



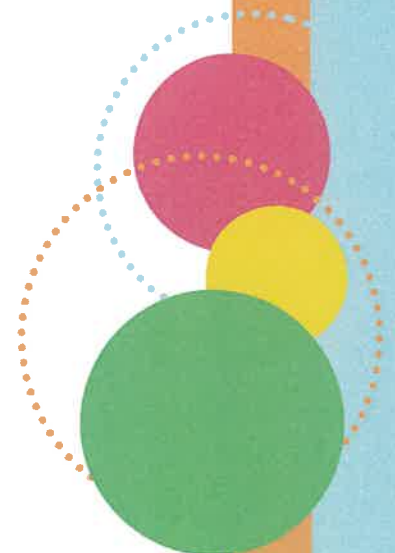
# MINUTES

## Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting

Held on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2025 at 7:00pm**  
Shire of Brookton Council Chamber  
14 White Street, Brookton

These minutes were confirmed by Bushfire Advisory Committee as true and correct record of proceedings by the Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting held on **31 / 3 / 26**

Presiding Member: *[Signature]* ..... Date: **31 march 2026**



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## 1.08.25 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ATTENDANCE

The Presiding Member Cr de Lange opened the meeting at 7:04pm and welcomed Councillors, Committee members and Staff.

On behalf of Council, I would like to acknowledge that this meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the Nyoongar People and pay respect to all Elders, past, present, and emerging. I wish to acknowledge and respect local people's continuing culture and the contribution they make to Country and its life.

### Elected Members (Voting)

Cr T de Lange Deputy President

Cr L McCabe

### Committee Members (Voting)

Travis Eva Chief Bushfire Control Officer

Blair Montague Central Brigade

Ashley Hobbs Central Brigade

Bevan Walters East Brigade

Len Simmons West Brigade

Tim Evans Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer

Cullem Pech West Brigade

Murray Hall Central Brigade

### Staff (Non-Voting)

Gary Sherry Chief Executive Officer

Sandie Spencer Executive Governance Officer

Jennie Mason Governance Officer

Roger Northey Acting Community Emergency Services Manager

### Other Agencies

Ben Davies Department of Fire and Emergency Services Area Officer

Stacey Sinclair Department of Fire and Emergency Services – District Officer  
Emergency Manager

Susan Wettenhall Department of Fire and Emergency Services - VMSO

### Apologies

Scott Atkins Brookton Volunteer Fire Rescue Service

Brad Bassett Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer

## 2.08.25 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

### **BFAC 08.25-01**

#### **BFAC RESOLUTION**

**MOVED T Eva**

**SECONDED Cr McCabe**

*That the Minutes of the Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting held in the West Brookton Fire Shed, on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.*

**CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE**

## 3.08.25 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

## 4.08.25. BFAC RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SHIRE OF BROOKTON

Nil.

### 4.08.25.01 2025/26 FIRE BREAK NOTICE

Under section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* (BF Act), Local Governments can require landowners and occupiers to maintain fire-breaks in a Fire Break Notice to residents and landowners. Fire-break notices can be issued in two ways:

- Directly to individual owners or occupiers, or
- Publicly, by publishing the notice in the *Government Gazette* and a local newspaper.

#### **Content of Fire-Break Notices**

The format and scope of fire-break notices differ across Local Governments.

- Some notices are limited to the requirements of section 33 only.
- Others also include information about other provisions of the BF Act, the *Bush Fires Regulations 1954*, and general bushfire preparedness advice.

#### **Previous Approach – Shire of Brookton**

In past years, the Shire of Brookton’s Fire-Break Notice included additional requirements such as:

- Restrictions on the use of mowers in December and January.
- Requirements for properties to have firefighting units.
- A requirement for firefighting units to be present in paddocks during harvest.

These requirements were considered enforceable by the Shire but, in practice, were most likely not enforceable under the Act. The Shire will adopt a compliant Fire-Break Order at its September meeting.

#### **Adjusted Fire-Break Notice (2024/25)**

An updated, compliant Fire-Break Notice is included below. Changes are shown as:

- **Additions** – in red
- **Deletions** – struck out

The revised Notice addresses only section 33 fire-break requirements. Other compliance issues will instead be separately considered by the BFAC through a separate recommendation to Council.

### **Bushfire Management Plans and Section 33**

Local Governments may also require ongoing compliance with a Bushfire Management Plan (BMP) as a condition of development approval under the *Planning and Development Act 2005*. Previously, Shire staff believed that compliance with a BMP overrode Section 33 fire-break requirements. However, DFES advice confirms that Fire-Break Notices apply to all landowners, even if they already have a BMP in place.

### **Communication with Landowners**

The Shire of Brookton notifies residents of the annual Fire-Break Notice by mail-out in late September. This mail-out will continue to include:

- The Fire-Break Notice itself;
- Any Fire Prevention Requirement Notices adopted by Council; and
- Advisory information for landowners and residents on topics:
  - Restricted and prohibited burning periods
  - Harvest and vehicle movement bans
  - The Shire SMS service
  - Burning permits
  - Fire danger ratings
  - Contact details of Fire Control Officers (FCOs)

#### *2025/26 Shire of Brookton Fire Break Order*

*Pursuant to section 33(1) of the Bush Fires Act 1954, the Shire of Brookton gives notice that the owners and/or occupiers of land within the district are required to undertake the following works on land owned or occupied by them –*

#### TOWNSITE LAND

*PROPERTIES EQUAL TO OR LESS THAN 2,023m<sup>2</sup> IN SIZE. Are required to be fire hazard reduced by:*

- *Reduction of the vegetation fire hazard to a maximum height of 75mm. All slashed material is to be removed.*

*PROPERTIES OVER 2,023m<sup>2</sup> IN SIZE. Are required to be fire hazard reduced by:*

- *Construction and maintenance of a 3m wide minimum bare earth unobstructed trafficable firebreak within 3m of the property boundaries (footpaths and roads or road verges are not to be accepted as firebreaks); or*
- *Reduction of the vegetation fire hazard to a maximum height of 75mm including the removal of slashed material, unless an exemption is granted by the Chief Executive Officer in consultation with the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and VFRS Captain.*

#### RURAL LAND

*PROPERTIES EQUAL TO OR LESS THAN 100 HECTARES IN SIZE. Are required to be fire hazard reduced by:*

- *Construction and maintenance of a 3m wide minimum bare earth unobstructed trafficable firebreak within 30m of the boundary of the property.*
- ~~*Any activity that may start a fire on the property requires an operational independent mobile water filled firefighting unit with a water capacity of not less than 450 litres to be at the ready throughout the restricted and prohibited burning period. Trailer type*~~

~~units must be attached to a towing vehicle and slip on units must be attached to the tray of the vehicle in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.~~

- Construction of a 5m wide minimum bare earth unobstructed trafficable firebreak within 15m of and surrounding all buildings, sheds, fuel storage including drums and flammable chemicals, silos and fodder stacks as well as hay stacks within a shed or within 400m from any infrastructure including operational generators and stationary motors.

