



## **BUSHFIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **AGENDA**

**7 July 2022**

**14 White Street  
Brookton, WA 6306**

<b>5.00</b>	<b>pm</b>	<b>COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING</b>
<b>6.00</b>	<b>pm</b>	<b>CLOSURE OF MEETING</b>



## **NOTICE OF MEETING**

### **BUSHFIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**7 July 2022**

**14 White Street  
Brookton, WA 6306**

Dear Councillor, Resident or Ratepayer,

Notice is hereby given that the Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting of the Brookton Shire Council will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022 in the Council Chambers at the Shire Administration Centre commencing at 5.00pm.

The business to be transacted is shown in the Agenda.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G Sherry'.

**Gary Sherry**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
6<sup>th</sup> July 2022

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### **1.07.22 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ATTENDANCE**

The Presiding Member opened the meeting at 5.00pm, and welcomed Councillors, Committee Members and Staff.

On behalf of the Committee, 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 it's life.

### **2.07.22 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

*That the minutes of the Bushfire Advisory Committee meeting held in the Shire of Brookton Council Chambers, on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2022, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.*

### 3.07.22 STATUS TABLE

Black – No changes from previous reports    Red – Additions from since latest Bushfire Advisory Committee meetings

Item #	Date Initiated	Item Details	Assigned to	Comment
1.	16 Mar 2021	Obtain list of courses and dates to all brigade members.	CESM	List sent out to captains and awaiting response for numbers and preferred dates. 1st FCO course completed, 2nd course (Bushfire Safety Awareness) cancelled due to lack of numbers; 3rd Course (Ground Controller) cancelled due to DFES trainer required to Emergency. Bushfire Safety Awareness has been rescheduled for Friday evening 8th October & Saturday 9th 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 9th February was cancelled, due to the Corrigin fire. <b>CESM - Prepare a 2022 training schedule and communicate to Brigades. EGO - publicise locally - newsletter, Facebook, fire mail out.</b>
2.	16 Mar 2021	Further information with recent changes for LGIS – Workplace Work Health and Safety Act 2020	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. Webinar held on 31st 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. 21.07.22 - Legislation is scheduled to come into effect from 31st March 2022. <b>Legislation is now in effect.</b>
3.	16 Mar 2021	Water tanks – Shire to confirm the water flow and report back.	CESM	Nil. Requires further investigation on commencement with Shire MIW.

Item #	Date Initiated	Item Details	Assigned to	Comment
4.	16 Mar 2021	Review water issues and possible placement of tanks in the district.	CESM	Long term project with more consultation with brigade members on placement of tanks, also different options and costings required. Extra Water tank approved to be constructed with the West Brookton Fire Shed and will be completed in the 2 year approved DFES cycle. Planning and land assessments will be commenced in 2nd quarter.
5.	16 Mar 2021	Review through LGGS for maintenance on vehicles	CESM GO	LGGS has submitted for the 2021/2022 year. Notification will come through the approval been process with DFES. <b>2021/22 servicing nearing completion.</b>
6.	16 Mar 2021	Review (WAERN) Radios through LGGS Scheme	CESM	Radio maintenance has been completed on all radios for the 20-21 Period. Next servicing is due in the 21-22 Period. Please refer to report attached. <b>In response to DFES query list of WAERN radios for brigade use submitted to DFES.</b>
7.	16 Mar 2021	Shire to investigate better communication for absentee landholders /hobby farmers.	CEO	MCC to review with the aspects of the Shire's engagement on the areas in Rates, Budget & Shire website. CESM to review with the Firebreak notice. Mailouts and details will be done with the normal rating period (anticipated date: Late July/early Aug). Mail to residents has been completed with the annual rates procedures. Further engagement to occur through community events, social media, welcome packs to new owners. <b>Fire information will be mailed separately nearer to fire break/fire safety deadline. Information will be publicised regularly in Newsletter, Facebook</b>
8.	16 Mar 2021	Review best method for absent landholders with identification for best contact details.	CEO	CESM to follow up with Rates Officer to see how the best way to combat these details. I.e. New Welcome Pack, 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. See response to Note 7.
9.	5 Oct 2021	CESM/DFES to activate training for farmworkers and bush fire	CESM/DFES /All	CESM to activate training programs with the recent changes to the WHS Act and the provisions to maintain.

