

Mullewa Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Name	Mullewa Bush Fire Advisory Committee	Meeting No.	1-2025
Meeting Date	20 March 2025		
Meeting Time	2:00pm		
Meeting Location	Chambers Room, Mullewa District Office		
Members	Mayor Jerry Clune Cr Aaron Horsman Cr Michael Librizzi Daniel Critch - Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer	By Invitation	
Attendees	Aaron Halliday – CGG, Training Officer Andy Gaze – CGG, Manager Regulatory Services Craig Moran - Mullewa Central Bush Fire Brigade Trevor Jones – DBCA, District Fire Coordinator Murray Preston - Casuarinas Bush Fire Brigade Neil Johnstone - Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Cassandra Young – Mullewa Customer Service Officer Tony Crudeli - Mullewa Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service	Leave of Absence	
Apologies	Brendan Weir - Tenindewa Bush Fire Control Officer Darren Simmons - Mullewa District Office Manager Gerard Rowe - Mullewa South Bushfire Brigade Captain Julia French – DBCA, District Fire Coordinator Mark Teale – Department of Fire and Emergency Services Murray Smith - CGG, Coordinator Emergency Management Ryan Hall – CGG, Director of Development Services Zac Grima - Tardun/Pindar Bush Fire Control Officer	Distribution	All.
Purpose of Committee	<p>The City of Greater Geraldton Bush Fire Advisory Committees are formally appointed Committees of Council established under section 5.8 of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i>, and are responsible to that body.</p> <p>The City of Greater Geraldton Bush Fire Advisory Committees provide advice regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matters relating to the preventing, controlling and extinguishing of bush fires; • Planning layout of fire breaks in the district; • Prosecutions for breaches of the <i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i>; • The formation of Brigades; and • Coordination and cooperation between Brigades and Agents. <p>Refer to Committee Book</p>		

All Committee Members, including external members, are subject to the same rules as a Council Meeting concerning confidentiality, public statements, conflicts of interest and behaviours of members, pursuant to the [Local Government \(Model Code of Conduct\) Regulations 2021](#).

The Presiding Member is to refer to the following Policy, Meeting Procedures and Regulations when chairing a meeting.

[Meeting Procedures Local Law 2011](#)

[Council Policy 4.4. Operation of Advisory Committees-V4](#)

[Council Policy 4.2 Code of Conduct for Council Members, Committee Members and Candidates](#)

1 Declaration Of Opening

Presiding Member, Mayor Clune declared the meeting open at 2:06pm.

2 Acknowledgement of Country

I would like to respectfully acknowledge the Yamatji people who are the Traditional Owners and First People of the land on which we meet/stand. I would like to pay my respects to the Elders past, present and future for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of Yamatji people.

3 Welcome & Apologies

The Presiding Member welcomed the members and registered apologies were noted from:

- Brendan Weir - Tenindewa Bush Fire Control Officer
- Darren Simmons - Mullewa District Office Manager
- Gerard Rowe - Mullewa South Bushfire Brigade Captain
- Julia French – DBCA, District Fire Coordinator
- Mark Teale – Department of Fire and Emergency Services
- Murray Smith - CGG, Coordinator Emergency Management
- Ryan Hall – CGG, Director of Development Services
- Zac Grima - Tardun/Pindar Bush Fire Control Officer

4 Disclosure of Interests

Nil.

5 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Committee Recommendation:

RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the Mullewa Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting held on 19 September 2024 as previously circulated, be adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings.

COMMITTEE DECISION:

MOVED CR M LIBRIZZI, SECONDED CR A HORSMAN

RECOMMEND that the minutes of the Mullewa Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting held on 19 September 2024 as previously circulated, be adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings.

CARRIED 4/0

Not Voted: **1**

Against Votes: **0**

For Votes: **4**

Name	Vote (For or Against)
Mayor Clune	FOR
Cr. Horsman	FOR
Cr. Librizzi	FOR
Daniel Critch Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer	FOR
Gerard Rowe Mullewa South Bushfire Brigade Captain	NOT PRESENT

6 Agency and Brigade Updates

6.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer – N Johnstone

See attachment.

Special thanks to DBCA for support at the Minnenooka fire.

6.2 CGG Coordinator Emergency Management

Apology – no report.

6.3 Department of Fire and Emergency Services

See attachment.