PROPERTIES AND AGGREGATED LAND OVER 100 HECTARES IN SIZE. Are required to be fire hazard reduced by:

- Construction of a 5m wide minimum bare earth unobstructed trafficable firebreak within 15m of and surrounding all buildings, sheds, fuel storage including drums and flammable chemicals, silos and fodder stacks as well as hay stacks within a shed or within 400m from any infrastructure including operational generators and stationary motors. Excluding seed cleaners as they are deemed part of the harvest operations.
- Hay and straw stacks in open paddock areas awaiting pickup and removal are not required to be surrounded by a firebreak.
- ~~Provision on the property of an operational independent mobile water filled firefighting unit with a water capacity of not less than 450 litres to be at the ready throughout the restricted and prohibited burning period. Any activity that may start a fire must be accompanied by a trailer type unit that must be attached to a towing vehicle and/or a slip on unit that must be attached to the tray of the vehicle in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.~~
- ~~During any period when harvesting operations are being conducted, an operational independent mobile firefighting unit must be located in the same paddock, or within 50m of the paddock and be kept full of water at all times. The responsibility to supply the firefighting unit is that of the landowner. Harvesting operations includes the use of augers and seed cleaning units, other than when used in a silo compound where surrounded by more than 15 metres cleared area.~~

## PLANTATIONS

A plantation is an area of planted trees, other than a windbreak, within the gazetted townsites exceeding 3 hectares and outside of a townsite exceeding 10 hectares.

Plantations are required to be fire hazard reduced by:

- A. **Boundary firebreaks:** a 15m clear area is required on all boundaries of plantations and along public roads. This clear area must have a minimum trafficable surface of 5m minimum of clear bare earth and a minimum vertical clearance of 4m. The remaining 10m must be maintained in a low fuel condition, i.e. Closely mowed, grazed or sprayed.
- B. **Compartment firebreaks:** internal firebreaks between compartments of up to 30 hectares must be a minimum of 6m wide and for compartments over 30 hectares a minimum of 10m wide. In all cases a 5m trafficable surface and a minimum 4m vertical clearance should be maintained to allow access by firefighting appliances.

~~C. Firefighting water supplies: must be designed and constructed to enable heavy duty firefighting equipment to access the water supply in accordance with DFES Guidelines for Plantation Fire Protection 2011 or as revised.~~

-

~~D. Firefighting equipment must be provided by the plantation owner to the minimum standards recommended in the DFES Guidelines for Plantation Fire Protection 2011 or as revised.~~

-

~~Paragraphs A to D do not apply to established plantations which have received planning approval and have an approved Fire Management Plan as part of the planning approval. Owners and managers of such plantations must comply with the conditions of their Fire Management Plan.~~

#### SLASHER AND ROTARY MOWER BAN

~~A ban applies to the use of slasher and rotary mowers from 1<sup>st</sup> December to 28<sup>th</sup> February during the hours of 6:00am to 6:00pm and from 6:00pm on the day before an extreme or above fire danger rating is forecast from Bureau of Meteorology, unless the use is:~~

- ~~• On a property within a townsite, of any size that is reticulated or;~~
- ~~• On a property outside the townsite, with the area being slashed or mowed is irrigated or reticulated and is less than 1 hectare.~~

#### *Notice Requirements*

*The requirements of this notice are to be in place for the period between 1<sup>st</sup> November 2025 to 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026 inclusive.*

#### OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the BFAC recommend that the Shire of Brookton adopt the revised Fire Break Notice.

#### **BFAC 08.25-02**

#### **BFAC RESOLUTION**

**MOVED Cr McCabe                      SECONDED T Eva**

***That the BFAC recommend that the Shire of Brookton adopt the revised Fire Break Notice.***

***CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE***

#### **4.08.25.02      FIRE PREVENTION REQUIREMENT NOTICES**

Under Section 27 of the BFA and Regulation 39A of the Bushfire Regulations a local government or a bush fire control officer may prohibit the carrying out of an activity or operation either absolutely or except in accordance with conditions specified in the notice or direction by which the prohibition is imposed or in the regulations.

These notices were previously included in the Shire of Brookton Fire Break Notice. Although no included in the formal Fire Break Notice, they will be included in the materials mailed to all landowners and occupiers.

The Shire will consider any Fire Prevention Requirement Notices at their September Meeting.

## OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the BFAC recommend that the Shire of Brookton give notice that:

1. The use of slasher and rotary mowers is prohibited:
  - a. from 1<sup>st</sup> December to 28<sup>th</sup> February during the hours of 6:00am to 6:00pm; and
  - b. from 6:00pm on the day before an extreme or above fire danger rating is forecast from Bureau of Meteorology,  
unless that use is:
    - a. on a property within a townsite, of any size that is reticulated or;
    - b. on a property outside the townsite, with the area being slashed or mowed is irrigated or reticulated and is less than 1 hectare.
2. Landowners must provide an operational, independent, mobile, water filled, firefighting unit with a water capacity of not less than 450 litres at all times on any property of aggregated land over 100 hectares in size throughout the restricted and prohibited burning period.
3. During any period when harvesting operations are being conducted:
  - a. an operational, independent, mobile firefighting unit must be located in the same paddock, or within 50m of the paddock and
  - b. that unit must be kept full of water at all times.The responsibility to supply the firefighting unit is that of the landowner. Harvesting operations includes the use of augers and seed cleaning units, other than when used in a silo compound where surrounded by more than 15 metres cleared area
4. during any operations throughout the restricted and prohibited burning period that may start a fire on any rural property of aggregated land equal to or less than 100 hectares in size, the operation must be accompanied by at least:
  - a. a trailer type fire unit attached to a towing vehicle and/or
  - b. a slip-on fire unit that must be attached to the tray of an operational vehicle in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.Operations likely to cause a fire includes, but is not limited to welding, use of an abrasive cutting disc or driving recreational vehicles through a paddock.

