



**BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**30 MARCH 2022**

These minutes were confirmed by Council as a true and correct record of proceedings by the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 16/6/22

Presiding Member: *[Signature]* Date: 16 June 2022

**Shire of Brookton**  
**Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting held 30 March 2022**  
**Commenced at 7.00 pm**

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**1.03.22 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS/ATTENDANCE**

Cr Crute, the Shire President opened the meeting at 7.00pm, and welcomed Councillors, Committee Members and Staff.

Elected Members (Voting)

Cr KL Crute                      Shire President

Cr TD Lilly

*Attended via Zoom*

Committee Members (Voting)

Murray Hall                      Chief Bushfire Control Officer

Travis Eva                         Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer

Central Brigade	West Brigade	East Brigade
Troy Bassett	Tim Evans	Bevan Walters
Blair Montague	Jamie Blight	
Andrew Pike <i>entered at 7.01pm</i>	Len Simmons	

Staff (Non-Voting)

Gary Sherry	Chief Executive Officer	
Danni Chard	Executive Governance Officer	
Jason Carrall	Community Emergency Services Manager	<i>Attended via Zoom</i>

Other Agencies

Blake Halford	Department of Fire and Emergency	<i>Attended via Zoom</i>
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Apologies

Ashley Hobbs	Central Brigade
Brad Bassett	Central Brigade

<b>2.03.22</b>	<b>CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES</b>
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***BFAC 03.22-01***

***COUNCIL 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 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.***

***CARRIED 11/0***

### 3.03.22 STATUS TABLE

Black – No changes from previous reports

Yellow – Updated from previous report

Blue – Additions from latest Bushfire Advisory Committee meetings

Item #	Date Initiated	Item Details	Officer Status Update	Assigned to	Comment	% Completed
1.	16Mar21	Obtain list of courses and dates to all brigade members.	In progress	CESM	List sent out to captains and awaiting response for numbers and preferred dates. 1 <sup>st</sup> FCO course completed, 2 <sup>nd</sup> course (Bushfire Safety Awareness) cancelled due to lack of numbers; 3 <sup>rd</sup> Course (Ground Controller) cancelled due to DFES trainer required to Emergency. Bushfire Safety Awareness has been rescheduled for Friday evening 8 <sup>th</sup> October & Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> October to be held at Brookton Fire Station. 05.10.2021 – course has been cancelled due to lack of numbers 21.03.2021 – Course scheduled for 9 <sup>th</sup> February was cancelled, due to the Corrigin fire.	90%
2.	16Mar21	Further information with recent changes for LGIS – Workplace Work Health and Safety Act 2020	Ongoing	CESM	Meeting held with CEO, MCC & ODO on the future changes with WHS Act and the new provisions to be released on the new regulations. LGIS will be working with internal staff to assist and provide as much information to assist and provide the required documentation on what this means for volunteers and specific to Bush Fire Brigade Members. WALGA, DFES & LGIS are working together to achieve the outcomes required. Refer to attached flyer. Webinar held on 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2021, with WALGA, DFES, LGIS on matters associated with new changes for Volunteer Bush Fire members. Review of Webinar with Senior Officers and CESM is required and will be tabled at a BFAC special meeting to be arranged. 21.03.22 - Legislation is scheduled to come into effect from	40%



	identification for best contact details.					
9.	05Oct21	CESM/DFES to activate training for farmworkers and bush fire brigade members as soon as possible. DFES providing the training modules to accommodate the regions.	In progress	CESM/DFES/All Brigades	emergency pack and community engagement event. CESM, Local Recovery Coordinators and MCC has action plan for engagement in the community to be held and detailed for the 2021/2022 financial year. CESM to activate training programs with the recent changes to the WHS Act and the provisions to maintain. 21.03.2021 – Course was scheduled for 9 <sup>th</sup> February was cancelled, due to the Corrigin fire. Has not yet been rescheduled.	0%
10.	05Oct21	CESM/Shire Officers to review West Brookton Bushfire Brigade approval for 2 bay facility. To be constructed over a 2-year process. To be finalised by 30 June 2023.	In progress	CESM/West Brigade/Chief/Shire Officers	CESM to have site meeting and discuss with relevant parties. Work needs to be completed by Shire to progress to next stage	10%
11.	05Oct21	CESM to review access to fuel for new site at West Brookton BFB site.	Not yet progressed	CESM	CESM to investigate and report back to BFAC.	0%
12.	05Oct21	CESM and CEO to follow up on Policy and/or operating procedures	In progress	CESM/CEO	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”. <i>See attachment below.</i>	10%
13.	05Oct21	CESM to readvertise burning season periods for all residents and ratepayers	In progress	CESM	Social media is required to be advocated. 21.03.2021 – This has not occurred due to conversations with the CBFCO, regarding extension of the prohibited burning period.	10%
14.	05Oct21	CESM to arrange relevant training to support new changes.	In progress	CESM/Farmers /all brigade members	CESM to work with relevant brigades and farmers with the training set by DFES	20%