Item #	Date Initiated	Item Details	Assigned to	Comment
		brigade members as soon as possible. DFES providing the training modules to accommodate the regions.	Brigades	21.03.2021 – Course was scheduled for 9 <sup>th</sup> February was cancelled, due to the Corrigin fire. <b>Training Schedule advised and being advertised. More information below.</b>
10.	5 Oct 2021	Construct West Brookton Bushfire Brigade's 2 bay facility. To be finalised by 30 June 2023.	CESM/ West Brigade/ Chief/ CEO	CESM to have site meeting and discuss with relevant parties. Work needs to be completed by Shire to progress to next stage. <b>Design and construct tender information from similar task received from Shire of Kellerberrin. Specification to be developed.</b>
11.	5 Oct 2021	CESM to review access to fuel for new site at West Brookton BFB site.	CESM	CESM to investigate and report back to BFAC. This is very difficult. Fuel will make the Fire Station a crime target. Fire hazard? Requires licence to store?
12.	5 Oct 2021	CESM and CEO to follow up on Policy and/or operating procedures	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”.
13.	5 Oct 2021	CESM to readvertise burning season periods for all residents and ratepayers	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. <b>See response to Note 7.</b>
14.	30 Mar 2022	Letter to be sent to Georgie Beecroft to acknowledge and thank her for her continued service to the West Brigade, and the Brookton Brigades as a whole.	EGO	<b>Georgie Beecroft attended formal hand over of new West Brigade Fire Truck. Presented with Certificate of appreciation. Event was be publicised in future Shire publicity.</b>
15.	30 Mar 2022	CESM to send COVID vaccination status to all captains.	CESM	
16.	30 Mar 2022	Garmin Mini Radios to be	CESM	<b>See note 6</b>

Item #	Date Initiated	Item Details	Assigned to	Comment
		investigated (for ability to communicate outside of phone reception.		
17.	30 Mar 2022	Permit to Burn book for new FCO Brad Bassett	CEO	At this time Permit Books unable to be located. New stock may be required. Permit books orders, delivered and awaiting collection.
18.	30 Mar 2022	Distribute BP fuel cards and instructions to fire Tenders	CESM GO	Shire will complete new purchasing arrangements and instructions for all trucks.
19.	30 Mar 2022	24-hour fuel access cards from Brookton Roadhouse and instructions for use for all fire tenders.	CEO	Shire will complete new purchasing arrangements and instructions for all trucks.
20.	30 Mar 2022	Investigate requirements for providing lot/location numbers on Permit to Burn forms.	CEO/CESM	Nil to date
21.	30 Mar 2022	Need to contact the property owners every time they need to access the tenders for servicing and garaged on private property.	CESM, CEO	Shire staff providing notice.
22.	30 Mar 2022	Description of Fire Control Officer role to be provided to Bevan Walters	CESM	
23.	30 Mar 2022	Organise a meeting with David Cliff (Brookton Country Club), Murray Hall (CBFCO), Travis Eva (DCBFCO), and CESM to discuss mitigation works.	CESM	Meeting held. Plan arranged. Burn to be scheduled.





## **4.07.22 PRESENTATIONS**

Nil.

## **5.07.22 REPORTS**

### **5.07.22.01 Arrangements for Management of Volunteer Bushfire Brigades**

#### Summary

The Council would like feedback from the BFAC prior to considering a policy position on the management of Volunteer Bushfire Brigades.

#### Background

Under the Bush Fires Act 1954, Local Governments have responsibility for bushfire and the management of volunteer Bush Fire Brigades (BFBs). 111 Local Governments manage 563 BFBs involving approximately 20,000 volunteers.

The State Government is currently drafting the Consolidated Emergency Services Act (CES Act), which consolidates the Fire Brigades Act 1942, Bush Fires Act 1954 and Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998 into a single piece of legislation, anticipated to be released as a Green Bill for consultation in early 2023.

The introduction of the Work Health and Safety Act 2020 has also shone a spotlight on Local Government responsibilities for managing volunteer BFBs.

WA Local Government Association (WALGA) has prepared a proposed Advocacy Position for the local government consideration. WALGA identified four possible for the future management of BFBs:

1. Status quo - continue with the current arrangements for management of BFBs whereby the majority are managed by Local Government and transfer arrangements are negotiated on an ad hoc basis between DFES and Local Governments (or their BFBs).
2. Improvements - continue with the current arrangements for Local Government management of BFBs with additional support provided by the State Government with respect to increased funding and better access to training resources and other support.
3. Hybrid Model - Local Government continues to manage BFBs where they have the capacity, capability and resources to do so; however where they do not have the capacity, capability and resources, responsibility for management of BFBs is transferred to DFES.
4. Transfer - Responsibility for management of all BFBs is transferred to the State Government, consistent with the arrangements in other States and Territories.

The proposed WALGA position is the hybrid model. WALGA are seeking responses from local governments.

## Staff Comment

The responsibility for Bushfire has traditionally sat with LG because historically LG was the only agency able to provide the services. This is no longer the case.

DFES now has access to ESL resources and funds a significantly higher level of Bushfire service than ever before. The Shire of Brookton has access to a CESM, new fire appliances, new fire shed and a range of new technology.