### **BFAC 08.25-03**

#### **BFAC RESOLUTION**

**MOVED T Evans**

**SECONDED M Hall**

***That the BFAC recommend that the Shire of Brookton give notice that:***

1. ***The use of slasher and rotary mowers is prohibited:***
  - a. ***from 1<sup>st</sup> December to 28<sup>th</sup> February during the hours of 6:00am to 6:00pm; and***
  - b. ***from 6:00pm on the day before an extreme or above fire danger rating is forecast from Bureau of Meteorology,***  
***unless that use is:***
    - c. ***on a property within a townsite, of any size that is reticulated or;***
    - d. ***on a property outside the townsite, with the area being slashed or mowed is irrigated or reticulated and is less than 1 hectare.***
2. ***Landowners must provide an operational, independent, mobile, water filled, firefighting unit with a water capacity of not less than 450 litres at all times on any***

***property of aggregated land over 100 hectares in size throughout the restricted and prohibited burning period.***

- 3. During any period when harvesting operations are being conducted:**
- a. an operational, independent, mobile firefighting unit must be located in the same paddock, or within 50m of the paddock and**
  - b. that unit must be kept full of water at all times.**
- The responsibility to supply the firefighting unit is that of the landowner. Harvesting operations includes the use of augers and seed cleaning units, other than when used in a silo compound where surrounded by more than 15 metres cleared area***
- 4. during any operations throughout the restricted and prohibited burning period that may start a fire on any rural property of aggregated land equal to or less than 100 hectares in size, the operation must be accompanied by at least:**
- a. a trailer type fire unit attached to a towing vehicle and/or**
  - b. a slip-on fire unit that must be attached to the tray of an operational vehicle in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.**
- Operations likely to cause a fire includes, but is not limited to welding, use of an abrasive cutting disc or driving recreational vehicles though a paddock.***

**CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE**

#### **4.08.25.03 APPOINTMENT OF DUAL FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS**

The following are proposed appointment of Dual Fire Control Officers for the 2025/26 fire season. The Shire will make these appointments at their September Meeting.

Shire of Wandering	Graham Treasure, Anthony Turton
Shire of Pingelly	Rodney Shaddick, Sam MacNamara, Brodie Cunningham, Jeffrey Edwards, Robert Lee, Richard Campbell, Adam Watts.
Shire of Corrigin	Greg Evans, Braden Grylls

#### **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION**

That the BFAC recommend that the Shire of Brookton accept the following appointments of Dual Fire Control Officers for the 2025/26 fire season.

Shire of Wandering	Graham Treasure, Anthony Turton
Shire of Pingelly	Rodney Shaddick, Sam MacNamara, Brodie Cunningham, Jeffrey Edwards, Robert Lee, Richard Campbell, Adam Watts.
Shire of Corrigin	Greg Evans, Braden Grylls

***That the BFAC recommend that the Shire of Brookton accept the following appointments of Dual Fire Control Officers for the 2025/26 fire season.***

<b><i>Shire of Wandering</i></b>	<b><i>Graham Treasure, Anthony Turton</i></b>
<b><i>Shire of Pingelly</i></b>	<b><i>Rodney Shaddick, Sam MacNamara, Brodie Cunningham, Jeffrey Edwards, Robert Lee, Richard Campbell, Adam Watts.</i></b>
<b><i>Shire of Corrigin</i></b>	<b><i>Greg Evans, Braden Grylls</i></b>

**CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE**

## **5.08.25 GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **4.08.25.01 COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICES MANAGER**

Mr Jason Carrall, the Community Emergency Services Manager, employed to provide services to the Shires of Brookton, Corrigin and Pingelly, remains on extended leave. At this time a date for a return to work is not known.

In the interim the Shire has employed Mr Roger Northey from Kondinin as Acting CESM. Roger is currently the Shire of Kondinin's Deputy CBFCO and Captain of the Kondinin VFRS. Roger has recently acted in the CESM role for the Shire's of Lake Grace, Dumbleyung and Wagin.

It is a condition of the CESM funding arrangements that the appointed CESM is appointed as a Fire Control Officer. Roger will be recommended to Council for appointment as a Fire Control Officer at the September 2025 Meeting.

Roger is contactable at:

- Jason Carrall's phone number of 0448 494 027;
- [Roger.northey@brookton.wa.gov.au](mailto:Roger.northey@brookton.wa.gov.au); and
- [Roger.northey@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:Roger.northey@dfes.wa.gov.au).

### **5.08.25.02 FCO TRAINING**

The March 2025 BFAC Meeting the recommended that Council make the following Fire Control Officer appointments for the 2025/26 fire season, subject to that all nominees satisfy the completion of the Fire Control Officer course.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Nominee(s)</b>
FCO's – Central Brigade	Blair Montague, Anton de Lange, Troy Bassett, Brad Bassett, Andrew Pike, Ashley Hobbs, Murray Hall, Neville Messenger.
FCO's – East Brigade	Bevan Walters, Travis Eva, Darrell Turner, Michael Eva, Jarrad Turner
FCO's – West Brigade	Tim Evans, Mark Whittington, Len Simmons, Ross Evans, Tristan Guinness and Toby Blechynden.

To date Council has only appointed as FCO's:

Position	Nominee(s)
FCO's – Central Brigade	Anton de Lange, Troy Bassett, Brad Bassett, Murray Hall
FCO's – East Brigade	Bevan Walters, Travis Eva, Darrell Turner, Michael Eva, Jarrad Turner
FCO's – West Brigade	Tim Evans, Mark Whittington.

Volunteers are able to complete an FCO Course to be held in Brookton at 9am on 24 September 2025.

The Shire CEO and Jennie Mason will also be appointed Fire Control Officers, once FCO training is completed, with limits on their appointment to only conduct Fire Break inspections and other Bush Fire Act enforcement activities.

#### **5.08.25.03 EAST BROOKTON FIRE STATION**

Stallion Building company have planned to complete works on 25 August 2025.

The Shire of Brookton will complete car park works in September 2025. A date is not yet planned for this.

A formal opening of the Shed will be planned for early October. Invites will be provided to Minister for Emergency Services, DFES, local brigades representatives, Shire Councillors and community members.

Update: Final inspection with builder on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2025.

#### **5.08.25.04 FIRE VEHICLE MAINTENANCE**

During July the Shire had all fire tenders serviced by Frontline Fire & Rescue Equipment in Malaga.

The Shire received comprehensive inspection and maintenance reports, that have been circulated to Brigade leaders.

Feedback on this process would be appreciated.

Tim thanks for clear communication when trucks leaving and returning.

#### **5.08.25.05 FIRE DANGER RATINGS FORECAST IN REGARDS TO PERMITS AND BURNING**

The Fire Danger Rating was "High" on the days forecast, however, that evening, it was checked by a different party and interpreted as "Moderate", they then undertook burning ?

