

Mullewa Bushfire Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – 2 March 2016

Meeting Name	Mullewa BFAC	Meeting No.	1 / 2016, D-16-16908
Meeting Date	2 March 2016		
Meeting Time	10:30 AM		
Meeting Location	Boardroom, Mullewa District Office & video conference – Committee Meeting Room, CGG Offices, Cathedral Ave, Geraldton		
Attendees	Jen Critch (Councillor, videoconference)	By Invitation	
	Laurie Graham (Councillor, videoconference)	Apologies	Tarleah Thomas (Councillor)
	Hayley Williamson (Acting Manager – Community Safety, videoconference) Brett Steele (FCO - Mullewa South, chair) Peter Barnetson (FCO - Eradu) Daniel Critch (FCO – Tenindewa South) Zac Grima (FCO - Pindar/Tardun) Brendan Weir (FCO - Tenindewa North) Darrin Fulker (FCO - Mullewa Central) Murray Preston (FCO - Casuarinas) Craig Wing (CGG, Acting CBFCO) Ben Mullewa (DFES, Community Emergency Services Manager) Brendan Wilson (CGG, Manager – Community Development, Mullewa)	Distribution	

Terms of Reference:

To act as an advisory body to Council on matters of Bush Fire for the Mullewa Ward.

1. Welcome & Apologies

Brett Steele welcomed all to the first meeting of 2016.

2. Election of Chairperson & proxy Chairperson

Brett invited nominations for the position of committee chairperson.

Brendan Wilson nominated Brett Steele, seconded by Peter Barnetson.

There being no further nominations, Brett accepted the nomination, and was appointed as Committee Chairperson.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

Brett invited nominations for the position of proxy Chairperson.

Daniel Critch nominated Peter Barnetson, seconded by Brett Steele.

There being no further nominations, Peter accepted the nomination, and was appointed as proxy Chairperson.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

Brett Steele
B. Steele 7-4-16

3. Review Terms of Reference (above)

Committee members reviewed the Terms of Reference and agreed that no changes were necessary.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

4. Review Committee membership

Committee members reviewed the committee's membership, and agreed to the committee's current composition and membership.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

5. Review of minutes from previous meeting (Sep 15)

- 5.1. Brendan Wilson noted that the water tanks proposed for installation at Yanget Road & South Ardingly Road are proposed in the FY16/17 Capital Works budget, which is currently being developed and reviewed by Council.
- 5.2. Craig noted that the Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer positions remain outstanding, as the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer position has not yet been resolved.
- 5.3. Minutes were accepted – moved by Brendan Weir, seconded by Daniel Critch, all members agreed.

CARRIED BY CONSENSUS

6. Reports

6.1. From Fire Control Officers

- 6.1.1. FCO's provided individual report including the Wicherina fire, a header fire, Christmas fires at Nunierra, Kardaloo and Urawa, a recent incident at Bone Rd, and vehicle fires.

NOTED

6.2. From Senior Fire Officer

- 6.2.1. Craig provided a summary of the Wicherina fire in mid-February 2016.
- 6.2.2. Craig provided the draft 2016/17 CGG Firebreak notice, which combines the Mullewa firebreak notice and Geraldton firebreak notice into one document. Committee members discussed the document at length, and provided feedback as required.

NOTED

6.3. From Community Emergency Services Manager (Ben Muller)

Incident Summary

Cape Burney	1
Geraldton Greenough	7
Moonyoonooka	14
Mullewa	14
Tenindewa	3
Waggrakine	11
Walkaway	3
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>53</u>

Bruth Steele
8. Steele 7-4-16

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- General Mixture of incidents incl. Scrub, Bushfire, Landfill & Vehicle Fires.
- City of Greater Geraldton bush fire brigades have supported regional Strike Teams very well this summer with deployments to 7 fires. Varying duration from 24Hrs through until 5 days.
- City of Greater Geraldton have had two reasonable fires within our City during this fire season. First was at the Kardaloo Community during the Christmas period. The second fire was during February at Wicherina and was approx. 900Ha in size.

TRAINING

- Significant focus has been placed on training during the last quarter.
- Very few of the brigades within the City of Geraldton have been holding regular training sessions. The bigger brigades have had discussions about this and have been encouraged to hold brigade training at least Monthly. The CESM has offered to attend any of these sessions to address any specific training needs and will also be attending some of these to participate in the drills and provide skills enhancement.
- Training and appliance familiarisation has been offered to the Farmer Response brigades with a couple discussing specific requirements. Idea here is to hold the training on a Saturday or Sunday for a few hours followed by a BBQ.
- A training needs analysis has been conducted and a number of additional courses have been programed through the year to meet brigade and profile needs.
- DFES has just re-launched its single point sign on for the volunteer portal. Volunteers have the ability now to change personal information and the like. The portal is a good source of information and we will be encouraging all members who have not got an account to set one up.
- A new training information system will be operational before the end of March. Volunteers will be able to see exactly what qualifications they hold, where they are on their pathway & how they nominate for courses.

APPLIANCES

- Considerable vehicle issues have been repaired during the last 3 months. Most of these have related to pump and foam system failures.
- Pump failures have been general in nature and no specific failure mode has been established.
- Foam system failures have been attributed in the main due to failure to flush foam systems after use. BFF is very corrosive in nature and must be thoroughly flushed from the foam system following use with fresh water.
- Last area of concern with appliances is the practice of dosing the water tanks with foam concentrate. This practice is not to be done and leads to wider appliance issues like corrosion and potential pump failure. Any appliances that currently have foam concentrate in the tanks should be drained several times and the pumps and pipework fully flushed before the tanks are re-filled.
- Should appliances have any defects these are to sent through to the A/ CBFCO by email at council@cgg.wa.gov.au.

Brett Steele
B. Steele 7-4-16

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- The A/CBFCO & I are currently going around to each appliance in turn and performing complete testing on the pump and foam systems to identify any urgent needs and have these repaired.
- The new Walkaway 3.4 appliance is now built and waiting to be delivered. Delivery date at this stage is not known as the training materials are being developed.

NOTED

7. General business

- 7.1. Craig noted to all members that the DFES Volunteer Fuel Card is expected to be received in February / March, for those Brigade's that applied for it.

NOTED

- 7.2. Brett noted that the Mullewa South fire appliance air-conditioning has developed a fault and is not working.

NOTED

- 7.3. Daniel noted that the Tenindewa fire appliance requires maintenance to be carried out, Daniel will supply Brendan Wilson with a list of issues for resolution.

NOTED

- 7.4. Members agreed to forward appliance issues to Brendan Wilson for coordination, and noted that issues can also be raised via council@cgg.wa.gov.au

NOTED

- 7.5. Daniel & Brett noted that when refilling appliances, the automated standpipes have a slow flow rate, and sought keys (per previous request) to be able to override the automated standpipe system, in the event of a fire/emergency.

NOTED

- 7.6. Craig noted to the committee an application available for smartphones/portable devices to assist in determining the Fire Danger Index – "Calc FDI"

NOTED

ACTIONS:

- Brendan Wilson to obtain list of maintenance requirements from Daniel Critch for Tenindewa appliance and arrange for remediation.
- Brendan Wilson to log Mullewa South appliance air conditioning fault
- Brendan Wilson to provide one key per appliance to override standpipes

8. Date of next meeting

- 8.1. Attendees determined the next meeting will occur on Wednesday, 21 September, 10am, at the Council Offices in Mullewa.

9. Close

- 9.1. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12:10pm

Brett Steele
B. Steele 7-4-16.