## 1.50 Amendment to Prohibited and Restricted Burning Periods – Bush Fires Act

<b>Delegator:</b>	Council		
<b>Express Power to Delegate:</b>	<i>Local Government Act, 1995</i> ✓ S.5.42 Delegation of some powers or duties to the CEO ✓ S.5.43 Limitations on delegations to the CEO		
<b>Delegated to:</b>	Chief Executive Officer		
<b>Delegated Function:</b>	To vary the: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prohibited burning times</li> <li>2. Restricted burning times</li> </ol> in Shire of Brookton by shortening, extending, suspending, or reimposing a period of prohibited burning times; or imposing a further period of prohibited burning times.		
<b>Conditions of Delegation:</b>	The Chief Executive Officer will only exercise this delegation after consultation with Council's Chief Bushfire Control Officer.		
<b>Delegation adopted by Council:</b>	<b>Meeting:</b> Ordinary Meeting of Council	<b>Date:</b> 17 February 2022	<b>Minute:</b> OCM 02.22-07
<b>Delegation reviewed by Council:</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Minute:</b>

<b>Sub-delegator:</b>	Chief Executive Officer		
<b>Express Power to Sub-delegate:</b>	<i>Sub-delegation is prohibited by s.48(3)</i>		
<b>Subdelegated to:</b>	Nil.		
<b>Additional conditions of Sub-delegation:</b>	Nil.		
<b>Sub-delegation approved by:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>

<b>Compliance References:</b>	✓ <i>Bush Fires Act, 1954 s.17</i> ✓ <i>Bush Fires Act, 1954 s.18</i>
<b>Record Keeping:</b>	The delegate (or sub-delegate) must keep a written record of the exercise the power or discharge the duty including the persons or classes of persons directly affected and ensure all evidentiary documents accord with Regulation 19 of the Local Government (Admin) Regulations, 1996.
<b>Version No.</b>	1

#### 4.03.22 PRESENTATIONS

Nil.

#### 5.03.22.01 COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICES MANAGER (CESM) – JASON CARRALL

##### 1. Upcoming and Completed Training

- a. Ground Controller
  - i. *This has been rescheduled for 4 weeks' time. Advert to go out in coming days.*
- b. Bushfire Safety and Awareness
  - i. *Time and Date to be agreed on by Members*
- c. Firefighting Skills
  - i. *Time and Date to be agreed on by Members*
- d. Farmer Response
  - i. *Will be rescheduled due to the Corrigin Bushfire taking place when the course was scheduled.*
- e. Community Disaster Recovery Training
- f. [West Brigade have provided CESM with the current listing for completed training of volunteer members.](#)

##### 2. Fire Mitigation

- a. Creating burn prescriptions for Prescribed Burning Areas
- b. Planning Control Burns on Unallocated Crown Land.
- c. Cemetery Bush Mitigation Works
  - i. Community Engagement is still required to be undertaken, have had conflicting priorities.
    1. Indigenous engagement to occur due to cultural reasons
  - ii. Sections do require hand clearing.
- d. Brookton Refuse Site
  - i. The Shire engaged a contractor to complete a Flora and Fauna survey of the Brookton Refuse Site, this report was received in January 2022, and has been waiting on the commencement of the Manager of Infrastructure and Works to progress.
    1. Application for mitigation funding currently underway with controlled burns, larger firebreaks and tree lopping.
    2. *A plan will be presented to the BFAC meeting.*

