



D-14-75720
ES/5/0008

MINUTES OF THE BUSH FIRE CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

25 September 2014

Meeting Name.	Gero-Greenough Bush Fire Control Advisory Committee Meeting	Meeting No.	2 (2014)
Meeting Date	Thursday 25 September 2014		
Meeting Time	15:30 – 17:30		
Meeting Location	Function Room, Civic Centre, Cathedral Avenue, Geraldton		
Attendees)	Andy Darbyshire (AD) [CBFCO] Konrad Seidl (KS) Craig Wing (CW) Councillor Jerry Clune (JC) Councillor Tarleah Thomas (TT) Councillor Jennifer Critch (JC) Warren Treasure (WT) (Captain Moonyoonooka Fire Brigade) Don Spark (DS) (Captain - Cape Burney) Rod Bennett (RB) (Deputy OIC ADSCS) Rolly Layton (RL) (OIC ADSCS Rory Chappell (RC) Dept Parks & Wildlife Val Gray (VG) Minute taker	By Invitation	John Oliver (JO) Andrew Royce (AR)
		Apologies	Ken Diehm CEO (KD) Kevin White (KW) Len Hamersley (LH) Phil Melling (PM) Gerrard Sherlock (GS) Chris Phoebe (CP)
		Distribution	<as above>

The Meeting was opened @ 3:30pm by Councillor Jerry Clune, who welcomed all in attendance. Introductions around the table for those who attended this meeting.

1. NEW MEETING PROCEDURES

1.1 (KS) The introduction of new agenda for meetings.

2. APOLOGIES – read as above.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

1. Minutes of previous meeting 28 March 2014 be Accepted:

Motion: (2)

Jerry Clune – called to accept the Minutes as Correct - MOVED

Councillor Tarleah Thomas - FIRST

Donald Spark - SECONDED

Motion was CARRIED

2. Business arising from Previous Minutes:

- 7.1 (CW) – Fire Hydrant checking ongoing.
- 7.2 (AD) Yanget water tank thanks to Lotteries Commission, some conflict, nothing confirmed.
- 7.3 (CW) Cape Burney hydrants, Water Corp say don't flush, this is not negotiable.
- 7.4 (AD) Fire statistics have been received going back a long way, Andy is currently trying to dissect and sort out, he reported nothing out of the ordinary, just the usual pole fires, car fires & bin fires.
- 7.5 (RB) Area large enough on maps, Rod said he should get information out in the next few weeks.
- 7.6 (KS) City of Greater Geraldton re boundary – Councillor Jerry Clune said this was raised with council. Queries always go back to Water Corp to explain a few things.

4. FIRE PREPAREDNESS

- 1. Education – (AD) spoke about more education with brigades and bushfire ready groups.
 - I. (AD) spoke on bushfire ready conference he attended recently with facilitators in area from Irwin, Geraldton & Northampton. Discussed objectives and strategies.
 - II. Held a street meet in Giles Road Park Moonyoonooka which is a high prone area. Good turnout despite the weather being terrible.
 - III. Banner week before to advise community that bushfire season is fast approaching and a leaf drop to all houses in the area.
 - IV. Prepare house and bushfire emergency plan issues, local brigade in attendance, well done to all, there was commitment of a lot of time and effort.
 - V. More of the same are planned for October 2014 in high risk area of Waggrakine.
 - VI. (KS) spoke on public awareness before season starts, brings out awareness and allows people time to get things done.
 - VII. (CW) This year's fire break notice has added information about power poles which are now classed as a structure, people are responsible for the power poles on their property and this has received good positive feedback so far. This came about after the hills fire last year.
 - VIII. (CW) Fire break notice will be advertised in this week & next week's papers as a reminder to people on firebreaks. Property owner is responsible for the preparation including the clearing of flammable material at the base of the poles, not to squirt water & endanger themselves in any way.
 - IX. (CW) Banners advising to public of preparation & deadline fast approaching, with recent rain and more rain expected may delay work as regrowth may become an issue.
- 2. Education – (AD) has conducted 2 basic courses, brigades have picked up 8-9 new members from this training.
 - I. Good attendance at fire officers course - 4-5 officers trained up as volunteers including 2 defence people, 1 from Walkaway and 4 from Geraldton, those involved and happy to put time in for the community, a great outcome.
 - II. DFES has decided to support by providing a pathway all the way to the end if required.
 - III. Different grades which includes stepping stones into firefighting
 - IV. Four electives, machinery operators, Volunteer Firefighter 1 and Volunteer Firefighter 2 including controller, Chief Bush Fire Officer goals to meet and reach and structured program.