Based on the Information below, The Fire Danger Rating will not change during the forecasted period. It is valid for the 24 hour period. This may have happened due to a misinterpretation when viewing the FDRs. Information below;

#### **Forecasts**

Fire Danger Forecasts can be found below,

[Fire Danger Ratings Fire Weather District view:](http://www.bom.gov.au/wa/forecasts/fire-danger-ratings.shtml)

<http://www.bom.gov.au/wa/forecasts/fire-danger-ratings.shtml>

This is the Fire Weather District

### Fire Danger Ratings Sub-Districts:

<http://bom.gov.au/wa/forecasts/fire-southwest.shtml>

This is for the Sub-Fire Weather Districts as well as details breakdowns of FBIs

### Emergency WA (FDRs)

<https://www.emergency.wa.gov.au/fire-danger-ratings?view=both>

\*Please refer to these sites, as some other websites may issue incorrect data or not specify correct times and dates etc.

### **Changes in FDRs during the day**

With regards to FDR changing on the site, the FDR for that 24-hour period is issued at 4am and will not change in terms of Forecast for the whole day, however, the days being displayed on the BOM website will. These Day changes happen at 4pm daily.

To clarify at 4am the Fire Danger Ratings will be issued, and at 4pm the current day drops off and tomorrow is displayed as the “primary/current” day.

This may be what has caused confusion, for a visual example:

#### **At 3pm on the 1/1/25:**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
High	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

#### **At 5pm on the 1/1/25:**

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate

### **Historical Data:**

Historical Data is not available on a website but can be requested, if required. I understand this causes issues, as everyone who checks after 4pm will not see the current days data. I would encourage you to make a condition on the Permits to check the FDR prior to 4pm on the day of planned burning.

### **Fire Weather Officers**

The only way around burning on a high fire danger day is to have a gazetted FWO, however, this comes with risk. The FWO needs to ensure they understand the risk and make sure conditions are in place to ensure that it is in fact safe to burn on that given day, there is also responsibility that sits with the permit holder to take extra care and adhere to all conditions. I can provide some more details around FWOs if required.

### **Key Points of Discussion**

- The FDR forecast will not change once released.
- While the BOM website updates the FDR to the next day’s forecast at 4pm, the Emergency WA website and App provide the current day’s FDR, the next day’s FDR and the day after’s FDR.
- If you are using the BOM website it is advisable for people to check prior to 4pm on the BOM website on the day of planned burning. If someone is planning to burn after 4pm, they should take a screenshot of the current forecast for reference.
- While the FWOs may wish to allow the issue of a replacement permit if they believe that the weather conditions are now suitable, this process is lengthy for the FWO with each individual permit required to be re-issued.

## **6.08.25 REPORTS**

### **6.08.25.01 CHIEF BUSHFIRE CONTROL OFFICER – TRAVIS EVA**

- Welcome to Roger as Acting CESM.
- Travis asked about the results of the investigating into the purchase of a Turret Engineering foot valve. This equipment allows the pumping of water from very shallow dams/streams.

Roger Northey advised that the current smallest, operational device is too expensive and unlikely to be purchased through the ESL. The Shire is able to make application and can do so. Turret Engineering are continuing to redevelop their design to make smaller devices, more suitable for firefighting uses rather than large scale mining applications. At the time that a smaller, more suitable design is manufactured, the device will become easier to purchase under LGGS. Roger is in Boddington next week and will discuss with Turret Engineering.

### **6.08.25.02 DEPUTY CHIEF BUSHFIRE CONTROL OFFICER – TIM EVANS**

Nil.

### **6.08.25.03 WEST BRIGADE – CAPTAIN: TIM EVANS**

- There is a growing concern about the current width of Williams Road, which appears inadequate for safe two-way traffic over the section from the edge of the forest reserve to the Caravan Park gate. There is a noticeable increase in traffic volume accessing the Caravan Park. In the event of a fire emergency on this limited width section of road, there is likely to be conflict between large caravans evacuating the premises needing to pass oncoming emergency vehicles. A review of the road's capacity and consideration for widening or implementing traffic management solutions is strongly recommended to address these safety concerns.

### **6.08.25.04 CENTRAL BRIGADE – CAPTAIN: BLAIR MONTAGUE**

- Central assisted with the fire mitigation work at rubbish site.
- Small fire on Copping's property.
- Large fire at Happy Valley.
- White's property fire – trouble with getting crews to attend. Please acknowledge if you are attending.
- Blair resigning in March.

### **6.08.25.05 EAST BRIGADE – BEVAN WALTERS**

- Nil.

## Pre-Season Forums

Date:	Location:	Time:
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	Brookton – Eva Pavillion	TBA - Afternoon (Lunch Provided)
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	Woodanilling Sports Complex	TBA - Afternoon (Lunch Provided)
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	Hyden Sports Complex	TBA - Afternoon (Lunch Provided)

The Upper Great Southern Region will be holding 3 Pre-Season Planning Forums ahead of the 2025/2026 High Threat Bushfire Period. These events will include important presentations from different areas, all relative to the upcoming season. **We are currently still planning and as well as organising the finer details, so still confirming times, and presenters etc. With official invites coming out soon.** However, we are looking at including the following information on:

- Seasonal Outlook
- Regional Duty Coordinator Role
- Transfer of Control (LG to DFES, LG to DBCA)
- Aviation Services and Grain Harvest Strategy
- Australian Warning System and Public Information
- ComCen and Incident Communication
- State Operational Support Fleet (High Season) Allocations

## Incident Information, Communication and Sit-Reps

### Information Flow

Ensuring that Sitreps and Incident information are being communicated to the DFES Comcen as soon as possible when arriving at an incident, the Regional Duty Coordinator is responsible for monitoring the whole region, they can then allocate resources to assist you. The quicker they get information, they are better informed and we can ensure you are being supported and resources appropriately.

\*Controlling Agencies are to provide incident information to the DFES Comcen, As it is a requirement as per the State Hazard Plan - Fire



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Fire & Emergency Services



### Sitreps

**PAFTACS** is an acronym that we can use to provide information about a fire.

**Position:** Position of the Fire (Is the address accurate), Where is it heading?, Is there Property under threat?

**Area:** Fire Size

**Fuel Type:** What's burning - Is it in Standing Wheat crop?, is it in stubble?

**Time to Control:** Have you got it under control?, if not how long will it take you? (if known)

**Assistance Required:** Further trucks? Air Support?, Machinery? a Bushfire Liaison Officer?

**Command/Control:** Who is in charge of the fire?, Any sectors?, Radio Channel?

**Safety and Winds:** Any Safety issues, Powerlines done?, wind change?, wind strength and Direction?

### Establishing Control

One of the key themes out of a few debriefs, have been around establishing control at fires and when to start delegating roles. One process that some Shires are implementing is the "Two tanks rule" for FCO's and Firefighters.