##### 3. Bushfire Sheds – West Brookton Bushfire Brigade – Funding required shed to be finalised by 30 June 2023.

- a. Location Site of shed has been selected.
- b. Aboriginal heritage site search completed, local Aboriginal Heritage consultation to occur.
- c. Agreement executed by Shire CEO, waiting on update from DFES.
  - i. *Provision of a 40,000 Litre water tank.*
  - ii. *Provisions for fuel storage in the long term*

##### 4. Stand NBN Satellite Communications

- a. 2 applications have both been approved to proceed for Brookton. Brookton Shire Office & WB Eva Pavilion. To be installed over the next 12 months.
  - i. Have been installed at both locations and are operational.

##### 5. Community Engagement

- a. An update please.



- i. Current Action plan to engage community, CESM processing with Local Recovery Coordinator

#### 6. Work Health and Safety Act 2020 (WHS Act)

- a. This legislation will come into effect from **31<sup>st</sup> March 2022**.
  - i. A copy of the act can be viewed here: [https://www.legislation.wa.gov.au/legislation/statutes.nsf/law\\_a147282.html](https://www.legislation.wa.gov.au/legislation/statutes.nsf/law_a147282.html)
  - ii. Update on training requirements to be covered for Insurance.

#### 7. Volunteers Register

- a. CESM provided to Captains, a list of brigade members, and levels of current training for their understanding of brigade members capacity.

#### Brookton West New 4.4 Tender

The new build for the Brookton West 4.4 tender has now been completed and ready for delivery. On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April, Len Simmons and myself, will be going to O'Connor to Front line for a teach the trainer day. This will provide all the information required to pass onto the members for the new appliance. Once completed Len will drive back to the shire. A familiarisation day will need to be organised for the members before the truck can be made operational. I will liaison with Tim to organise this day.

#### Brookton West Fire Shed

The new Brookton West Fire Shed is now at the stage where the shire can organise to send out to tender for the construction of the shed. The site will be confirmed after one more check where I will be in touch with the Aboriginal elder for the area just to make sure there are no unknown importance or Heritage value within the site. Kylie is obtaining a contact for the elder currently and will be undertaken as soon as possible. I do thank you for your patients with the progression of this project but has had to have had a lot of background work completed to reach this stage. Once the tender process is underway, I will be liaising with the shire to commence earth works in preparation for the construction.

*Quote is expected to be higher than 2021 quote, due to demand on building industry. DFES are aware, however, may delay the project.*

#### Brookton East Fire shed

We have just submitted our ESL budget for the 2022/2023 fire season and have included the requirement for a shed to be constructed out east. If successful, then this shed will be constructed on the corner of Aldersyde-Pingelly Road x Brookton-Kweda Road (Southern side). It is a 1 bay shed with side building.

#### Mitigation Works

Currently working on funding for the Shire Tip Reserve and Brookton Golf course. The **Shire Tip** work I will be looking at is as follows: -

- Fire break 4m wide constructed around entire reserve perimeter.
  - Control burning within tip site but only areas not impacted by tip pile.
  - Forestry mulching in areas within tip pile.
  - 6m wide fire break directly inside fence line of tip area.
  - Spray program for weed control.
- 
- *Tip operator spoke to CBFCO – water tank suggested to be installed for fire trucks to refill from.*
  - *Has a small fire unit on site – review contract agreement regarding fire fighting equipment.*
  - *Green waste to be removed from the edge of the bush, requested tree removal, and increase of fire*

*break.*

The **Brookton Golf Course** work I will be looking at is as follows: -

- 4m wide fire break around bush land in back north western corner.
- 4-year burn program for bush areas. (Subject to environmental survey due to possible protected bush land).
- Spray program to control weeds.

With the golf course this will all depend on whether the Mitigation program accepts the evacuation centre as critical infrastructure as this area is outside town site and funding required outside town sites is for critical infrastructure only. While I am confident this is the case for the golf course it isn't guaranteed we will receive funding for this work. If successful, the funding will be available around August to carry out the works.

