

Bush Fire Advisory Committee – Greenough

Meeting Agenda

Meeting Name	Greenough BFAC Meeting	Meeting No.	2 / 2019
Meeting Date	Monday, 17 October 2019	Meeting Time:	7.00pm
Meeting Location	Cape Burney Bush Fire Brigade Station 5 Hull Street, Cape Burney		
Committee Members	Cr Jerry Clune, Chair Cr Robert Hall Cr Michael Reymond Murray Smith, Emergency Operations Officer, Chief Bush Fire Control Office Captain and Fire Control Officer - Cape Burney Brigade Captain and Fire Control Officer - Eradu Brigade Captain and Fire Control Officer - Moonyoonooka Brigade Captain and Fire Control Officer - Waggrakine Brigade Captain and Fire Control Officer - Walkaway Brigade	By Invitation	DBCA, DFES, VFRS
		Apologies	
		Distribution	Attendees, Councillors

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

- 1.1 Attendance and apologies
- 1.2 Introductions and announcement of visitors

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 2.1. Review of Minutes - Meeting held 13 March 2019
- 2.2. Review of actions from previous meeting

3. KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- 3.1. Weather Stations
- 3.2. Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Report

4. PRESENTATIONS

5. AGENCY AND BRIGADE REPORTS

- 5.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
- 5.2 Coordinator, Emergency Management
- 5.3 Department of Fire and Emergency Services

5.4 Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

5.5 Cape Burney Bush Fire Brigade

5.6 Eradu Bush Fire Brigade

5.7 Moonyoonooka Bush Fire Brigade

5.8 Waggrakine Bush Fire Brigade

5.9 Walkaway Bush Fire Brigade

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

8. CLOSE

ACTIONS OUTSTANDING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

ACTION NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	STATUS
GBFAC-001	<p>Full Face Respirators Investigate possible trial of full-face respirators. Potential issues– maintenance, regulation of internal temperature of wearers, and ability to talk on UHF radios. Respirators distributed to Moonyoonooka, Cape Burney and Waggrakine brigades for trial during upcoming season (Three to each brigade).</p>	Murray Smith	Review in Feb/March 2019
GBFAC-002	<p>St John Ambulance Training Calendar Murray to liaise with St Johns to develop specialised training for bush fire members.</p>	Murray Smith	Ongoing
GBFAC-003	<p>Working with Children Checks and Police Clearances. Formal process for checks not yet in place. Working through logistics of setting up for Volunteer Bushfire Brigades. Timeframes to be confirmed. Rework of membership forms could be part of this process.</p>	Murray Smith	Ongoing
GBFAC-004	<p>Current FCOs List of current Fire Control Officers to be distributed before season commences.</p>	Murray Smith	NEW
GBFAC-005	<p>Weather Stations Produce and send updated map of weather stations.</p>	Brendan Wilson	NEW
GBFAC-006	<p>Fuel Load, north Side of Chapman River Waggrakine BFB have identified a high fuel load on the north side of the river, specifically Kultown Drive, Waggrakine. The City is aware of some high fuel loads in the Chapman River Regional Park and will be working on a program of mitigation with the City's Environmental Team and key CRRP stakeholders.</p>	Murray Smith	NEW
GFAC-007	<p>Mobile Repeater / Eardu Eardu 4.4 to go to ML Communications on return from Perth to have CelFi mobile repeater fitted.</p>	Murray Smith	NEW

Bush Fire Advisory Committee – Greenough Meeting Minutes

Meeting Name	Greenough BFAC Meeting	Meeting No.	1 / 2019
Meeting Date	Monday, 11 March 2019	Meeting Time:	7.00pm
Meeting Location	Cape Burney Bush Fire Brigade Station 5 Hull Street, Cape Burney		
Committee Members	Cr Jerry Clune, Chair Cr Robert Hall Cr Michael Reymond Murray Smith, Emergency Operations Officer, Chief Bush Fire Control Office Rob Roffey – Captain/FCO, Cape Burney Brigade Neil Johnstone – Captain/FCO, Moonyoonooka Brigade Mark Teale - Captain Waggrakine Brigade Brendan McCann – Captain/FCO, Walkaway Brigade	By Invitation	DBCA, DFES, VFRS
		Apologies	Ian Grant – Captain/FCO, Eradu Brigade Darryl Hamersley – FCO Walkaway Len Hamersley – FCO Walkaway
		Distribution	Attendees, Councillors

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

The Chair opened the meeting at 7pm. Apologies were noted as above.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- 2.1. Minutes of the Meeting held 17 September 2018, as previously circulated were accepted as true and correct.
- 2.2. Review of actions from previous meeting – Refer to Action Register.