#### The "Two Tank Rule"

If an FCO is having to leave the fire ground to fill their fire unit up for the second time and the fire is still not contained or controlled, that FCO should then step back and assume the role of an Incident Controller and start delegating some tasks. This rule should also be communicated to Firefighters, and other Farm Response, If they need to fill up twice, they start looking for the FCO for guidance and assistances.

Some actions the Fire Control Officers should undertake or consider after needing to employ the "Two Tank Rule":

- Communicate who is the Incident Controller (Who is in charge) to the Fire Ground and Comcen. Can use Tabards and Vehicle magnets for this purpose. Use the Fire Ground Channel/WhatsApp.
- Provide a sitrep to Comcen
- Consider if the current resources are enough for the fire
- Consider asking DFES RDC for aircraft or a Bushfire Liaison Officer
- Consider Sectorising the Fire
- Consider issuing Public Information
- Consider contacting Shire for Machinery and Water Carts

### Public Information and Warnings

#### Emergency WA

Use Emergency WA as your source of Truth for Incident Information. Stay up to date with [Emergency WA](#), they also have a new Emergency WA App now available on IOS and Android devices. Allowing you to stay up to date with real-life live data and updates. You are able to set watch zones and receive updates if an incident occurs nearby. Refer the community to Emergency WA for Information.

**As Incident Controllers we need to start feeding Incident Information up and issuing appropriate alerts and Warnings to support this.**



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Department of **Fire & Emergency Services**



**Bush Fire Advisory Committee**  
**Department of Fire and Emergency Services**  
*Upper Great Southern Officers Report*

**Alerts and Warnings**

As the Public and the Community are watching Emergency WA, social media, news and other Platforms more and more, it's becoming increasingly important that we are issuing the appropriate alerts and warnings when in charge of an incident.

During the response to an incident, the responsibility for management of public information remains with the Controlling Agency. The Incident Controller is responsible for authorising and issuing alerts and warnings related to a fire, this includes authorising the release of information to the broader public and to those directly affected by the incident.

For incidents where smoke or fire is going to impact or affect the public we need to start thinking about issuing alerts and warnings. **Being proactive with alerts and warnings can save lives.** It is also a **State Strategic Control Priority – Community Warnings and Information**

We use 3 Warning levels, which is a National approach, details below:

Bushfire Alerts and Warnings	
Warning Level	When to Issue Warning
<b>ADVICE</b>	There is an active incident in the area. There is no immediate danger. The Community needs to stay up to date in case the situation changes.
<b>WATCH AND ACT</b>	There is a possible threat to lives and homes. The Community needs to take actions now to stay safe.
<b>EMERGENCY WARNING</b>	There is an immediate threat to lives and homes. The Community is in danger and need to take immediate action.

**Issuing Alerts and Warnings**

As the Controlling Agency and Incident Controller, you are responsible for Public Information. This is done via the DFES Coordinator Public Information.

There is a Flow chart available to assist you with Issuing Alerts and Warnings. If in doubt you can call the DFES Public Information Line or the DFES RDC for advice or assistance.

A Bushfire Trigger Point Flow Chart Document is available [here](#)

How to Issue Bushfire Alerts and Warnings		
Issuing Bushfire <b>Advices</b> , <b>Watch and Acts</b> and <b>Emergency Warnings</b>		
Contact	Number	Actions
<b>DFES PUBLIC INFORMATION</b>	[REDACTED]	You can call DFES Public Information and they will be able to talk through which warning. It would be advantageous to know what warning you requires and the "Boundaries", these can be roads, waterways etc.

**Transfer of Control**

As per Bushfires Act 1954 and State Hazard Plan – Fire, **Local Government is the Controlling Agency for all Fires outside of the Gazetted Fire District.**

In some circumstances the Controlling Agency of an incident can be transferred to another agency.



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**Department of Fire and Emergency Services**  
*Upper Great Southern Officers Report*

### Reasons for Transferring Control

For bushfires, circumstances that may trigger a change of Controlling Agency include:

- At the request of the Current Controlling Agency
- Beyond the capacity of the Controlling Agency
- Level 3 incident
- Complexity of the incident / multiple hazards
- Multiple local government areas
- DFES Officer authorised under section 13 of the Bush Fires Act 1954

### LG to DFES

Transfer of control to DFES can only occur under a Section 13 of the Bushfires Act 1954 which requires authorisation at State Level by the Duty Assistant Commissioner (DAC).

#### The process involves:

1. Incident must be recorded (000), Incident sitrep and up to date details of incident provided to ComCen
2. The Current Incident Controller can request a DFES Bushfire Liaison Officer attend for support, if rapidly escalating incident and potential for a Level 2 Incident or if a Change of Control is going to be requested.
3. The Local Government CEO/CBFCO or the Incident Controller contacts the DFES RDC and requests a Transfer of Control (s13). A DFES BFLO at the incident can assist with this request and may speed up the process.
4. The RDC then puts request through the correct chain to the State Level.
5. The Change in Controlling Agency/s13 is accepted or declined by the Duty Assistant Commissioner, Controlling Agency advised of outcome.

**During this time Local Government retains control of this incident.** It is important to appreciate that a transfer of control will not happen following every request; there are a range of reasons why a Section 13 may not be issued.

### LG to DBCA

Transfer of control to DBCA can occur under a Section 45 of the Bushfires Act 1954. Generally, if the fire involves DBCA Tenure. The Current Incident controller can contact the DBCA Duty Officer or the DFES RDC who can assist in facilitating this. **Please note – This Process is between DBCA and LG, however, Comcen need to be made aware of this.**

### Fires on UCL/UMR and DBCA Tenure

There were a few instances where fires were not actioned last season due to Brigades not knowing whose land it is, ie. being in a reserve or near DBCA land, Under the Bushfires Act 1954, The Bushfire Brigade can enter the tenure and/or property to prevent the spread of fire as long as they are taking due care and informing the property owners of attendance.

### 4.14 Controlling Agencies

Controlling Agencies for fire suppression are determined by their area of responsibility in accordance with Western Australian legislation.

Where the response requirements exceed the owners and/or occupier's capabilities, the relevant Controlling Agency takes control in accordance with their legislative responsibilities.

Table 2: Initial controlling agencies

Area of responsibility	Initial Controlling Agency
Within Gazetted Fire Districts	DFES
On DBCA managed land outside Gazetted Fire Districts	DBCA
Within local government districts outside of Gazetted Fire Districts and outside DBCA managed land	Local governments



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## Asset Protection and Incidents Requiring Additional Capability

### Asset Protection

Asset Protection is the process for protecting critical infrastructure, residential property or any asset requiring protection from a fire.