- *May be protected bushland (Title states: Protected Bushland). Jason to look into.*
- *Burning (if needed), to be completed over 5 years.*
- *Weed control to also be considered*
- *Meeting: David Cliff, Murray Hall, Travis Eva, Troy Bassett, Jason Bassett (Shire to organise the meeting)*
- *Clarification regarding responsibilities (who does what), due to the lease agreement held with the Country Club.*

**Cemetery** works has a lot of investigation to be carried out first and with the busy fire season I have been unable to undertake this investigation. During the winter months I'm hoping to have more free time to be able to complete these investigations.

- *Community consultation to be undertaken in the next 2-3 months.*
- *Culturally sensitive site.*
- *Gary and Katrina to speak with Seabrook Board.*

### **Training**

14<sup>th</sup> April 2022 I have organised Ground controller to be run here in Brookton. I do require names for this course ASAP as it is two weeks away. This is a 6-hour course, and the shire would benefit from having a couple of members trained in this area. Captains if you know someone in your brigade that would be capable of this role, please have a chat with that member and try have them put their name down ASAP.

*Prerequisite training has not been completed by brigade members to be able to complete the Ground Controller training.*

- *Bushfire safety awareness*
- *Firefighting skills*

*Does FCO make you eligible to complete Ground Controller course?*

- *Discussion to occur with Shire & Jason, then Deputy & Chief to sign off that member is capable to complete the course, and has the RPL.*

The Rural Fire Awareness course (1/2 day course) that was booked in for 9<sup>th</sup> February was postponed due to the Corrigin Bushfire which was on the Sunday before. This course needs to be booked in again so can you please come up with a date that suits farmers, and I will reschedule. This is more important to conduct sooner rather than later.

*High level course, broad, safety understanding, structures emergency services use to avoid confusion, reporting, communications, suitable for people delivering food, through to FCOs, to help everyone get on the same page in the event of an emergency.*

- *list of previous registered volunteers (who were booked on the 9<sup>th</sup> Feb), to be contacted also.*
- *Early July – suggested. Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2022 (afternoon) may be a suitable time*
- *Advertise and communicate through to the broader community as a whole.*
- *Small land owners to be invited also.*

## PPE

I will be doing a PPE order in the next few weeks and require any items your brigades need emailed to myself ASAP. Also, if there are any hoses or fittings damaged or need replaced, please let me know so I can organise to have replaced or repaired.

- *Uniforms (for particular people)*
  - *Gloves and Goggles (consumables) – extra available in stock.*
  - *Helmets*
  - *Shoes*
  - *Masks*

We are looking at purchasing First aid kits for FCO vehicles and fire tenders as well so if there is any FCO's that don't want one in their vehicle please let me know ASAP so I can take you off the list.

- *First Aid Kit, Snake Bite Kit, Burns Kit, Eye Wash Kit*

*CESM to send COVID vaccination status to all captains (currently have 13 proofs of vaccinations on file)*

- *Captains can either:*
  - *sight it, and sign off*
  - *Or volunteer to give a physical copy of vaccination status*

## 6.03.22 GENERAL BUSINESS

### 6.03.22.01 CHIEF BUSHFIRE CONTROL OFFICER – MURRAY HALL

#### 1. Current “000” Service Agreement for Brookton

- a. Update on updated group calling groups.
  - i. CBFCO, DCBFCO, CESH, CEO
  - ii. CESH to confirm all other groups

## FIRE REPORT:

- High fuel loads from a big grass/crop growth year – relatively Benign weather through Harvest period with very few HVMB's compared to 2020 – Late Afternoon Dry Lightning biggest issue.
- Nov21 – Lightning – East Brookton – strikes put out before crews deployed
- 8Dec21 – Lightning – East Brookton – 3 fires at once – fast response and extinguished quickly.
- Dec21 – Lightning strike in Yenyenning Lakes Reserve – crews extinguished quickly and monitored till handed over to DPAW
- Very Hot conditions throughout January/February 2022
- LEMC – Event 6 Feb 2022
  - Initiated “Hot weather + power outage response” where Brookton Shire has policy of activating generators at WB Eva Pavilion, and Shire Officers, for vulnerable people requiring power and cooling.
  - This evolved into receiving evacuee's from Corrigin Fires later in the day.
  - Managing motorists attending to travel East
- BFB Feb 6 2022
  - Crews deployed with round the clock shifts to Corrigin
  - Thank you to Captains for managing teams and schedules to man the fire trucks at Corrigin.
  - Chief deployed for overnight respite to Corrigin IMT at request of Corrigin Chief