NOTED: Grain Harvest – currently experiencing ground controller shortages, though not in the Geraldton area. Efforts continue to ensure sufficient personnel are available.

6.4 Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attraction

- Appreciation extended to brigades that assisted at the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road and Karara fires.
- Murchison experienced 20 fires.
- 16 new crew members trained; one additional truck allocated to Kalbarri, available district-wide. New recruits will be based across Kalbarri, Geraldton and Jurien.
- Relocated to new 8th Street facility; still addressing power and backup issues.
- Prescribed burns to focus on Kalbarri due to inland drought conditions.
- Blackhawks recognised as a significant asset.
- **NOTED:** Future Blackhawk deployment can be prioritised if preferred.

6.5 Mullewa Central Bush Fire Brigade

- No major updates; new truck performing well with no significant issues.

6.6 Mullewa South Bush Fire Brigade

Apology – no report.

6.7 Tenindewa Bush Fire Brigade

- Quiet period with a fast harvest; cool and wet weather allowed for sufficient equipment and personnel checks.

6.8 Pindar/Tardun Bush Fire Brigade

Apology – no report.

6.9 Casuarina Bush Fire Brigade

- Quiet period, with brigade members assisting at Dongara fires.

7 General Business

- Lovers Lane Firebreak: Completed after the firebreak deadline due to Mitigation Activity Funding (MAF) approval only being received five weeks ago. Top growth removed for fire containment, with plans for ongoing maintenance or inclusion in future MAF grants.
- Additional Firebreaks: Dulchev Way and Verita Road were also delayed but completed under the same MAF funding. Work was done as soon as practicable.
- Starlink Availability:
 - A mini Starlink is available in Chief Bush Fire Control Officer's car.
 - DFES requested portable Starlinks, pending Labor government funding. If approved, they may be installed on fire appliances for operational support.
 - A DFES report suggested Starlink may become obsolete, but this is one opinion, and technology may adapt for mobile compatibility.
 - **NOTED:** regardless of Starlink claims, the importance is maintaining current brigade communication regardless of future changes.
 - **NOTED:** Mingenew have brought back their date for burning.
- Acknowledgment: Chief Bush Fire Control Officer expressed thanks for the ready availability of personnel during the quiet period.

8 Date of next meeting

Proposed for Thursday, 18 September 2025.

9 Close

There being no further business the Presiding Member closed the meeting at 2:34pm.



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MULLEWA BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

TABLED DOCUMENTS

Item No. 5	Minutes – Mullewa - 19 September 2024
Item No. 6.1	CBFCO Report - Mullewa - March 2025
Item No. 6.3	DFES Report - Mullewa - 20 March 2025

20 March 2025

ATTACHMENT :	ITEM NO. 5 MINUTES – MULLEWA - 19 SEPTEMBER 2024
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Mullewa Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Name	Mullewa Bush Fire Advisory Committee	Meeting No.	2-2024
Meeting Date	19 September 2024		
Meeting Time	2:00pm		
Meeting Location	Chambers Room, Mullewa District Office		
Members	Mayor Jerry Clune Cr Aaron Horsman Cr Michael Librizzi <i>by electronic means</i> Gerard Rowe - Mullewa South Bushfire Brigade Captain	By Invitation	
Attendees	Andy Gaze – CGG, Manager Regulatory Services Brendan Weir - Tenindewa Bush Fire Control Officer Darren Simmons - Mullewa District Office Manager Murray Preston - Casuarinas Bush Fire Brigade Murray Smith - CGG, Coordinator Emergency Management Neil Johnstone - Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Stacey Heelan – Mullewa Customer Service Officer	Leave of Absence	
Apologies	Daniel Critch - Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer Aaron Halliday – CGG, Training Officer Craig Moran - Mullewa Central Bush Fire Brigade Julia French – DBCA, District Fire Coordinator Mark Teale – Department of Fire and Emergency Services Ryan Hall – CGG, Director of Development Services Tony Crudeli - Mullewa Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service Zac Grima - Tardun/Pindar Bush Fire Control Officer	Distribution	All.
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1 Declaration Of Opening

Presiding Member, Mayor Clune declared the meeting open at 2:04pm.