Generally speaking, Asset protection is undertaken by Fire and Rescue Service / Fire and Emergency Services Crews as they have additional training and additional equipment to enable them to do different tasks.



**If we have property being impacted or about to be impacted by fire, we should be requesting Asset Protection, this can be done via the DFES Comcen or via the RDC.** If you have property in the way of a fire, Request Asset Protection and Consider Issuing Alerts and Warning via Public Information.

If in doubt, request Asset Protection. Air Support can also support this function but requires crews on the ground to support this.

**These appliances will be the responsibility of the Incident Controller once requested and at the fire.**

### Incidents requiring additional capability

As per the Bushfires Act 1954 and State Hazard Plan - Fire, all fires outside the Gazetted Fire District are the responsibility of the Local Government. Some of these fires may require additional capabilities that the Local Government doesn't have, ie Breathing Apparatus.



Some incidents may include:

- Header fires
- Car fires
- House/Structure fires
- Rubbish Fires

The Incident controller can request Fire and Rescue Service / Fire and Emergency Crews attend an incident if additional capabilities is required. Please note that this doesn't always occur at time of dispatch as it is not automatic.

**Fire Crews will require a minimum of two Brigades if they are using Breathing Apparatus, for safety.** These appliances/resources will be the responsibility of the Incident Controller once requested and at the fire.



## DFES Bushfire Liaison Officer

The RDC may consider deploying a DFES Officer (Bushfire Liaison Officer – Section 12 & 13 Bushfire Act 1954) for the following:

- If the IC / controlling agency requests the presence of a DFES Officer
- The incident has potential to escalate to Level 2.
- Significant resources are deployed
- No communication established/PAFTACS/Sitrep received from IC within 1 hour of arrival to incident.
- Significant assets or private property is under threat.
- There are injuries or fatalities to responding crews.
- When there is possible impact on critical infrastructure.
- Significant road closure which results in disruption to traffic movement.

**Note:** On arrival the attending DFES Officer will:

- Liaise with the IC to develop and provide a situation report
- Provide advice, support and assistance as required including identifying risks, and necessary actions.
- It may be necessary to provide advice to Local Government concerning the process for transferring control of the incident to DFES or DBCA (Section 13 and 45A Bushfires Act 1954)

## DFES Support for BFBs/LGs

### Regional Duty Coordinator

The DFES Regional Duty Coordinator is responsible for monitoring the whole region and ensuring fires are being supported. The Regional Duty Coordinator reviews the Regions Risk twice a week. They are responsible for putting people on call, and standing up resources on High risk days.

If you have an incident, it is important to push information to Comcen so that the RDC has some overview to assist you.

### Other Support Available

Support/Request:	Who to Contact:
Air Support	Comcen or RDC
Alerts and Warnings	Public Information
Incident Weather Forecasts	Comcen or RDC
Fire Predictions	RDC
Additional Resources	Comcen or RDC
Bushfire Liaison Officer	Comcen or RDC
Mobilising Regional Starlink or Mobile WAERN repeater	RDC
Machinery	LG 1st, Then RDC

## Requesting Aviation Services / Air Support

It is important to paint a picture of the incident and push information up to the DFES Comcen. This is where those initial sitreps are important. As we can start mobilising resources early.

As these resources cover the whole state, we are unable to have them at every incident. When requesting Air support there are set Criteria. One or more of these criteria should be met. This allows the state the ability to mobilise and prioritising Air Support requests.

### Criteria for requesting:

- Public safety at risk
- Fire crews in imminent Danger
- Assets at imminent risk
- Known high fuel loads and excessive rate of Spread or Extreme FBI

### Air Support requests can be made to:

- Comcen during a Sitrep or Incident Update
- Direct to the Regional Duty Coordinator

### When requesting Air Support, ComCen or RDC will request the following information:

- Incident
- Incident Controller/ Requestor
- Criteria for Requesting (above)
- Ground Controller

## Requesting Machinery

DFES personnel **may** supply contract machinery, resources or supplies to Local Governments (LGs) for bushfire response in the following circumstances have been met:

- The LG has sought approval from the RDC for funding approval **PRIOR** to sourcing resources.
- The LG has exhausted its appropriate, available and deployable resources;
- The LG is unable to sustain the costs associated with the procurement of specific equipment, resources, supplies or contractors; and/or
- The LG has notified DFES of the incident, an incident created in CAD;
- The size, nature and risk of the incident justify the expenditure.

CBFCO / DCBFO / ICs to use the **DFES/DFES Contract Machinery Log Book** to keep track of machinery hours and use. Recommend using same form when tracking cost for LG contract machinery to assist LG with financial accountability.



### **The State Hazard Plan – Fire (Update)**

The State Hazard Plan - Fire provides an overview of arrangements for the management of fire in Western Australia (WA) and contains information on fire prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. The State Hazard Plan has now been reviewed, updated and republished (21<sup>st</sup> August 2025). State Hazard Plan - Fire can be found here: [https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2025-08/shp\\_fire\\_v3.00.pdf](https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2025-08/shp_fire_v3.00.pdf)

A Comprehensive Review Summary can be found here: <https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2025-08/shp-fire-review-amendments-summary.pdf>

### **State Operational Support Fleet High Season Allocation**

State Operational Support Requests have been made and each DFES region gets an allocation. Once this is confirmed the LGs and Brigades receiving these appliances will be contacted. Please note that these appliances are there to support the region and may be requested to form Task Forces or for Deployments to assist other LGs/Regions. They can also be moved depending on the risk and the season. They are also there for the brigades to use and not for private/personal use.

<b>7.08.25      ACTING COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICES MANAGER (CESM)</b>
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- Working on training. Prefer more people to attend.
- Incident reporting:- working towards time efficiently.
- East Station – hand over.



# Bushfire Operations Committee Communique

**Meeting date:** Friday, 27 June 2025

**Location:** Gosnells Emergency Operations Centre, Beckenham

## CBFCO Forum 2025

*Presentation by Great Southern member Rob Lynn*

- The Chief Bush Fire Control Officers (CBFCO) forum was held over 3 days from 11 to 13 June 2025 at the Bushfire Centre of Excellence, with a similar format to the previous forum two years ago.
- Approx 70 Chiefs, their deputies or nominated members attended.
- The opportunity for deputies and up and coming volunteers to attend, was well received and provided an opportunity to enhance understanding.
- There was considerable interaction with Chiefs in the lead up to the conference to determine suitable dates and importantly to identify subjects of interest to be covered.
- Local Government/LGIS panel session demonstrated the essential role of LG's and was very well received.
- The Keynote address by David Nugent was also a highlight of the event.
- There were excellent networking opportunities throughout, encouraging collaboration and the chance to share experiences and lessons learnt.