- Notes:
  - Better planning required for Highway Management in events that close roads – Motorists travelled 60kms into no mans land to find roads closed on hot dangerous day, road trains still getting sent down dead-end roadblocks hours after roadblocks initiated and cannot turn around – need further warnings at towns before roadblocks.
    - Recommend Main Roads have a fast response strike team to take pressure off IMT and police resources – previous events have same issues.
  - Communication between IMT and BFB's and Divisions when across boarder incidents:
    - My 3<sup>rd</sup> party observations in this incident was this was not happening at all and has been the experience for the Shire of Brookton in Past events.
    - Little/no communications between Goldfields Midlands IMT and BFB's to their Southern Boundaries.
      - Re-table request to have inter-fire district collaboration policy and meet and greets prior to fire seasons.
- Pole top fire near Brookton Highway, Kweda region – response from Brookton East & Central BFB - Corrigin and Quairading BFB's.

Thanks to the Crews and Captains who did all the work this season.

#### SAFETY ISSUES:

- None flagged for Brookton

#### FUTURE PRIORITIES:

- Training – difficult to get engagement due to members seasonal workloads – August & February flagged as best months to target courses, interest in 1 day course (farmer response/prior learning).
  - February 2022 planned training postponed due to Corrigin deployments.
- Mitigation planning in progress and funding requirements, priorities are:
  - Rubbish Tip Reserve
  - Golf Club Reserve
  - Shire's Bridge assets
- New Sheds for West and East Brigades, at new locations.

**7.03.22 END OF SEASON REPORTS**

**7.03.22.01 WEST BRIGADE – CAPTAIN: TIM EVANS**

Appointments:

Captain	Vice-Captain	BFAC Proxy's
Tim Evans	Jamie Blight	Len Simmons, Ross Evans, Mark Whittington. Georgie Beecroft has retired from her role as Secretary to the West Brigade. BFAC to send a letter of appreciation to Georgie for her commitment.
FCO's	Tim Evans, Jamie Blight, Ross Evans, Len Simmons, Mark Whittington	
West Drivers	Mark Whittington, Steve Rayner, Frank Nazar, Mark Blechynden, Jamie Blight, Peter Brechin, Chris Rayner, Rick Meecham, Eric Pech, Tim Evans, Rex Smith, Cullem Pech, Ross Evans, Damien Morrison, Noel Ferguson, Toby Blechynden, David Cliff, Nigel Morrison, Trina Isdale, Chris Hartl, Leon Pech, Len Simmons, Brian Schilling, Ed Kendle, Brett Hutchison, Damien Morrison, Christine Schilling, Jamie Speedy, David Cliff, Craig May, Andrew Schilling, Andrew De Gruchy, Tristan Guinness, Richard Guinness, and Rolly Broun.	

- No incidents out West this year.
- Georgie Beecroft's retirement.
- Training Courses – can you space over a few nights (mid-week)
- Uniforms
- Corrigin fire
  - Mobile phones, more reliant on them, no power = no communications. Increasing battery storage at towers. UPS plugs to be installed at towers.
    - Federal program being rolled out, Brookton – Optus tower about to be upgraded. Large regional centres are getting UPS plugs for generators.
    - Priority – to be continually pushed, Federal Politian
- Possibility to have a Harvest Ban on, but not a movement ban, on risky forecasted days.
  - Are you prepared to go through your insurance.
  - Provision in the Act regarding stock welfare and watering
  - Time Brookton's HVMB's on early, and off earlier.
- DFES Mapping (emergency.wa.gov.au & myfirewatch.landgate.wa.gov.au) – when is it updated, and who does that, how do they get the information.
  - Lack of communications with IMT
    - Fixed wing plane – line scanning (at night) – wasn't operational due to cloud cover.