3. REPORTS

3.1. Captains Reports

Cape Burney

7 call outs to date. 1 near miss. Assisted Geraldton Career Fire & Rescue Service (2), pole top fires (2), car fires (2), and bush fire (1).

Experienced some issues with appliance – noise of auxiliary pump, preventing communication between the crew while on the truck. This has been reported to DFES fleet for investigation and resolution.

Moonyoonooka

Very quiet fire season.

Waggrakine

Currently have 34 members, 19 firefighters, 3 probationary recruits, 6 cadets, 6 support members

20 callouts, including 13 bush fires.

Members have been deployed to fires in Dongara, Wiluna, and Norseman.

The brigade has attended Relay for Life and Waggrakine Family Fun Day community events.

The Minister for Emergency Services and the FES Commissioner visited the station. Capital nominations have been submitted with the City for the training room and re-sealing of the carpark.

Walkaway

No harvest fires or illegal burn offs.

Eradu

No report

3.2. Fire Control Officer Reports

No reports submitted.

3.3. Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Report

Capital nominations (CGG/DFES) made for the following:

- Refurbish of Cape Burney BFB training room. (CGG)
- Carpark/training area for Waggrakine BFB. (CGG)
- Training room for Waggrakine BFB (DFES)
- Automated Weather Stations)CGG)
- Light tanker for Cape Burney BFB (DFES)
- Bulk water carrier (DFES)

Increased ESL by \$5k – Brigade Shirts (Operational Grant)

Additional funding was sought to replace the Waggrakine and Cape Burney laptop and data projector – both declined - DFES advised this is to be taken from the operational grant.

Investigating options for additional supply tanks in areas where there is limited access to water.

Training programs in development for new members.

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

4.1. New Coordinator Emergency Management

Wayne Ellis replaces Brendan Wilson (Brendan has accepted a position with DFES as the District Emergency Management Advisor).

4.2. Alignment of Restricted Burning Times and Prohibited Burning Times.

The City of Greater Geraldton is working towards aligning the Restricted Burning Times and Prohibited Burning Times between the City of Greater Geraldton, the Shire of Northampton and the Shire of Chapman Valley.

Committee Recommendation

The Greenough BFAC support the proposed alignment of Restricted Burning Times and Prohibited Burning Times as distributed (Version 3). The Greenough BFAC also recommends that the Shires of Irwin, Mingenew, Morawa and Yalgoo and Murchison are invited to align their Restricted Burning Times and Prohibited Burning Times to provide continuity across the region.

4.3. Triple Zero Reporting of Fires

As per the Regional DFES Superintendent Instruction November 2018. The City should actively support education to the public to ring triple zero in an emergency, not CGG councillors, the City or WA Police. The City approached DFES to develop resources to educate the public and this information will be distributed in coming months

4.4. Resignation from Cape Burney Fire Brigade

The Greenough BFAC received a letter from Kevin White (FCO Cape Burney) advising his resignation. This was distributed to the members present. Cr Clune acknowledged and thanked Kevin for the significant contribution made to the Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades.

4.5. ESL Grant Process

Russell Hayes (visitor to the Greenough BFAC, Waggrakine BFB member) raised concerns that the City is not receiving the full Emergency Service Levy (ESL) funds to which it is entitled. He requested that the current process is analysed and changes made, involving brigades in the budget process. Cr Clune to investigate.

4.6. Retro-fit of Vehicles

Waggrakine BFB requested feedback be provided to DFES on quality of work during retro-fit. Murray acknowledge this and advised it has been noted in feedback to DFES fleet services.

4.7. Areas without Hydrants

Waggrakine BFB has provided a list of areas without hydrants to the City and a process for rectifying this issue is under development.

4.8. Night Burning

Waggrakine BFB requested the City promote to the community that night burning is allowed in accordance with the Bush Fires Act, to prevent unnecessary callouts.

4.9. Waggrakine Fire control Officer (FCO)

Waggrakine BFB requested a second FCO for the Waggrakine/Moresby area. Murray advised next review date is October 2019 after all bush fire brigades have completed their Annual General Meeting (AGM) and submitted their FCO nominations to the BFAC's.

