



BUSHFIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

29 AUGUST 2023

These minutes were confirmed by Bushfire Advisory Committee as a true and correct record of proceedings by the Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting held on/...../.....

Presiding Member:..... **Date:**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.08.23	DECLARATION OF OPENING/ATTENDANCE.....	3
2.08.23	CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES.....	4
3.08.23	PRESENTATIONS	4
4.08.23	REPORTS	4
4.08.23.01	CHIEF BUSHFIRE CONTROL OFFICER – MURRAY HALL.....	4
4.08.23.02	DEPUTY CHIEF BUSHFIRE CONTROL OFFICER – TRAVIS EVA.....	4
4.08.23.03	WEST BRIGADE – CAPTAIN: TIM EVANS.....	4
4.08.23.04	CENTRAL BRIGADE – CAPTAIN: TROY BASSETT.....	5
4.08.23.05	EAST BRIGADE – CAPTAIN: BEVAN WALTERS	5
4.08.23.06	DFES – ADAM WHITFORD	5
4.08.23.07	BROOKTON VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE – SCOTT ATKINS	5
4.08.23.08	DEPARTMENT OF BIODIVERSITY, CONSERVATION & ATTRACTIONS (DBCA) ..	5
5.08.23	COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICES MANAGER (CESM) – JASON CARRALL	5
5.08.23.01	TRAINING UPDATE	5
6.08.23	GENERAL BUSINESS	6
6.08.23.01	APPOINTMENT OF DUAL FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS.....	6
6.08.23.02	2023/2024 FIREBREAK AND FUEL HAZARD REDUCTION NOTICE	7
6.08.23.03	CROSS REGIONAL MEETING	11
6.08.23.04	WEST BROOKTON BUSHFIRE BRIGADE SHED.....	11
6.08.23.05	EAST BROOKTON BUSHFIRE BRIGADE SHED.....	11
6.08.23.06	STATUS TABLE	13
7.08.23	FOR INFORMATION/CIRCULARS.....	17
7.08.23.01	LGIS WELLBEING.....	17
7.08.23.02	UPPER GREAT SOUTHERN WELLNESS REGIONAL ROAD TRIP 2023.....	17
7.08.23.03	MEDIA STATEMENT – PRESUMPTIVE CANCER COVERAGE – 5 AUGUST 2023	18
8.08.23	NEXT MEETING & CLOSURE.....	18

1.08.23 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ATTENDANCE

The Presiding Member 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 KL Crute Shire President

Cr TD Lilly

Committee Members (Voting)

Murray Hall	Chief Bushfire Control Officer
Travis Eva	Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer
Andrew Pike	Central Brigade
Blair Montague	Central Brigade
Brad Bassett	Central Brigade
Bevan Walters	East Brigade
Darrell Turner	East Brigade
Tim Evans	West Brigade
Len Simmons	West Brigade
Jamie Blight	West Brigade
Holly Blechynden	West Brigade
Scott Atkins	Brookton Volunteer Fire & Rescue

Staff (Non-Voting)

Gary Sherry	Chief Executive Officer
Sandie Spencer	Executive Governance Officer
Jason Carrall	Community Emergency Services Manager

Other Agencies

Adam Whitford	Department of Fire and Emergency Services Area Officer
---------------	--

Apologies

Anton de Lange	Central Brigade
Jarrad Turner	East Brigade
Ashley Hobbs	Central Brigade
Troy Bassett	Central Brigade
Neville Messenger	Central Brigade
Michael Eva	East Brigade

2.08.23 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

BFAC 08.23-01

BFAC RESOLUTION

MOVED M Hall SECONDED T Eva

That the minutes of the Bushfire Advisory Committee meeting held in the Shire of Brookton Council Chambers, on 29th March 2023, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE 14/0

For: Cr Crute, Cr Lilly, M Hall, T Eva, S Atkins B Bassett, H Blechynden, J Blight, T Evans, B Montague, A Pike, L Simmons, D Turner, B Walters
Against: Nil

3.08.23 PRESENTATIONS

Nil

4.08.23 REPORTS

4.08.23.01 CHIEF BUSHFIRE CONTROL OFFICER – MURRAY HALL

Thank you to Jason Carrall – CESM, for the mitigation work carried out since March. A successful burn was carried out at the refuse site. The mitigation surrounding bridges has been a great improvement. These areas will be followed by spraying in October.