**7.03.22.02 CENTRAL BRIGADE – CAPTAIN: TROY BASSETT**

Appointments:

Captain	Vice-Captain	BFAC Proxy's
Troy Basset	Andrew Pike	Murray Hall, Ashley Hobbs, Nicholas McCabe
FCO's	Murray Hall, Troy Bassett, Les Eyre, Ashley Hobbs, Neville Messenger, Blair Montague, Andrew Pike, Brad Bassett	
Central Drivers	Scott Atkins, Brad Bassett, Daniel Bassett, Jason Bassett, Troy Bassett, Matthew Coote, Murray Hall, Ashley Hobbs, Lance Marchesi, Neville Messenger, Blair Montague, Steven Nelson, Andrew Pike, Damien Rushton, Michael Sweeney, Wayne Thompson, William Wilkinson, Nathan Hickman	

**General requests**

- Radio request (little yellow radios) Ashley Hobbs & Brad Bassett
  - One potentially in a Shire Grader/Truck, that could be relocated.
  - "In vehicle" radios are not as easy to come by as "Base Stations"
  - Potentially upgrade 'farm-house' base stations (yellow), for green base stations. And relocate yellow base stations.
- Garmin mini radio fitted to trucks for ability to text in no phone reception areas (Corrigin fire)
  - *Satellite 2-way text message (connects with iPhone, and potentially pair with iPad)*
  - *\$500 ea, \$500 for unlimited data.*
  - *Look at installing one in each truck.*
  - *Online tracking capabilities (2, 5 10, 30 minute intervals). Battery last 4-5 days*
  - *Communicate with a text message.*
  - *iPads requested for the trucks & boosters with ESL funding – iPads not covered in ESL.*
  - *Phones are covered in ESL*
  - *With a sim card*
- Shire to provide Permit to Burn book for new FCO Brad Bassett
- General consensus between brigade to open fire season April 1 22
- Balco Permit
  - didn't follow conditions placed on permit, continued issue
- Issues with Fuel cards, refilling after Corrigin Fire.
  - Issue of Brigade Fuel Cards
  - BP Fuel Cards (no fuel available after hours in Brookton)
  - After hours access to fuel
    - Shire Depot
    - Brookton Roadhouse (Nola's) (24 hours fuel)

Shire to distribute BP Fuel Cards and instructions to fire tenders.

Shire to provide 24 hour fuel access cards to Brookton Roadhouse and instructions for use for all fire tenders.

- PPE List and Maintenance order to be sent to Jason.

**7.03.22.03 EAST BRIGADE – CAPTAIN: BEVAN WALTERS**

Appointments:

Captain	Vice-Captain	BFAC Proxy's
Bevan Walters	Jarrad Turner	Travis Eva
FCO's	Bevan Walters, Darrel Turner, Travis Eva, Dennis Wilkinson, Michael Eva (nominated by Travis Eva)	
East Drivers	Noel Powell, Kim Mills, Rodney Bowring, Shane Bowron, Travis Eva, Brad Mills, Darrell Turner, Dennis Wilkinson, Bevan Walters, Gavin Whittington, Paul Wilkinson, John Bowring, Geoff MacInnes, Gary Eva, Don Eva, Grahame Sudholz, Ben Sudholz, Suzanne Turner, Jarrad Turner, Michael Eva	

- 3 x lightning strikes.
  - 21Nov21
  - 5Dec21 – 2 fires
  - 21Dec21 – Yenyenning Lakes
  - Truck went to Corrigin fire,
  - Pole top fire
- *Permits - Why do we need to give lot/location numbers on permits (Bush Fire Act 1954)*
- *A number, and surrounding areas*
  - *GPS Coordinates*
  - *Map reference*
  - *Identifies the land*
  - *Do we need to identify every lot/location number on Permit to Burn forms. This is a long and detailed requirement that is difficult for property owners and FCOs to complete.*
    - *Shire to investigate Bush Fires Act requirements for providing lot/location numbers on Permit to Burn forms.*
- *East Shed*
- *Put up a double shed (Rather than a single), due to the rising costs of building industry*
    - *Need to comply with DFES specification*
  - *Wash down bays to be considered*
  - *Wash down of vehicles occurring on private property*
  - *Biosecurity concerns*
  - *How long will it take for the East Shed to be approved (approved by DFES Committee – Nov22 Decision).*
  - *Request from Suzanne Turner to have East Tender shifted off private property.*
- *Shire staff and contractors need to contact the property owners every time they need to access the tenders for servicing and garaged on private property.*
- *Description of Fire Control Officer role to be provided to Bevan Walters.*

