

Mullewa Bushfire Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Name	Mullewa Bush Fire Advisory Committee	Meeting No.	02 / 2015
Meeting Date	24 September 2015		
Meeting Time	10:00am		
Meeting Location	Committee Room, Mullewa District Office		
Attendees	Cr. Tarleah Thomas, Cr. Jen Critch, Brett Steele (chair), Peter Barnetson, Murray Preston, Daniel Critch, Darrin Fulker, Brendan Weir, Konrad Seidl, Brendan Wilson	By Invitation	Poulose Ullhannan
		Apologies	Cr. J. Clune
		Distribution	Attendees & apologies

REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the committee meeting from 24 February 2015 were tabled, and accepted (moved by Darrin, seconded by Peter).

1. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

- 1.1. Brendan advised the meeting that the water tanks proposed for installation on South Ardingly Road & Yanget Road have not been included in the FY15/16 Capital Works Program, furthermore, Water Corporation have advised that there is no water pipelines in the area (despite a pipeline being located less than 100m from the proposed site). Brendan Wilson is to continue to investigate this discrepancy, and advise when the project is likely to be delivered.
- 1.2. Brendan advised that due to Cyclone Olwyn, the Burn-over Blanket training was cancelled (arranged for same time as Rural Family Fun Day). Training will be arranged once the new Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) position is recruited for. Training videos are also available on the DFES Volunteer portal.
- 1.3. Konrad advised the committee that the recruitment of a CESM (Community Emergency Services Manager) is underway, (in its final stages). This position is funded part by DFES, and part by the City of Greater Geraldton. This position is funded 50/50 by DFES and the CGG, the role will no longer encompass the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (CBFCO) as this could present issues in presenting Bush Fire Brigade Concerns forward to DFES. Konrad also reminded the committee that a recruitment process is underway for 2 volunteer Deputy CBFCO positions, now determined as East & West. Nominations for these positions close on 25 September 2015.
- 1.4. The group sought clarity as to who would be an authoritative point of contact, during the coming fire season, whilst the CESM/CBFCO and Deputy CBFCO positions are being recruited. Konrad advised that Craig Wing is the point of contact. **Action:** Brendan to provide Craig Wing's contact details to committee members post-meeting.
- 1.5. Konrad advised that the City of Greater Geraldton was applying for a grant under the DFES 'Bushfire Mitigation Grants' program. **Action:** Brendan to provide details of grant to all post-meeting (available to individual Brigades also).

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2. REPORTS

- 2.1. Daniel advised the committee that the Tenindewa Brigade was planning a brief familiarisation on the Tenindewa 3.4B truck, prior to the coming fire season, and would let committee members know when this was planned for, should others wish to participate.
- 2.2. Darrin advised that the committee that the Mullewa Central Brigade were planning a planned burn at the rubbish tip (unoccupied area) in mid-October. This would also be a demonstration of a compressed air, foam suppressant system, featured at the recent DFES conference. Darrin will provide advice to committee members, should they wish to attend. Darrin also advised that the State Government recently approved a \$2,000 fuel card for Bush Fire Brigades, as a compensatory measure, for members and their (often) significant travel requirements.
- 2.3. Konrad noted that the consolidation of the Chapman Valley & Northampton emergency management committees occurred, and is now known as the Batavia Local Emergency Management Committee. The Committee had its inaugural meeting on 20 August 2015. The City of Greater Geraldton has applied for \$250,000 funding for a Greenough & Chapman Rivers flooding project, working with affected community areas. Konrad introduced Poulose Ulhannan, a Disaster Recovery Officer, on contract with the City, to develop recovery plans. Konrad also noted that FCO positions would be reviewed, with a view to limiting less active FCO's, and (as above) several recruitment activities were underway.
- 2.4. Cr Critch advised that she attended a meeting with Gary Keefe (CEO Northampton) regarding the chemical fire (hardware store) earlier in the year. Konrad advised the committee that run-off from chemicals flowed through the town, subsequently destroying trees and park areas, to an estimated value of \$1,000,000. It was also raised that legislation surrounding chemical storage is 'loose', and that this issue has been raised with the WA Local Government Association.

3. GENERAL BUSINESS

- 3.1. Brendan sought clarification that no members have changed phone numbers since the last meeting – all confirmed that existing phone numbers were valid.
- 3.2. Darrin sought clarification as to who the new Bush Fire Risk Officer is. Konrad advised that he was unaware, as this is a DFES owned position, and this recruitment is being managed from Perth.
- 3.3. Daniel advised that the new swipe card operated standpipes are not reliable, and tend to flow slower than prior to being computerised. Given this unreliability, Brendan to investigate providing a key for the standpipes to each of the FCO's, to enable over-riding of the swipe card system, in the event of an emergency.
- 3.4. Murray sought clarification of the restricted burning period dates - Brendan confirmed the restricted and prohibited burning period dates (01 Oct – 01 Nov & 28 Feb – 15 March).
- 3.5. Acknowledging the above dates, FCO's agreed to only allow permits to be written until 15 October (last day), instead of 31 October. FCO's also agreed to continue with not permitting burning on Sundays
- 3.6. Konrad noted that Harvest Bans will be managed by Craig Wing, and explained the difference between a harvest ban and a total fire ban. Konrad also noted that harvest

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bans apply when the fire danger index reaches 35, and that risk of fire 'warnings' may be communicated, rather than harvest bans.

3.7. Brett Steele thanked everyone for their attendance, and particularly noted the efforts of Councillors Tarleah Thomas & Jen Critch.

3.8. The committee agreed the next meeting to be held on Thursday, 18 Feb 2016 at 10am

END