4.08.23.02 DEPUTY CHIEF BUSHFIRE CONTROL OFFICER – TRAVIS EVA

Nil

4.08.23.03 WEST BRIGADE – CAPTAIN: TIM EVANS

Thank you for the mitigation and road side spraying work carried out.

BFAC 08.23-02

BFAC RESOLUTION

MOVED T Evans SECONDED J Blight

That Ms Georgina Beecroft be removed from Bushfire Advisory Committee and Holly Blechynden be added as a voting member.

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE 14/0

For: Cr Crute, Cr Lilly, M Hall, T Eva, S Atkins B Bassett, H Blechynden, J Blight, T Evans, B Montague, A Pike, L Simmons, D Turner, B Walters
Against: Nil

4.08.23.04 CENTRAL BRIGADE – CAPTAIN: TROY BASSETT

Nil.

4.08.23.05 EAST BRIGADE – CAPTAIN: BEVAN WALTERS

I wish to acknowledge and thank Jason Carrall on behalf of myself and the East Brigade for his efforts in securing prompt funding for the East Brigade Fire Shed. This is very much appreciated from the East community.

I have taken note that some fire mitigation works still need to be undertaken around the Aldersyde blocks with includes PIN 34 & 2619.

4.08.23.06 DFES – ADAM WHITFORD

Attended the Leaders forum and issues were raised regarding the challenges with the new FBI and issuing of permits. There is a review of the system.

I encourage all Bushfire Brigades to complete Incident Report Forms. The report provides evidence for the Shire to apply for funding of firefighting vehicles, sheds and equipment.

The Presumptive Cancer Coverage Legislation has been expanded to include over 20 cancers. The Incident Report provides evidence for those who have been exposed to toxins which could potentially cause cancer.

4.08.23.07 BROOKTON VOLUNTEER FIRE & RESCUE – SCOTT ATKINS

The VFRS have turned out to several car accidents in recent weeks.

4.08.23.08 DEPARTMENT OF BIODIVERSITY, CONSERVATION & ATTRACTIONS (DBCA)

Nil.

5.08.23 COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICES MANAGER (CESM) – JASON CARRALL

Thank you for support.

I have been working in the region for 3 years and looking forward to an extended contract for another 3 years.

5.08.23.01 TRAINING UPDATE

Firefighter Skills to be held on the following dates:

- Tuesday 12th September 2023 – 1pm - 4:30pm Brookton VFRS Station
- Wednesday 13th September 2023 – 8:30am – 4:30pm Brookton VFRS Station

6.08.23 GENERAL BUSINESS**6.08.23.01 APPOINTMENT OF DUAL FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS**

The following are proposed appointment of Dual Fire Control Officers for the 2023/24 fire season. The Shire will make these appointments at their September Meeting.

Shire of Wandering	Graeme Treasure
Shire of Pingelly	Rodney Shaddick, Sam MacNamara, Brodie Cunningham, Jeffrey Edwards, Robert Lee, Malcolm Cunningham, 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 2023/24 fire season.

Shire of Wandering	Graeme Treasure
Shire of Pingelly	Rodney Shaddick, Sam MacNamara, Brodie Cunningham, Jeffrey Edwards, Robert Lee, Malcolm Cunningham, Adam Watts
Shire of Corrigin	Greg Evans, Braden Grylls

BFAC 08.23-03**BFAC RESOLUTION****MOVED M Hall****SECONDED T Eva**

That the BFAC recommend that the Shire of Brookton accept the following appointments of Dual Fire Control Officers for the 2023/24 fire season.

<i>Shire of Wandering</i>	<i>Graeme Treasure</i>
<i>Shire of Pingelly</i>	<i>Rodney Shaddick, Sam MacNamara, Brodie Cunningham, Jeffrey Edwards, Robert Lee, Malcolm Cunningham, Adam Watts</i>
<i>Shire of Corrigin</i>	<i>Greg Evans, Braden Grylls</i>

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE 14/0

For: Cr Crute, Cr Lilly, M Hall, T Eva, S Atkins B Bassett, H Blechynden, J Blight, T Evans, B Montague, A Pike, L Simmons, D Turner, B Walters
Against: Nil

6.08.23.02 2023/2024 FIREBREAK AND FUEL HAZARD REDUCTION NOTICE

Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954 provides a local government the ability to make a Notice requiring all owners or occupiers of land within the district to take measures for preventing the outbreak of a bush fire, or for preventing the spread or extension of a bush fire which may occur.