In reviewing Shire of Brookton Bushfire management there are two very separate considerations –

1. Responsibility; and
2. Funding.

The Shire of Brookton has full responsibility for Bushfire management. Therefore if there is any fire management issue – ie response to a fire, the standard or maintenance of fire fighting equipment, the safety of fire fighters – the Shire of Brookton is responsible. This responsibility only ceases if DFES want to take over an incident - but there is no requirement for them to do so.

While the Shire of Brookton is receiving unprecedented levels of funding from DFES for Bushfire equipment and response activities. The access is via funding through DFES's grant programs. There is no concrete link between responsibility and funding.

DFES restricts access to only DFES specified equipment and uses. If an LG believes that it needs equipment and DFES wont fund the purchase of it, the LG can use its own resources to purchase them.

A comparison between DFES funding levels of DFES responsible emergency services (Fire & Rescue, State Emergency Service, sea rescue) and the DFES grant system for Bushfire would see DFES ensuring that their responsibilities are funded, but LGs told to make do with whatever DFES think is appropriate.

If DFES was responsible for Bushfire Management in the Shire of Brookton, the Shire of Brookton could expect that:

- DFES would fully resource their local volunteer brigades. The long grant process would disappear for LG and DFES;
- DFES would need to meet the management responsibility. The CESM would likely be replaced by a permanent DFES employee;
- DFES would support and manage their local volunteers. Volunteers would have real input into DFES services – appliance specifications and equipment provision are just two areas;
- The entirety of DFES would need to learn about Bushfire. Currently the DFES senior management only ever have responsibility for a large incidents – 2 or 3 incidents each year. With responsibility they would need to be across all the issues all the time;

The Shire of Brookton should also expect support the local bushfire volunteers in the same way that the Shire currently supports our local ambulance volunteers and FRS volunteers.

#### **5.07.22.02 Appointments of Dual Fire Control Officers**

For the 2021/22 the Shire of Brookton had the following appointments.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Appointment</b>
Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	Murray Hall
Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	Travis Eva
FCO's – Central Brigade	Troy Bassett, Andrew Pike, Les Eyre, Ashley Hobbs,
FCO's – East Brigade	Bevan Walters, Darrell Turner, Dennis Wilkinson
FCO's – West Brigade	Tim Evans, Jamie Blight, Ross Evans, Len Simmons, Mark
FCO – Shire of Brookton	Jason Carrall
Shire of Wandering	Peter Monk, GR Parsons
Shire of Pingelly	Rodney Shaddick, Sam MacNamara, Brodie Cunningham, Jeffrey Edwards, Victor Lee, Malcolm Cunningham, Adam Watts
Shire of Corrigin	Greg Evans, Braden Grylls

The following are proposed for appointment for the 2022/23 fire season.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Proposal</b>
Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	Murray Hall
Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	Travis Eva
FCO's – Central Brigade	Troy Bassett, Andrew Pike, Les Eyre, Ashley Hobbs,
FCO's – East Brigade	Bevan Walters, Darrell Turner, Dennis Wilkinson
FCO's – West Brigade	Tim Evans, Jamie Blight, Ross Evans, Len Simmons, Mark
FCO – Shire of Brookton	Jason Carrall
Shire of Wandering	Anthony Turton, 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

The Shire will make these appointments at their July Meeting. If there are any other changes these can be completed at the same time.

#### **5.07.22.03 Scheduled Training**

The following training has been scheduled for the Shire of Brookton

### **Rural Fire Awareness**

This course covers the knowledge required for personnel to provide incident support at bushfires including bushfire response strategies. This course is aimed at Farmers/Pastoralists, Rural Landowners/Managers, Seasonal workers

#### Course Dates

Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	12:00pm – 5:00pm
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	8:00am – 1:00pm
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2022	12:00pm – 5:00pm
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2022	8:00am – 1:00pm

Venue in Brookton depends on numbers.

### **Bushfire Safety Awareness**

This course covers the knowledge required for personnel to provide incident support at bushfires including bushfire response strategies and suppression. This course is aimed at BFS Bush Firefighters

#### Course Dates

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2022 – 5:30pm – 8:30pm and Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2022 – 8:30am – 4:30pm

Venue in Brookton depends on numbers.

### **Fire Fighting Skills**

This course is made up of four different modules including:

- Introduction to Map Reading:
- Introduction to Communications:
- Tools and Equipment:
- Crew Protection:

#### Course Dates

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022 (17:30-21:30) and Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2022 (all day)

Venue - Brookton VFRS

## **6.07.22 GENERAL BUSINESS**

## **7.07.22 NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 7th September 2022 at 7.00pm

- o Brookton - Fire Break Notice 2022/2023 Season

## **8.07.22 CLOSURE OF MEETING**