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3 Welcome & Apologies

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- Craig Moran - Mullewa Central Bush Fire Brigade
- Julia French – DBCA, District Fire Coordinator
- Mark Teale – Department of Fire and Emergency Services
- Ryan Hall – CGG, Director of Development Services
- Tony Crudeli - Mullewa Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service
- Zac Grima - Tardun/Pindar Bush Fire Control Officer

4 Disclosure of Interests

Nil.

5 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Committee Recommendation:

RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the Mullewa Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting held on 4 April 2024 as previously circulated, be adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings.

COMMITTEE DECISION:

MOVED Gerrad Rowe, **SECONDED** Cr Aaron Horsman

RECOMMEND that the minutes of the Mullewa Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting held on 4 April 2024 as previously circulated, be adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings.

CARRIED 4/0

Not Voted: 1

Against Votes: 0

For Votes: 4

Name	Vote (For or Against)
Mayor Clune	FOR
Cr. Horsman	FOR
Cr. Librizzi	FOR
Daniel Critch Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer	NOT VOTED
Gerard Rowe Mullewa South Bushfire Brigade Captain	FOR

6 Paddock Fire Appliances at Harvest – N Johnstone

Discussion/Topic	Recommendations for in paddock appliances during harvest.
Attachments (x#)	Nil.
Recommendation	Farmers to have a 4WD with 500L of water in the paddocks where harvesting operations are underway, consider having more fire appliances if there is more than one harvester running. Also recommended to consider a tractor with a plough / offset disc being present.
Outcome	CBFCO to issue Community Service Announcement / Mullewa Mail Notice relating to these recommendations.

7 Agency and Brigade Updates

7.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer – N Johnstone

See report.

7.2 CGG Coordinator Emergency Management – M Smith

No report.

7.3 Department of Fire and Emergency Services

No report.

7.4 Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attraction

See report.

7.5 Mullewa Central Bush Fire Brigade

No report.

7.6 Mullewa South Bush Fire Brigade

- Appliance will be based at David Tropiano's farm for fire season.

7.7 Tenindewa Bush Fire Brigade

- One small fire on a June weekend – easily put out with the farm response appliances.

7.8 Pindar/Tardun Bush Fire Brigade

No report.

7.9 Casuarina Bush Fire Brigade

No report.

8 General Business

8.1 WHS – PPC and Safety in the Field – Mayor Clune

Discussion/Topic	WHS discussion regarding the importance of PPC and safety in the field.
Attachments (x#)	Nil.
Recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Take care in the field;▪ Ensure you wearing PPC and using the appropriate equipment; and▪ Have been some recent LGA court cases - it's a timely reminder for everyone to be safe.
Outcome	Noted by the Committee.

8.2 Seasonal Workers & Training – B Weir

Discussion/Topic	Preference is that farmers are not sending seasonal workers to fires – no training, no PPC, no fire awareness. Rural fire awareness course is available online.
Attachments (x#)	Nil.
Recommendation	As above, no seasonal workers to go to fires.
Outcome	Noted by the Committee.

9 Date of next meeting

Proposed for Thursday, 20 March 2025.

10 Close

There being no further business the Presiding Member closed the meeting at 2:40pm.

ATTACHMENT :

**ITEM NO. 6.1 CBFCO REPORT -
MULLEWA - MARCH 2025**

Mullewa BFAC 20/03/2025

CBFCO report

60 incidents attended in total for CGG. Mullewa brigades attended 10.

One major incident being the Minninooka fire with good support from all the CGG brigades. Other than that, a quiet harvest.

Purchasing a collar tank.

Eradu truck is now based at Greens property at Eradu with 10 local FF able to crew the appliance.

#CGG brigades supported the Irwin fire in December with crews attending on the 28th and 29th.

Now open burning in the broadacre areas. Please monitor conditions prior to burning.

The city now has access to an app called Fire Mapper. The app will be available on mobile phones and available to brigades. It will be used by FCOs and brigade leaders.

We will send out use instructions to brigade leaders in the near future.

ATTACHMENT :

**ITEM NO. 6.3 DFES REPORT -
MULLEWA - 20 MARCH 2025**



Midwest Gascoyne Region – BFAC Report – Post High Threat Period 2024/25

FIRE SERVICES

2024-25 Bushfire Season

We have had an average bushfire season, with typical ignitions from lighting and harvest activities. The region had several Level 2 incidents, including the Meadows Rd Bushfire & Dongara Bushfire, and it supported three Gascoyne bushfire deployments.