The 2023/24 Shire of Brookton Fire Break Notice is contained in attachment 6.08.23.02A.

The Fire Break Notice will be separately mailed to all residents collecting mail from the Brookton Post Office (420 addresses) and property owners with mailing addresses outside of Brookton (235 addresses).

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Bush Fire Advisory Committee recommends to Council to adopt the Shire of Brookton Fire Break Order for 2023/24 season as contained in Attachment 6.08.23.02A.

BFAC 08.23-04

BFAC RESOLUTION

MOVED B Montague SECONDED J Blight

That Bush Fire Advisory Committee recommends to Council to adopt the Shire of Brookton Fire Break Order for 2023/24 season as contained in Attachment 6.08.23.02A.

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE 14/0

***For: Cr Crute, Cr Lilly, M Hall, T Eva, S Atkins B Bassett, H Blechynden,
J Blight, T Evans, B Montague, A Pike, L Simmons, D Turner, B Walters
Against: Nil***

Attachment

Attachment 6.08.23.02A – Fire Break Order 2023/24

Shire of Brookton Fire Break Order for 2023/24

TOWNSITE LAND - all land within the Brookton and Aldersyde townsites.

All townsite properties less than 2,023m² in size are required to be fire hazard reduced by:

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

All townsite properties over 2,023m² in size are required to be fire hazard reduced by:

- A. 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
- B. 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 - all land outside the Brookton and Aldersyde townsites.

All rural properties equal to or less than 100 hectares in size is required to be fire hazard reduced by:

- A. Construction and maintenance of a 3m wide minimum bare earth unobstructed trafficable firebreak within 30m of the boundary of the property.
- B. 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.
- C. 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.

All rural properties and aggregated land within the Shire of Brookton over 100 hectares in size are required to be fire hazard reduced by:

- A. 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.

- B. 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.

Note:

- Hay and straw stacks in open paddock areas awaiting pickup and removal are not required to be surrounded by a firebreak.
- 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—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.

- 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.
A copy of these Guidelines is available from the Shire Administration office upon request.
- 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.
- E. 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.

HARVESTING MACHINES & HEADERS – REGULATIONS 38

Pursuant to Regulations 38 of the Bush Fires Regulations 1954, a person shall not operate harvesting machinery or header in any crop during the prohibited burning times or restricted burning times set out unless a fire extinguisher is carried in the machine.

SLASHER AND ROTARY MOWER BAN

A ban applies to the use of slasher and rotary mowers from 1st December to 28th 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:

- 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.

6.08.23.03 CROSS REGIONAL MEETING

Following the Shackleton and Narrogin East Bushfires in February 2022 it was raised at the Upper Great Southern ROAC that there were times where communications across boundaries and between services could have been better

DFES Upper Great Southern and Goldfields Midlands DFES regions scheduled a cross border workshop and exercise to held in Quairading on the 9th November 2022. This meeting workshop was going to attended by:

- CEOs (or representative),
- Chief Bush Fire Control Officers (or delegate),
- Community Emergency Services Managers (where relevant); and
- DFES staff who have responsibility for these Local Government areas.

The meeting was to be attended by the Shires of Beverly, Brookton, Corrigin, Quairading, Bruce Rock, Kondinin and Narembeen. The Meeting was never held.

The Shire of Beverley have indicated support for a local meeting with Shire of Brookton.

6.08.23.04 WEST BROOKTON BUSHFIRE BRIGADE SHED

Manager Projects has spoken to Andrew Sharpe from Stallion Building Co. they are finalising the drawings for the buildings and should be ready to submit a certified building application in the next few weeks.

6.08.23.05 EAST BROOKTON BUSHFIRE BRIGADE SHED

Grant funding for \$668 664.00 approved.