**BFAC 03.22-03**

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

**MOVED M. Hall**

**SECONDED B. Montague**

*That the Bush Fire Advisory Committee directs the Shire Administration to organise a meeting with David Cliff (Brookton Country Club), Murray Hall, Travis Eva, and Jason Carrall, to discuss required mitigation works.*

**CARRIED**







# Brookton Country Club

*Incorporating Bowls, Golf & Function Centre*

PO Box 190, BROOKTON WA 6306

[mail@brooktoncountryclub.com.au](mailto:mail@brooktoncountryclub.com.au)

ABN:23 705 669 833

7<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Bushfire Advisory Committee  
Murray Hall  
Shire of Brookton  
PO Box 42  
BROOKTON WA 6306

Dear Murray,

The Brookton Country Club Management Committee would like the advice and assistance of yourself and the BFAC members around some mitigation works we would like to undertake on the Country Club Reserve, particularly the bush that is north of the Number 3 Fairway, and west of Number 7 Fairway and then the section of bush that is bordered by the Brookton Highway, but at the end of Number 10 & 11 Fairways.

In light of recent fires down in the southwest that saw the Bridgetown Golf Club destroyed we would like to ensure we doing whatever is necessary to protect the infrastructure of the Brookton Country Club.

In this instance David Cliff (0409 642 405) or myself would be the best point of contact.

Thank you and we look forward to working with BFAC.

Kind regards,

Neil Walker  
*President*  
*Brookton Country Club*  
T: 0408 424 018

Country Club Chairperson  
Mr. Neil Walker  
Tel: 0408 424 018

Bowls Chairperson  
Mr. Trevor Allington  
Tel: 0437 837 105

Golf Chairperson  
Mr. Colin Mills  
Tel: 0408 919 381

### 1. MEDIA RELEASE: 23Mar22 Disaster assistance for farming communities in WA's Wheatbelt

Disaster recovery assistance is now available to impacted communities in the Shires of Corrigin and Bruce Rock after two bushfires tore through Western Australia's Wheatbelt region in February. Assistance will be provided through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA), ensuring local government, individuals and families are supported in their recovery journey.

The bushfires that began on February 6, burnt through more than 45,000 hectares, with the Shires of Corrigin and Bruce Rock bearing the brunt of the impact.

Minister for Emergency Management and National Recovery and Resilience, Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie said it was important that impacted communities received support during their recovery.

"These bushfires burnt for several days and caused a significant amount of damage to local communities," Minister McKenzie said.

"Future farm productivity could be diminished by loss of grain for stock feed and seed for planting crops, while the damage to native trees and shrubs will have future impacts on the local ecosystem.

"By activating the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, we can ensure that our communities that were affected by these bushfires can expedite their recovery and get back on their feet as quickly as possible," Minister McKenzie said.

Hundreds of local volunteer firefighters and strike teams from surrounding areas fought to contain the blaze amid searing temperatures and strong winds.

The extraordinary efforts of emergency services saw the bushfires contained and controlled by February 10 but both incidents caused significant damage to community and agricultural infrastructure.

Western Australian Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon Stephen Dawson MLC said the bushfires required a coordinated multi-agency and community response to protect lives and properties.

"Temporary evacuation centres were established in both Corrigin and Pingelly for people who needed to leave their homes," Minister Dawson said.

"About 100 people initially presented to the evacuation centres, while Babakin Primary School was closed for several days while the fire was brought under control.

"These bushfire events have seen people experience ongoing stress and anxiety, however, their resilience and response as a community continue to be strong.

"The Shires of Corrigin and Bruce Rock should be commended for their important recovery efforts to date.

"Both the Western Australian and Commonwealth Governments will work with those impacted to ensure they have support during this difficult time."

Information on disaster assistance can be found on the Australian Government's Disaster Assist website at [www.disasterassist.gov.au](http://www.disasterassist.gov.au).