## Level 1 PPC Washing accessibility and 4.4 Fleet Reduction

*Presentation by DFES Asset Design and Fleet Delivery Superintendent Ryan Murray*

- The Assets Operational Fleet and Facilities Feedback form has been implemented to gather input and identify issues with current operational fleet, equipment on fleet, facilities and personal protective clothing (PPC). The QR code is now up and running through the Volunteer hub. QR code stickers will be distributed to all local governments with a letter to advise of the implementation.
- Washing Machines are an LGGGS eligible item and Level 1 PPC (tunic and cargo pants) are approved for laundering on station. The difference in performance, cost and durability of domestic versus industrial washing machines was noted in discussion.
- The Fleet update included Increases to build costs, Replacement timeframes, Tanker capability updates and Tanker updates.
- Discussions included the option of LGs applying to meet criteria for certain vehicle specifications and the use of the Resource to Risk process in determining need.
- There are currently four 4.4 Tanker types with an additional four options. The cost of updating four specifications is considerable. The BOC were requested to consider the reduction of 4.4 Tanker Types, taking into consideration the cost of the Tatra is 1.5 times more expensive than the Isuzu.
- It was agreed by consensus to the removal of the 4.4 Tanker Iveco chassis type.

## AFDRS 'End of Season' Update

*Presentation by DFES Bushfire Technical Services Director Jackson Parker*

AFDRS system improvements included:

- AFDRS biannual fuel type refinement updates:
  - Integration of Crop/Pasture cover dataset from Digital Agricultural Services (DAS) for the fuel type map.
  - Refined Fuel type interpolation method implemented in Fuel State Editor – now based on dominant fuel type.
  - Model updates for Shrubland (heathland) and Malee Heath.
- Fire Danger Viewer improvements included single sign on alleviating access issues, themed menus, set up bookmarks, downloadable Meteograms (graphs), and new layers.
- Grassland observer app for mobiles allows offline observations.
- Increase to Cameras and weather stations.
- The number of observations and queries have dropped over the 3 year period suggesting less anomalies in the system with continuous enhancements.

## Volunteer medical cover - LGIS

*Item raised by BOC Deputy Chair Craig Stewart & guest attendance by Carrisa Chung LGIS representative*

- The need for clarification on volunteer medical cover for both PTSD and Cancers was raised following media reports on a volunteer who's medical was deemed to not be covered.
- Carrisa Chung the LGIS Portfolio Manager for WorkCare and Bushfire Volunteers was able to provide the following clarification on cover for Local government Bushfire Volunteers.
  - Part 6B Compensation for injury, loss or damage under Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998, s36ZM injury has the meaning given the Workers Compensation and Injury Management Act 2023.
  - Injury is either a personal injury or a disease, or the recurrence, aggravation, or acceleration of pre-existing disease. If a volunteer suffers a psychological injury (PTSD) which is proven to be arising from their activities as a brigade volunteer, it is highly probable this would be a compensable claim.
  - Presumptive PTSD for brigade volunteers presumes that all PTSD claims are related to their brigade activities. Should this occur, the remaining Australia reinsurer has indicated that they will need to review the conditions of cover including reduction in limits.
  - Presumptive disease (cancers) is listed in the Workers Compensation and Injury Management Act 2023 and Workers Compensation and Injury Management Regulations 2024. Each cancer has a corresponding qualifying period prescribed by regulations for that cancer. Each cancer has a corresponding qualifying period prescribed by regulations for that cancer.
  - To meet the eligibility criteria the claimant is required to have 5 consecutive years of attending hazardous fires during their whole of service. Hazardous fires rely upon subject matter experts to ascertain the nature of the fires attended.
  - This must also be supported by the attendance of hazardous fire report provided by DFES and local governments. Note initial reports of attendance at hazardous fires from local governments are generally limited in information and have to be

supported by DFES data. Good record keeping practices is vital as it assists with the claim management process.

- The list of presumptive diseases (cancers) is applicable to diseases contracted whilst undertaking firefighting activities in Western Australia. There is currently no precedent on presumptive cancers contracted whilst volunteering in the other States.
- For further information Carrisa can be contacted at [WorkCare@lgiswa.com.au](mailto:WorkCare@lgiswa.com.au)

## LGGS Working Group

*Presentation by BOC Deputy Chair Craig Stewart*

- The working group's LGGS interim report was circulated to the members for feedback.
- The report focuses on the five topics taken from the previous WALGA submission and audit reports. The recommendations from those reports are still current.
- Report common themes:
  - Inequities of overspend and underspend
  - The importance of the CESM role and their impact on outcomes and equity
- The final report will now be escalated through DFES to inform the LGGS reform project currently underway, noting that this is a live document and further changes will occur as required.

## Doctrine support for Local Governments

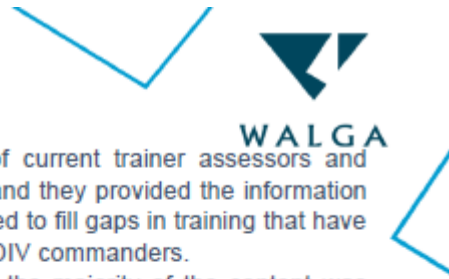
*Presentation by DFES Bushfire Centre of Excellence Chief Superintendent John Tillman*

- LG access to doctrine is currently being addressed. LG and WALGA identified an inability to access DFES doctrine, procedures and guidelines.
- At the request of LG CEOs that participated in the 2024 and 2025 WALGA Bushfire Management Roundtables, DFES Bushfire Centre of Excellence has developed a summary of doctrine relevant to LGs administering BFBs, to enable LGs to consider, adopt or adapt as local policy/procedures. This was widely supported by LG CEOs.
- The summary of DFES doctrine has been categorised as:
  - Directly relevant to LGs
  - LG to consider relevance
  - LG awareness
- The summary of DFES doctrine relevant to LGs was included with the agenda for the BOC's review.
- Th BOC endorsed the proposal to communicate the Doctrine summary to LG CEOs and facilitate access to the relevant DFES Doctrine.

## Sector Commander Training and Level 1 IC Course review

*Item raised by Metropolitan DOAC member Chris Wells*

- Information on course changes provided by DFES Learning and Development Team (CLaD)
- The new Sector Commander course is now available to volunteers. It is a full 2 day course with an additional 90min assessment for each student to be booked in post course.
- The new volunteer pathways will be implemented in the coming month to show the new courses and pre-requisites.
- The New Map Interpretation (online) (the old pre-course to Sector Commander) is available to all volunteers to be completed any time prior to Sector Commander.