Issues to be finalised

1. Exact Location

Gravel Reserve - South side of road

- Power poles on boundary - will require setback
- consider process for change of use for Gravel Reserve

North side of Road

- contacted SWALSC with regards to the purchase of 2 blocks of land in Aldersyde and is awaiting their response. (map attached PIN 34 & 2619);

2. Electrical Connection required



6.08.23.06 STATUS TABLE

Item #	Date Initiated	Item Details	Comment	% Completed
1.	16 Mar 2021	Review water issues and possible placement of tanks in the district.	New 75000L water tank to be installed at new fire shed with future application for another water take to be created.	25%
2.	5 Oct 2021	West Brookton Bushfire Brigade's 2 bay facility. To have tender awarded by 30 June 2023.	<p>Site clearing earthworks completed and shed location pegged. Site meeting this Wednesday with CEO and brigade to make sure everyone is happy with shed location.</p> <p>Tender document is being prepared and should go out for public tender process in next few weeks.</p> <p>-Tender has been awarded to Multicon Commercial construction (Stallion Homes) who are a country builder based in Northam.</p> <p>- A further delay is being experienced due to an application now required under the new Aboriginal heritage Act. Consultation with Seabrook in Brookton was undertaken and we have their support for this development. It has been brought to our attention that the traditional owners are a corporation in Bunbury who require us to undertake a tier 3 application through them.</p> <p>- Extra funds required for this development have been approved by DFES to the value of \$868,573.00</p>	20%
3.	5 Oct 2021	CESM and CEO to follow up on Policy and/or operating procedures	21.03.2021 — CEO has recently had a new delegation approved by Council “Delegation 1.50 — Amendment to Prohibited and Restricted Burning Periods — Bush Fires Act”. See attachment below.	10%
4.	30 Mar 2022	Organise a meeting with David Cliff (Brookton Country Club), Murray Hall (CBFCO), Travis Eva (DCBFCO), and CESM to discuss mitigation works.	<p>Control burn has now been completed and further works to continue after the fire season.</p> <p>Too wet to burn so will undertake after winter</p> <p>New mitigation works in booked in and starting the week of 29th May 2023. Spoken with David Cliff who is organising clean up of area to be forestry mulched on Thursday 25th May 2023.</p> <p>-This work is now completed and approval of burns to be carried out after winter have been approved. New fire breaks and forestry mulching carried out look amazing.</p>	100%

Item #	Date Initiated	Item Details	Comment	% Completed
5.	15 Jan 2023	Mitigation approved funding program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Please refer to spreadsheet attached - Three control burns completed at tip site. - Follow up spraying to be completed in 8 weeks time. - Contractor now engaged and commences work starting 29th May 2023. - Mitigation program 2022-2023 has now been completed. <p>Spray treatments and control burns at country club have been approved and will be carried out when weather permits.</p>	100%
6.	11 April 2023	Training Calendar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creating training calendar for 2023 should be sent out next week - Training calendar has now been created and in the DFES training system. - July training Bushfire Safety Awareness has been sent out and advertised for spots to be filled. Please refer to attachment. - Request for CRC to print out this years training manuals is being organised. - Bushfire safety awareness has been completed with very little numbers. - Firefighting skills will be carried out in September and hoping numbers will be better. People that did Bushfire safety survival last year and this year are eligible to complete this course now. This is more hands on and teaching survival skills for those who travel on the tenders. I highly recommend members do this course. It is 1 and half days. Sandy will advertise this in the coming weeks. 	35%
7.	11 April 2023	Public Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Winter preparedness information to be sent out view social media - Advertising has gone out to public through Sandie Spencer. 	50%
8.	01 May 2023	Fire tender maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The four fire tender trucks are currently being serviced and repaired to have available in working order for the start of new fire season. - These works have been completed and tenders will be delivered back to their sheds shortly. 	100%
9.	25 May 2023	Fire radio Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2023-2024 fire radio maintenance will commence in July with repairs required and radio change over program is currently being created. - Request for works has been completed with DFES and awaiting confirmation of times and dates this will be carried out. 	100%