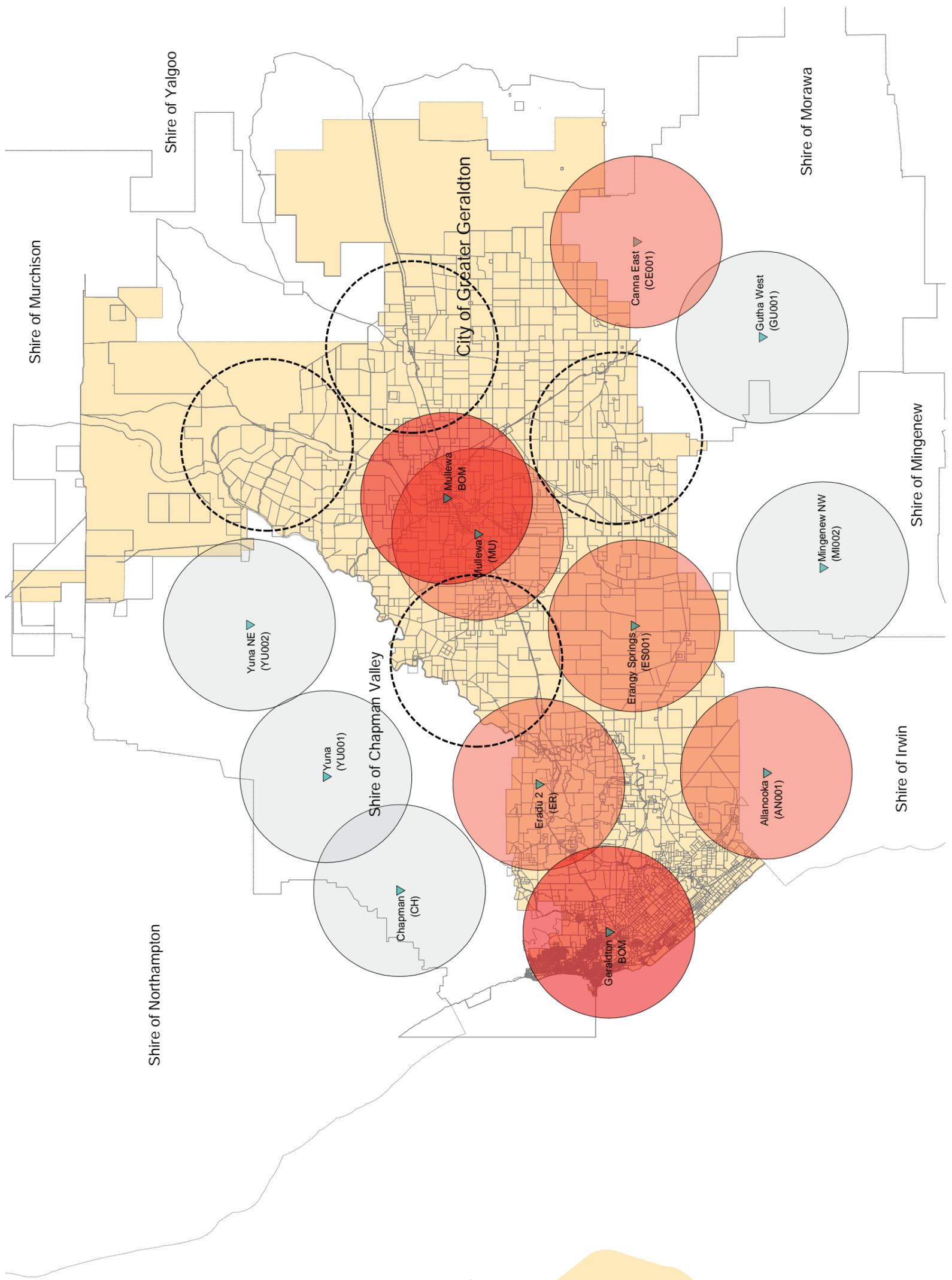
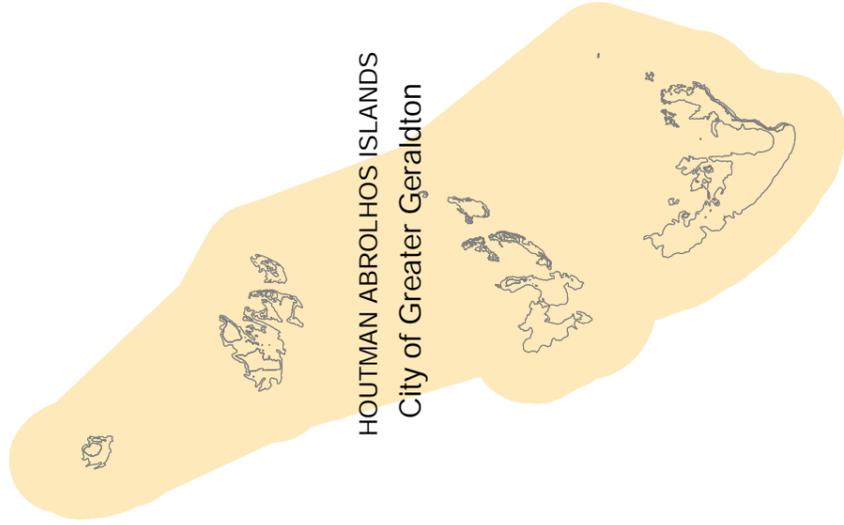
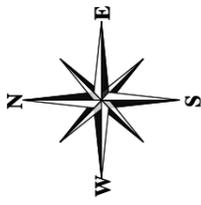
5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting in late September / October.