Thank you for the support provided to these incidents, we had good representation from across the region.

Across the region, we have had a total of 1,059 fire, rescue, and natural hazard incidents from 1 July 2024. Currently tracking on par with the last year at 1,436 incidents for the financial year.

This Financial year to date, we have had;

121 Bushfire (lge)

164 Bushfire (sml)

155 Fire Other/Rubbish/Vehicle

29 Structure Fire

469 Sub-Total for fire.

Grain Harvest – Water Bombers

We had the two SEATs in the region again this year, and they were used a few times. It is important to call for them early, with sufficient information to help the RDC support the request. They are highly beneficial for supporting fire containment, carrying 3000L of water. Additionally, it was highlighted pre-season that there are limited numbers of Ground Controllers, so we encourage you to engage with our training program or contact your DFES Fire Manager to schedule training.

We also had a few incidents that saw Helitaks deployed into the region, which worked effectively and demonstrated their capability.

LGGS

Applications for the Local Government Grant Scheme are closing at the end of the month, with Local Governments encouraged to liaise with your Brigades, FCO's and DFES Fire Managers regarding any proposal to change vehicle types where suitable and where improvements in capability could be worthwhile.

An example of this may be swapping out Light Tankers for 1.4R Tankers or 2.4Rural/Broadacre or 3.4 Rural for a 4.4 Broadacre appliance.

2025 Training Calendar

We have published our 2025 Training Calendar, available on eAcademy for nominations. We encourage you to engage with our team for any additional training requirements.

EmergencyWA App

The EmergencyWA app was released last year, and several updates have been made since the launch. Everyone is encouraged to download the app.

With the increased accessibility of emergency-related public information, CBFCOs and FCOs are encouraged to contact the Coordinator of Public Information at 1800 718 288 to issue alerts and warnings. The team are very supportive and will walk you through the process when you call.

Fire Incident Reporting

As a brief reminder, Local Governments are required to submit their fire reports per the Bush Fire Regulations to DFES no later than June each year for the 12 months prior. We have at least one Freedom of Information request active in the region, which is often related to insurance claims or legal proceedings.



DOAC Meeting

A District Operational Advisory Committee meeting was held on the 12th of March in Carnamah. Local Governments were provided with an opportunity to discuss ongoing operational matters and relevant issues within the region. Communications and pole-top fires continue to be a hot topic, with the Committee resolved to progress and liaise with relevant stakeholders to seek improvements.

Area Officer Midwest also provided a presentation on the FireMapper app that has been used at numerous fires within the region. It is a great resource for information sharing and provides on-the-ground personnel and incident management team members with relevant information. The app is currently being promoted under licensing through the Bushfire Association. Please find attached QR codes to access along with User Guides.

Dan Oswald from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage also provided a presentation on navigating Aboriginal Cultural Heritage during bushfire response. DPLH provides information on the location of heritage values through their Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Inquiry System (website). Incident response personnel are encouraged to become familiar with the process when planning and responding to incidents. The DFES Regional Duty Coordinator can also be contacted to provide advice and assistance.

Grain Harvest Aerial Support

Water bomber aerial support was again placed in Geraldton during the grain harvest period. The water bombers were used on a number of occasions. Shortages in qualified and experienced ground controllers were noticed at a number of fires. FCO and Brigade Captains are encouraged to sign up for Ground Controller courses scheduled before the next bushfire season.

How to Order DFES Publications/Brochures

DFES has a range of publications dedicated to increasing public information about hazards such as bushfires, structure fires, floods, storms, and cyclones that can impact communities. Please visit <https://publications.dfes.wa.gov.au/order-publications> to order

Exercises / Events

The DFES Regional Bushfire Exercise will be held in Geraldton in May and in Carnarvon in September. AFAC Conference (Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council) - August

Bushfire Centre of Excellence Training Update

March 2025

Reviews/New courses

The BCoE has recently published a new online Tree Hazard Awareness course. In addition, further Bushfire Skill Cards have been developed and uploaded to eAcademy.

The following courses are currently being developed or reviewed:

- Rural Urban Interface Operations
- Fire Ecology (Online)
- Bushfire Investigation
- Aviation Safety Fundamentals (Online)
- Firefighting Skills 5-year review
- Advanced Bush Firefighting 5-year review
- Crew Leader 5-year review

A new Ground Observer course is in the process of being piloted and published.