Item #	Date Initiated	Item Details	Comment	% Completed
			<p>No communication has come back from DFES yet and not sure when this will be carried out. I will send a reminder email to them before I go on holidays.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EGO - Direct Communications conducted radio maintenance on 14 & 15 August 2023. - EGO - Updated list of radio locations with EGO – to be updated in the Harvest Ban Book 	
10.	01 July 2023	Mitigation program 2023-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mitigation program to be created for next funding round - six current treatments have been carried over to the 2023-2024 first round to allow current treatments to be finalised maximising current approved funding. This includes control burns follow up spraying, two control burns at golf course. This allocation should be approved end of June and available 1st July. These treatments will be completed in a short time frame to allow for new treatments to be created and requested for in 2023-2024 round. - Funding has now been approved works will be carried out after September. 	25%
11.	30 July 2023	East Brookton Fire Shed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - East Brookton fire shed has been approved and funds will be available shortly to construct the new East Brookton Fire Shed. - \$668,664.00 has been approved for this development. 	5%

Shire of Brookton Mitigation Works

Project Start Date 1/07/2023

Job #	Category	Assigned to	Allowed Price	Progress	Start	Actual Cost	Days	June																													
								1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
								Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri
Brookton Country Club																																					
14882	Contractor engaged	Brookton BFB	\$2,250.00	0%	first week october	\$0.00																															
14883	Quoting Stage	TBA	\$1,500.00	0%	week starting 4th september	\$0.00																															
14884	Contractor engaged	Brookton BFB	\$16,350.00	0%	31st August 2023	\$0.00																															
14885	Quoting Stage	TBA	\$10,000.00	0%	By end October	\$0.00																															
Brookton Tip																																					
14782	Quoting Stage	TBA	\$1,500.00	0%	By end October	\$0.00																															
14783	Quoting Stage	TBA	\$5,100.00	0%	By end October	\$0.00																															
14784	Quoting Stage	TBA	\$11,625.00	0%	By end October	\$0.00																															
			\$48,325.00			\$0.00																															

7.08.23 FOR INFORMATION/CIRCULARS

7.08.23.01 LGIS WELLBEING

As part of the 2023/24 Adopted Budget we are pleased to confirm that the Shire of Brookton has opted into the LifeWorks Employee Assistance Program (EAP) from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

The subscription makes this total wellbeing service available to all shire staff, bushfire volunteers, elected members and their immediate family members.

7.08.23.02 UPPER GREAT SOUTHERN WELLNESS REGIONAL ROAD TRIP 2023

Information forwarded to Captains on 28th July 2023.

Upper Great Southern Wellness Regional Roadtrip 2023

Topics included :

- The journey from Potentially Traumatic Experience to Post-Traumatic Growth
- Trauma & Resilience
- Work / Life Balance

Learn about:

- Resources available to you and your family
- Mindrama
- Mental Health First Aid
- Thriving at DFES

Pop in to your closest or most convenient location and be sure to RSVP for catering purposes!

Please RSVP your attendance and location via text to Danielle on 0427 559 213

September 11 18:00	Corrigin VFRS Goyder Street
September 12 18:00	Lake Grace VFRS Bennet Street
September 13 13:00	Narrogin 10 Williams Road
September 13 18:00	Williams VFRS Brooking Street
September 14 12:00	Boddington SES Johnstone Street

7.08.23.03 MEDIA STATEMENT – PRESUMPTIVE CANCER COVERAGE – 5 AUGUST 2023

The Cook Government is expanding the list of cancers covered under Presumptive Legislation for career and volunteer firefighters, ensuring that personnel can access financial support for treatment and recovery.

- List of cancers under Presumptive Legislation for firefighters expands from 12 to 20
- Provides protection for personnel who dedicate their lives to protecting the community

The Cook Government is expanding the list of cancers covered under Presumptive Legislation for career and volunteer firefighters, ensuring that personnel can access financial support for treatment and recovery.

Eight additional cancers – thyroid, pancreatic, skin, cervical, ovarian, penile, lung and malignant mesothelioma – will be specified as presumptive cancers in Regulations, bringing the total number in Western Australia to 20.

Under the new amendments, if a current or retired career or volunteer firefighter is diagnosed with any of these cancers, it is presumed the cancer is related to their duties. This means personnel are relieved from proving the cause of their illness to access compensation.

Protective equipment and training are provided to WA firefighters to reduce the risk exposure to toxins, but not all hazards can be eliminated, including smoke, fuel and other hazardous materials when responding to emergencies.

8.08.23 NEXT MEETING & CLOSURE

The next BFAC Meeting will be held in March 2024.

There being no further business, the presiding member declared the meeting closed at 9:00pm.