- V. Record keeping, lodging of 10 modules, there are gaps in the record keeping currently. Andy will distribute lists within brigaded of all trained members and record level of training, process to get this up to scratch, captains will then hand information back to Andy for Janeen Baxter @ DFES to update their records
- VI. The Black Cat Creek fire death – Worksafe outcomes it was found their bush fire appliances were lacking.
 - a. Personal Blankets have since been installed in vehicles
 - b. Drop down curtains in new trucks
 - c. And cab burn-over sprinklers are a work in progress.
- VII. (RC) said they had ongoing drill training, sprinklers on heavy duty vehicle, they are getting there as well, work ongoing. (RC) mentioned adjustments for overweight vehicles by beefing up the suspension; remove side trays for one season and add extra leafs in the suspension which is very expensive.
- VIII. (AD) spoke about the weight issues on their vehicles with extra equipment compliance running as to whether it's in or out?
- IX. Design & regulations process is progressing.
- X. (TT) Councillor Tarleah Thomas asked about the lack of fire risk on CCG website, is there going to be one for Mullewa and one for Geraldton? (CW/AD) advised as of the 1st October 2014 they will be up and running on our website with direct link to Bureau of Meteorology.

3. Equipment

- I. (AD) Success in getting additional appliances
 - 1. Tardun truck 99% ready in field
 - 2. Moonyoonooka 1.4 has blankets
 - 3. Moonyoonooka light tanker has blankets
 - 4. East Chapman and Eradu 4.4 is 99% done, with some small modifications they will be ready. East Chapman and Eradu 44 are stored at Ian Grant's property.
 - 5. (WR) said this is a good spot for it as Ian's property reaches out to northern Gully Road almost to Eradu, this is also very good for the communication station close by.

4. Mitigation.

- 1. (CW) said City of Greater Geraldton has been doing its mitigation work, he said we are 75% through their mitigation on their land; CW said he would re-check our land to make sure it's acceptable. With current rains & more rain due; could be regenerate more regrowth.
- 2. (CW) spoke about the small burn behind Tobin Way Woorree, small grass fire.
- 3. (CW) spoke about planning small reserve burn to reduce fuel in Taylor Street Drummond Cove, this is not a high risk the area has exceeded requirements for this area.

5. Enforcement.

- 1. (KS) said first and final bushfire notice is out 5th October for inspections 1 to 2 weeks after this date which allows for contractors to finish work, this is pretty efficient from past year.
- 2. (CW) spoke on up and coming training on Trimble machines and new people being trained up for inspections as back up if Kevin White is not available; and
- 3. There is to be an update of programs on Trimble machines which will require more training.
- 4. (CW) said there are a lot of contractors out there now who are not on our books, CW has been educating some of them to the legal requirements and

he is contacting some property owners before inspections stating more work is required on their land.

5. FIRE RESPONSE

a. Incidents

1. Mainly off season power poles, cars & bins, we still respond although the bush won't burn at the moment.
2. (AD) said conference calls have been running for past 2 years and going very well, some are single calls which are also successful.
3. (AD) spoke of Walkaway getting a new captain by running a campaign, at the second AGM held on the 24th September 2014; we got a new captain and reinitiated call – good revamp.
4. (JC) said its important they are active and under decent set of commandment, they are strategically located between council boundary and the highway.
5. (AD) said they have a lot of bon fire call outs, they don't have regulatory back up to sort them out.

b. Lessons Learnt – N/A

6. FIRE RECOVERY – N/A

7. BRIGADE REPORTS

- Report from Don Spark (DS) (Captain - Cape Burney)
 1. (DS) said this is the quietest year in 15 years, some minor incidents i.e.; pole top fires, cars and bins.
 2. Monthly training program to keep ahead with training
 3. Kevin White stepped down as Captain; Rob Roffey has taken on the job as captain.
 4. DS is now co-captain
 5. Rob Roffey is fire & rescue and fully trained, he is a full bottle on the role.
 6. DS stated that the brigade is good this year.
- Report from Warren Treasure (WT) (Captain Moonyoonooka Fire Brigade)
 1. (WT) said its very quiet, they have new members basic training
 2. Extras have been sourced to go into trucks
 3. AGM was straight forward
 4. Incident wise – airport incident run a few weeks ago turned out to be a false alarm; luckily, this was good training for brigade, business as usual.
 5. Brigade now has new vehicle in their shed which is very much appreciated.
- Report from Rory Chappell DPOR
 1. (RC) spoke of Burma Road burn out to protect wind farm, doing fire break work in area this year. DPOR has duty officer on call this year, who will respond to fire in their own tenure.
 2. Doing prescribed burns on daily basis, when weather suitable.
- Report from Rod Bennett (RB) (ADSCS)
 1. (RB) said they have a new fire truck, fork lift tank 600 litres on Ute, purchased 2 months ago. The new Ute will be used instead of fire tender which will be disposed of.