Work on the five-year comprehensive review of the Firefighting Skills modules is progressing slowly, but steadily with the online version of the Intro to Map Reading module nearing completion. The review process is being supported by a multi-region and multi-service working group of experienced trainer assessors for each module.

The BCoE has released its full list of training development priorities for 2025 [here](#).

Bushfire Training Forum

The Bushfire Centre of Excellence is excited to host a one-day forum for regional Trainer Assessors in bushfire products on Saturday 3rd May 2025. This forum is a unique opportunity for volunteer Trainer Assessors to network, exchange insights, and learn from each other's experiences. Designed in response to feedback from a recent survey of Trainer Assessors, the event will build on previous professional development initiatives, ensuring to offer a tailored and enriching experience.

Expressions of Interest (EOI) have been gathered through a circular, email directly to bushfire trainer/assessors and communications through Regional DFES Superintendents.

Applications will be reviewed and prioritised by regions, with confirmations issued by mid-March. Each region is allocated five places and one reserve position.

At a glance – BCoE training July 2023 – June 2024

514 courses delivered in BCoE training products across WA.

4,824 participants trained in BCoE products, including **1,124** online participants.

241 new trainer/assessor endorsements processed.

2 Fireline Leadership and **1** Incident Leadership courses delivered collaboratively with DBCA.

1 Brigade Officer Development program delivered at the Bushfire Centre of Excellence

Reporting period: 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024	Metro	GM	GS	UGS	MG	LSW	SW	KM	PB	RFD	IOT	DFES	Online	TOTAL
No. of courses run	121	64	58	33	53	59	47	21	23	20	4	4	-	514
No. of participants trained	1,180	468	681	447	317	595	390	116	151	217	22	22	1,124	4,824

Fireline Leadership and Bushfire Officer Development Program

Expressions of Interest (EOI) are open to DFES Operational staff including CFRS Station Officers (SO), Community Emergency Service Managers (CESM) as well as VFRS, VFES and BFS volunteers for the following courses, offered in partnership with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions:

- Fireline Leadership 20 May – 23 May 2025 (12 places)
- Fireline Leadership 26 May – 29 May 2025 (12 places)

To apply, complete the Expression of Interest form attached to the circular in full, obtain regional endorsement for your application and forward it to BCoETraining@dfes.wa.gov.au 11 April 2025.

In addition to the Fireline Leadership courses, the BCoE is also planning to host its fourth iteration of the Bushfire Officer Development Program (BODP) in October 2025, along with a session for alumni of the previous three BOD programs to be hosted in July 2025.

Video Updates

Two media/communications graduates are undertaking an internship at the BCoE during the first half of 2025, focusing on creating new training videos and updating some outdated videos.

The team will be working on a wide range of videos including Firewise gardens, bushfire fuels, communications, map reading, crew protection, Rural Urban Interface and full face respirator use and servicing.

New posters

The BCoE is continuing to expand its collection of posters to support training courses as well as informal on-station learning.

Two new machinery posters have been developed and are available on eAcademy alongside a poster focused on mental health and critical incident stress.

The BCoE is working on adding these posters to our existing printed items contract arrangements themed by training course, to enable regions and local governments to be able to order poster sets easily.

New skill cards

Several new skill cards are also available online through eAcademy covering topics such as electric vehicle awareness and trainer assessor professional development.



Bushfire Safety Awareness (Blended) Webinar

In October and November 2024, the BCoE hosted two webinars for trainer assessors to explain the blended version of Bushfire Safety Awareness and provide an opportunity for trainers to ask questions or provide feedback on the new delivery mode. Across both webinars, we had around 100 trainers dial in and attend from across the State!

The recording of the webinars are available on eAcademy under the Bushfire Safety Awareness Trainer Assessor Endorsement, in the Bushfire Safety Awareness (Blended) folder.

Common questions raised (and answered) in the webinar included:

- What is the paperwork/administration required for the blended version of the course?
- How do I mark the students as competent, when they have done the assessment online?
- How do I know the student is competent if I haven't seen them complete the assessment?
- Why isn't there a PowerPoint for the face-to-face component of the blended course?
- How do we keep the training high quality when it is done online?