- The SME group for Sector commander comprised of current trainer assessors and Operations Officers of both Fire and Natural Hazards and they provided the information and context for the package. The package was designed to fill gaps in training that have been identified at incidents by Operations Officers and DIV commanders.
- The SME group met multiple times Face to Face but the majority of the content was reviewed and compiled on a Teams site throughout the review.
- Proposed changes to volunteer pathways, pre-requisites and trainers qualifications took a lot of time to be approved and are still ongoing. The old course was still available to deliver up until the day it rolled over to the new course. Some regions chose to not teach the old one due to the aged content and instead waited for the new one.
- The first course will be delivered on the 19th July, CLaD will be asking for feedback and finalising delivery time frames. They will look at feedback over the next two seasons and make any changes required. It is hoped to bring it back to 2 days face to face in the long run and hope to streamline it into a new version in a year or two.
  
- Incident Controller Level 1 will undergo a rewrite; and it is hoped to split the current 4 day course into two 2 day courses to make it easier for volunteers to attend.
- The new IC1 package will focus on strategic incident management rather than tactical which is now covered in the new Sector Commander package.
- The new courses are still in early draft and may take a year or two to finalise. First two days (Incident Management Level 1) second block of 2 days will be hazard specific Incident Controller Level 1
- There will be multiple scenarios and activities; and include discussions on Legislation, Handover of control, Section 13, Incident level declarations, preparing for Level 2, Road Closures (Police Requests), Liaisons, Fatigue, Welfare, Safety and Media and warnings, Reinstatement, demob, and handover.
- Practical tools to help identify escalation triggers, manage key stakeholders, and make timely, informed decisions at this incident level. As we all know every incident starts as a Level 1 until it becomes a Level 2 so although once you get to FCO/DCBFCO/CBFCO level you might need a high level of understanding on how to run an escalating or complex high end Level 1 considering moving into L2 territory.
- The BOC discussed both training packages and raised concerns with lack of volunteer consultation during the development of the new Sector Commander training package, with the higher level of course content, the increased course length and added complexity, with regions tailoring the course to suit their needs. Discussion on Level 1 IC included the suggestion to section the course to reflect the different levels of Level 1 incidents.
- Agreement to escalate this feedback through the Training Advisory Group.

## Western Power Pole Top Fires

*Item raised by Mid-West Gascoyne member Ben Plozza*

- Significant number of Western Power pole top fire incidents and the risk to landowners as incident managers for Western Power pole top fires. Noting the impact to their business and personal safety and the protracted response required to mitigate reignition.
- This ongoing issue will be escalated to Western Power through DFES.

The next BOC meeting will be scheduled for October 2025.



SBAC  
State Bushfire Advisory Council

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## COMMUNIQUE

The State Bushfire Advisory Council (SBAC) met at the DFES Bushfire Centre of Excellence in Nambeelup for their second quarterly meeting of 2025.

### **Bushfire Places of Last Resort (BPLR)**

At their last meeting, the SBAC provided feedback recommending further preliminary engagement was needed prior to progression of the BPLR Guidelines and process. The project team provided an update on the development of the guidelines following further stakeholder engagement.

Next steps will include policy development and testing with key stakeholders and a 14 week consultation period on the draft BPLR guidelines. The SBAC noted the progress of work and proposed next steps.

### **Strategic Priorities working group update**

The working group met in mid-May to discuss and agree updates to the workbook items following the planning session at the March SBAC meeting. The updated workbook was circulated to Council for comment prior to the meeting. The Chair noted a number of today's agenda items have been progressed from the Workbook.

The Minister for Emergency Services has recently issued an updated Statement of Expectations which includes a revised list of SBAC priorities. The Chair advised the updated priorities as follows:

- Facilitate constructive consultation on the Consolidated Emergency Services Bill.
- Oversee the development of guidelines and processes for Places of Last Resort in Bushfire Prone Areas.
- Ensure consistent processes for bushfire mitigation on Rail Corridors.
- Development of a discussion paper to inform advocacy options for improving accessibility and affordability of Insurance cover for bushfire mitigation.

The SBAC will update their workplan to include the Minister's priorities.

### **Fuel Management Activities Report overview**

The DFES Office of Bushfire Risk Management provided an overview of their Annual Fuel Management Activities report. This report surveys key stakeholders from State Government, local governments and private land managers on their fuel management programs and activities.

In 2023-24, 110 organisations reported on their fuel management programs, collectively describing 8.3 million hectares of planned burning and 22116ha and 3825 kms of other fuel management activities.

The SBAC noted the presentation and will schedule invitations to organisations identified in the report to present on their fuel management activities.

## Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) 'end of season' update

The presentation by Bushfire Technical Services included AFDRS system improvements including:

- AFDRS biannual fuel type refinement updates:
  - Integration of Crop/Pasture cover dataset from Digital Agricultural Services (DAS) for the fuel type map;
  - Refined Fuel type interpolation method implemented in Fuel State Editor – now based on dominant fuel type;
  - Model updates for Shrubland (heathland) and Malee Heath;
- Fire Danger Viewer improvements included single sign on alleviating access issues, themed menus, set up bookmarks, downloadable Meteograms (graphs), and new layers;
- Grassland observer app for mobiles, allowing offline observations.
- An increase in number of remote Cameras and weather stations to assist with observations.

The number of observations and queries have dropped over the 3 year period, suggesting less anomalies in the system with continuous enhancements.

The SBAC noted the improvements to the system and reduction in anomalies and queries and closed this item on their workplan.

## The Yamatji Nation Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) - Strategic Work Priority

The SBAC members received a comprehensive overview of the Yamatji Nation Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) which covers some 48,000 square kms of land in the State's mid-west region. It was noted that the implementation of this ILUA would eventually see the creation of a new Yamatji Land Estate, comprised of some 14,500 ha freehold land and a further 134,000 ha of Crown land, with the first 10 of some 1,386 identified land parcels having already been transferred to Yamatji control.

The SBAC noted the need to ensure relevant provisions being transitioned from the existing Bushfires Act 1954 to the consolidated emergency services legislation under development had been suitably updated to reflect the vast new land estates to emerge from the implementation of the Yamatji Nation ILUA and other similar agreements to follow.

The SBAC agreed to consider the way Crown land in occupation will be dealt with going forward, and develop a suitable policy model which supports a seamless transition of fire mitigation responsibilities as land is progressively transferred from State Government control, whilst also ensuring ongoing community confidence in associated arrangements.

The next SBAC quarterly meeting is scheduled for 9 September 2025 at the offices of the Dept of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

For SBAC related information or enquiries, please email [RuralFire@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:RuralFire@dfes.wa.gov.au)

### 9.08.25 NEXT MEETING & CLOSURE

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026

There being no further business, the Presiding Member Cr de Lange declared the meeting closed at 8:24pm.