6. CLOSE

Cr Clune thanked volunteers on behalf of DFES (and the City) for all their support during recent incidents across the state.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.



Disclaimer: Whilst all care has been taken in the preparation of this data, this information is provided as a guide only and no responsibility shall be taken for any omissions or errors in this documentation. The accuracy provided is not to be used for legal purposes, but reference made to original documentation, which includes Certificate of Titles, Survey Diagrams and legal versions of the Town Planning Schemes.



Map produced by the City of Greater Geraldton
W: www.cgg.wa.gov.au E: council@cgg.wa.gov.au

Proposed Radar and Weather Station Sites

Scale: 1:1

Date	10-Jul-19
Department	IS [Engineering - GIS]
Drawing No.	
Operator	DAI
Paper Size	A3

Review of Local Government Grant Scheme

Waggrakine Bush Fire Brigade

Background

Public Monies

The Local Government Grant Scheme provides “Public Money” to Local Governments for the funding of their Bush Fire Brigades and as such should be fully accounted for and delivers services in a transparent way.

LGGS Cost Recognition

It is the specific intended role and function of the LGGS to enable DFES to finance the approved capital and operating costs associated with provision and maintenance of an effective bush fire fighting service for Local Governments. In essence, this includes all costs incurred by BFB's associated with their establishment and training, and their actual response to fire fighting or other typical brigade activities. I.e. business as usual.

Operating Grants

Operating grants relate to the annual operating expenses incurred by Brigades in direct support of their activities and readiness for operational duties including the cost of emergency response. Examples of acceptable costs include: purchase of plant and equipment (<\$1500 per item), maintenance of plant and equipment, maintenance of vehicles, trailers and boats, maintenance of buildings, BFS PPE and accessories, utilities rates and taxes, insurance and other goods and services. In aggregate, these costs would not be expected to vary significantly from one year to the next.

DFES will assess the base operating grant allocation for BFB which will combine line items 1-8 on the basis of the average of the previous two years completed acquittals (past expenditure trends) and the current year's allocation, indexed with the prevailing cost escalation factor, and will advise Local Governments of the assessed amount. Local Governments have the option to either accept or reject the proposed assessed allocation.

Local Governments should consult with their BFB's when assessing their operating grant requirements.

Local Governments must operate within the operating grant budget bottom line. All expenditure should be authorised and be within LGGS guidelines. Description of expenditure categories further describes acceptable expenditure items.

Capital Grants

Capital grants relate to significant capital works initiatives costing more than \$5,000 per item, including the acquisition/construction of facilities, appliances, vehicles and major items of equipment.

Annual Operating Grants and Acquittal 2014 – 2018

Operating grant allocations to Local Government are based on the average of the previous two years completed acquittals (past expenditure trends) and the current years allocation, indexed with the prevailing cost escalation factor.

Similarly, allocations may also need to be adjusted over time to reflect changes in the number of Brigades or level of volunteer/capital support and their consequential impact on operating expenses.