2. (RB/RL) said vehicle has been purpose built with all the gear around the cabin.
3. Brigade radio will be transferred over to new unit.
4. (RB) Said he needs to check on curtains to make sure all the gear is fitted – (AD to provide appropriate paperwork to OIC at ADSCS.
5. (KS) spoke about the Community Safety Day which will be run on the 5th October with Sunshine Festival. Team promoting agencies in safety arena in Geraldton including Crime Prevention.
6. Last year Cape Burney was in attendance, any interest this year please let KS, CW or AD know
7. Neryl Beer is organising this event with the help of Fiona McAuliffe, recruit to brigades and let public be aware of what is there.
8. (AD) spoke of the airport exercise, thanks to all, it was very well run, tough location, plane crash reality FRS truck can't get in and Ambulances could not get in. Exercise involved 120 people, good effort. Good capacity to respond to an emergency.
9. (JC) Councillor Jerry Clune said a few issues came out of the exercise, Police has control command on sight, mainly organised from office in town.
10. (DS) Brigade feedback was non-existent from the airport exercise. Feedback needs to be provided to Captains to provide/improve process and reflect back on the day.
11. (JC) Similar points were raised at the Emergency management Conference run recently in Geraldton.
12. New members to be given feedback, each Agency had their own people looking over their events.
13. Leonie Richards collected data on the day to provide airport. KS to investigate the report on airport exercise, he said this is very valid point, there were people lying injured/dead all around and all that could be seen was a sea of yellow which was the volunteers.
14. (WT) said there were issues with radio communications and volume on site, messages had to be relayed through FRS.
15. (WT) Concerns over search & recovery of injured – never had any form of training, maybe cross training would be beneficial in the future.
16. (WT) said SES called brigade in to do missing person search behind the cemetery at 9pm at night. Ended with happy outcome as the person was found the next morning.
17. (WT) Ambulance & SES training cross training through to brigades, set procedure for grid search – currently no training, brigades need to be given basic training.
18. (CW) Attended DOAC meeting in Carnamah recently, discussion on new fire permits this year, looking at Local Government permits, how large and detailed? These Fire permit forms are used down South, CW said what works for them doesn't necessarily work for us here, form needs to be uniform, one size fits all. Bush Fire prone areas on mapping, a lot of councils not happy, created heated discussions.
19. (CW) discussed tyres on fire trucks – not suitable for all conditions – Cape Burney etc. to suit sand, rubber stamped.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS – N/A

9. NEXT MEETING

26th March 2015

10. CLOSE

With no further business arising, the meeting was declared closed at **4:24pm**

ACTION ITEMS

Meeting date	Items	Action By	Completed
22 March 2013	Ellendale pool signs CW advised meeting conflicting signage has been pulled down, at Ellendale Pool, new signage to go up "No Fires"	CW	Ongoing
	ID Cards – new photos needed for new ID cards under new CEO	CW	80%
27 Sept 2013	Hydrant work – update CW advised meeting this is ongoing, a lot of hydrants are being hit by contractor, CW to keep an eye on them	CW	Ongoing
	Gazetted Fire District review	AD	ongoing
	Support for Howatharra –postponed pending current application	AD	Pending ESL results
	Water Tank -Yanget	AD	ongoing
28 March 2014			
1 & 2	Talk to Water Corp noting that - HYDRANTS are blocked with sand and concerns with flushing of hydrants. - MOU with Water Corp to be discussed / drafted.	CW	
3	To create a spread sheet of fire statistics for presenting to meeting.	AD / JB	
4	Set Training Dates.	AD	
5	Training certificates v's operational use	AD	See statements in minutes
6	Need for burning experience	AD	See statements in minutes
7	Communications Base zones maps	RB	80%
	City Council to be approached to lobby for new second Fire Station within City Boundaries.	JC	
8	Invite Water Corp to BFAC Meeting Discuss hydrants with Water Corp and a joint MOU.	CW / KS	
9	Request to put to Council to rename 'Hills Ward' to 'Greenough Ward'.	JC	

Signed



Dated

11/11/2014