tomas – general comment – Hobby farmers down south believe ESL equals a paid fire service, education is required across the board, through Fire Break Notice? Orders and requisitions?

Meeting closed 1440hrs

**Date for the next Merredin DOAC is Monday September 9th 2019
To be held at the Merredin Volunteer Fire and Rescue Building.**