WA Emergency Services Minister's office - 6552 5800

<https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2022/03/Joint-media-statement-Disaster-assistance-for-farming-communities-in-WA%E2%80%99s-Wheatbelt.aspx>

**2. MEDIA RELEASE: 24Mar22 First ever District Recovery Coordinator appointed to Wheatbelt following catastrophic bushfires.**

- First ever appointment of a District Recovery Coordinator to assist local governments with recovery efforts
- Recovery coordination group established to ensure collaborative whole-of-government approach

Emergency Services Minister Stephen Dawson has announced today the appointment of Wheatbelt Development Commission Chief Executive Rob Cossart as District Recovery Coordinator (DRC) to the Wheatbelt.

Mr Cossart's role as DRC will be to support communities recovering from the aftermath of catastrophic bushfires that hit the Wheatbelt region in February. He will also chair a District Recovery Coordination Group that will be established to ensure targeted support is delivered to fire-affected communities.

Farmers in the Wheatbelt suffered significant losses during the fires, with three separate blazes tearing through Western Australia's agricultural heartland on February 6.

Fanned by strong winds and extreme heat, the fires burnt more than 60,000 hectares, devastated farmland and destroyed livestock in the local government areas of Corrigin, Cuballing, Narrogin, Bruce Rock and Wickelup.

As chair of the coordination group, Mr Cossart will facilitate a forum for shires to come together to share and learn from their respective challenges and approaches to the recovery journey.

This additional support from the State Government complements jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements that have already been announced for parts of the region.

**Comments attributed to Emergency Services Minister Stephen Dawson:**

"Given the catastrophic fire conditions recently experienced, along with an unprecedented number of incidents, this is the first time a District Recovery Coordinator has been appointed to assist with recovery efforts.

"Rob Cossart is the ideal candidate to take on this challenging, yet important role.

"Mr Cossart is a community leader with considerable knowledge of the region, especially its agriculture, and he has a strong understanding of local recovery efforts.

"As head of the Wheatbelt Development Commission, he has an intimate understanding of the issues affecting each shire."

**Comments attributed to Regional Development Minister Alannah MacTiernan:**

"Many local Wheatbelt communities were devastated by these bushfires and will continue to feel the effects in the months ahead.

"The impacts on the agricultural industry from these fires were immense.

"The appointment of Rob Cossart as District Recovery Coordinator will bring together skillsets and knowledge across the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Primary Industries and Regional Development, and the Wheatbelt Development Commission.

"Rob's role as District Recovery Coordinator will provide another important avenue for the affected communities to receive the vital support they need in recovery."

Minister's office - 6552 5800

<https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2022/03/First-ever-District-Recovery-Coordinator-appointed-to-Wheatbelt-following-catastrophic-bushfires.aspx>

## 10.03.22 OTHER BUSINESS

### 10.03.22.01 DEPARTMENT FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES – ACTING AREA OFFICER – BLAKE HALFORD

- Paul Blechynden – DFES – Officially promoted to District Officer Emergency Management (still based in Narrogin) – covers 2 regions, Lower Great Southern, and Upper Great Southern
  - Council to send Paul a letter thanking him for his commitment and support to Brookton and the Brookton Brigades, and congratulating him on his new role (from Shire & Brigades)
- Blake Halford – acting as Area Officer until role is advertised and filled permanently.
- Busy season across the State, records being broken (regarding multiple large-scale incidents occurring at the same time). Strain placed on resources, currently working through lessons learnt, and creating best practice moving forward.
- Thank you to Brookton for supporting their neighbour Corrigin, during a difficult emergency event.
- DFES are now shifting focus to mitigation.

### 10.03.22.02 POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF RESTRICTED (PERMIT) BURNING PERIOD

Unrestricted Burning due to open 15<sup>th</sup> April 2022, cannot decide just yet due to the unpredictable weather forecasted, a decision to be made closer to opening date, due to the West only receiving 3mm of rain over the last few weeks. Captains to revise and place conditions to suit conditions.

### 10.03.22.03 EMERGENCY SERVICES LEVY (ESL)

Doubling, and tripling of ESL requirements to catch back up, first aid kits, PPE etc. are well out of date.

## 11.03.22 CLOSURE OF MEETING

- **Next BFAC Meeting:** TBA
  - Authorisation of Dual Fire Control Officers – Shires of Wandering, Pingelly, and Corrigin
  - Brookton - Fire Break Notice 2022/2023 Season

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.02pm.