Bushfire Operations Committee Communique

Meeting date: Friday, 28th February 2025

Location: Geraldton Multipurpose Centre, Geraldton

ESL/LGGS updates

LGGS reform

Presentation by Assistant Commissioner Asset Management Peter Sutton

- An overview of the LGGS reform package was provided to the BOC. This package is currently being reviewed within DFES prior to stakeholder engagement.
- The package seeks to enhance the LGGS program, funding model, application of funding, governance and decision making, and performance reporting.
- Once finalised, the LGGS reform is intended to be run as a project over a two year period.
- A presentation will be given at BOC once the project is formalised.

LGGS Working Group

Presentation by BOC Deputy Chair Craig Stewart

- The working group have drafted an interim report which was circulated to the members.
- The report focuses on the five topics taken from the previous WALGA submission and audit reports. The recommendations from those reports are still current.
- Report common themes:
 - Inequities of overspend and underspend
 - The importance of the CESM role and their impact on outcomes and equity
- The members will provide feedback prior to finalising the report for escalation through DFES.

LGGS eligible items – Fast fill trailer specifications

Presentation by DFES Rural Fire Division Executive Director Murray Carter

- The BOC formed a working group to provide guidance in developing a minimum standard, noting the significant number of requests to fund fast fill trailers received and the variability in cost and specifications.
- The working group met in early February and a draft list of minimum specifications was agreed.
- At this meeting, members discussed the specifications list and options with a number of members providing comment on their region's current trailers and history of individual brigades resourcing.
- The BOC endorsed the list of minimum specifications for escalation back to DFES.

LGGS applications Great Southern regional trial

Presentation by Great Southern member Rob Lynn

- The Great Southern region has recently trialled a whole of region approach to Capital Grants applications with positive feedback and results.
- Once the concept was approved through the ROAC and Local Government (LG), a working group was established with a Terms of Reference to oversee and assist LGs with the process. The working group consisted of Chiefs and CESMs from across the region.
- The process included examining resources to identify gaps and then to rank priorities from a regional perspective.
- Checklists which aligned to the assessment criteria were circulated to LGs through CESMs.
- A regional LGGS endorsement subcommittee was nominated, and they evaluated and ranked the applications prior to submission.
- This approach improves the probability of successful submissions and identifies and informs of regional facility and appliance requirements to the region and the LGGS Capital Grants Committee.

CBFCO Forum 2025

Presentation by DFES Rural Fire Division Executive Director Murray Carter

- The BCoE propose to host a 3-day CBFCO forum in June 2025 at the Bushfire Centre of Excellence, with a similar format to the previous forum.
- The forum will be open to all CBFCOs and will be encouraged to send a proxy if they are unable to attend.
- The forum will encourage collaboration across the CBFCO network by offering the opportunity to share experiences and lessons learnt.
- The forum aims to be an information sharing and professional development, rather than a decision-making forum.
- The BCoE propose to hold an online session in March 2025 to share the plans of the 2025 forum with the CBFCO cohort, encouraging attendance and exploring forum topics.

Starlink mini – availability request

Item raised by Mid-West Gascoyne member Ben Plozza

- Request information on the availability of Starlink mini kits through the LGGS.
- The US is currently shifting satellite to phones. Elon Musk has partnered with T-Mobile and are offering 6 months free access with immediate access for plan users, with no upgrade to phones with compatible hardware and settings.
- Optus will be the first Australian provider and are currently working with SpaceX, with rollout expected **this year**. Telstra are also working to the same plan.
- It is anticipated that Starlink kits will become obsolete in this process, with big changes over the next 6 months.
- With this huge shift about to take place, at this stage approval of Starlink kits will be on hold until more is known.

Doctrine support for Local Governments

Item raised by DFES Rural Fire Division Executive Director Murray Carter

- LG access to doctrine is currently being addressed. LG and WALGA identified an inability to access DFES doctrine, procedures and guidelines with the original issue being raised with access to the Volunteer hub.
- Communication to LG CEOs last year received positive feedback.
- This would allow a consistent approach across LGs including minimum training standards, noting Section 33 guidelines provide best practice.
- Members discussed concerns with minimum training standards
- A working group will be created from ROAC/DOACs, a representative WALGA and an LG CEO. Nominations will be sought from ROAC/DOACs.

The next BOC meeting will be scheduled for July 2025.