Where a significant operating cost variation is identified, accordingly justified and cannot be absorbed within the overall grant allocation, DFES will consider reimbursing the Local Government for the identified over run as part of the year end acquittal process. DFES requires LG's to consult once possible overruns are identified to ensure acceptance of the overrun occurs.

The table below shows the operating grants and acquittals for the FY 2014 – 2018/19 grant as provided by the CoGG. Acquittal information was not available for the 18/19 FY.

Year	Grant	Acquittal	Under/Over	Remark
14/15	\$121,930	\$122,251	Over \$321	
15/16	\$127,620	\$123,729	Under \$3,891	Causes reduction in funding
16/17	\$127,930	\$116,630	Under \$11,630	Causes reduction in funding
17/18	\$122,467	\$153,239	Over \$30,772	DFES has published operating Grant of \$126,930 for FY17/18???
18/19	\$128,530	Unknown		

It should be noted the grant for 2017/18 from CoGG records indicate a grant of \$122,467 whilst DFES has published a grant of \$126,930.

The FY 17/18 indicates a cost overrun of \$30,772. This is a good example where the cost overrun has been agreed by DFES and supplementary funding has been provided (**Assumed**). An analysis indicates that cost overruns were experienced in the following areas against normal trend.

1. Maintenance of plant and equipment approx \$8,000 over trend.
2. Maintenance of vehicles \$10,000
3. Other goods and services \$7,000

Of most concern are the financial years of 15/16 and 16/17 where there are significant underspends. As mentioned above the following years grant is based on an average of the two previous years.

During this period brigades were requesting equipment and were being denied, for a number of reasons given by CoGG staff. Some of which included "I will have to see what is in the budget"

Brigades also experienced inordinate delays in the provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) during this period. This includes garments to be worn under turn out tunics.

The Waggrakine BFB experience.

Requests for information have been met with a general sense of defensiveness.

Last minute approaches for capital items requests

Capital works requests made at previous BFAC's not followed up or actioned.

Brigades are not requested to submit a budget to the city for consideration as per section 6.3 of the Local Laws. A budgetary framework is not provided by the City for brigades to complete for consideration.

Delays in issue or replacement of PPE could be reduced by allowing each brigade to manage its own store of equipment or have a limited supply available to them. Eg. Gloves, Tunic and trousers

Active Urban/Rural Defensive brigades have operational/functional needs greater than rural brigades.

Comments are made that other Brigades are unhappy with the supply of recent goods and request made by the Waggrakine brigade and they believe it to be unfair. We believe as a result of our continued push for new equipment it has resulted in much of the same equipment being rolled out to other brigades.

We have been advised we are ineligible for items which have turned out to be eligible items. The brigade's internal funds should not be used for such items that are eligible which was suggested.

There is little consultation with the brigades, and it is "done too us rather than done for us". An example of this is the CoGG entering into a 2-year supply contract for PPE without consulting the end user. PPE is different across the suppliers. With different design and comfort levels. It is not known who decides on whether Item A is better than Item Z. As brigades are not consulted.

Recommendations

Motion 1:

The BFAC recommends to the CoGG "That the Capital and Operating Grant submission for the current FY and the Annual Operating Grants Acquittal for Bushfire Brigades for the previous FY is tabled at the pre-Summer BFAC. Annually.

Motion 2:

The BFAC recommends to the CoGG

(a) The CoGG requests annual submissions from Bushfire Brigades for Capital Buildings submissions by a specified date utilising a set framework, given the six months required for approvals to pass through the CoGG. These approved submissions are then included in the Annual Capital and Operating Grants submission and tabled at the BFAC.

(b) The city requests annual submissions from Bushfire Brigades for operating grant items outside of recurrent costs as listed in the Manual for Capital and Operating Grants by the 28th of February each year. Should Brigades not submit a request the city shall do so on the brigade's behalf.

(c) Bushfire Brigades are entitled to request all items deemed eligible in the Manual for Capital and Operating Grants (Description of Expenditure Categories for Brigades Operations) in the FY of grant approval.

Motion 3:

The BFAC recommends to the CoGG

The CoGG establishes a LGGS Working Group made up of CoGG Staff and BFB Executives and representatives to ensure consultation and good governance occurs in relation to submission of the CoGG Capital and Operating Grant and the subsequent expenditure of "Public Monies".