

Greenough Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Name	Greenough Bush Fire Advisory Committee	Meeting No.	1-2025
Meeting Date	21 March 2025		
Meeting Time	2:00pm		
Meeting Location	City of Greater Geraldton, Function Room		
Members	Mayor Jerry Clune Cr Aaron Horsman Cr Kim Parker Rob Roffey - Cape Burney Bushfire Brigade Captain Warren Treasure - Fire Control Officer	By Invitation	
Attendees		Leave of Absence	
Apologies		Distribution	
	Andy Gaze – CGG, Manager Regulatory Services Aaron Halliday – CGG, Training Officer David Hoare - Waggrakine Bush Fire Brigade Julia French – DBCA, District Fire Coordinator Murray Smith – CGG, Coordinator Emergency Management & Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Neil Johnstone - Chief Bush Fire Control Officer		
	Bill McKay - Moonyoonooka Bush Fire Brigade Brendan McCann - Walkaway Bush Fire Brigade Bruce Garratt - Walkaway Fire Control Officer Daryl Hamersley - Walkaway Fire Control Officer Ian Grant - Eradu Bush Fire Brigade Jane Humphries – DFES, A/District Officer – Fire North Kieran Mussen – Department of Fire and Emergency Services Ryan Hall – CGG, Director of Development Services Tristan Penny - Geraldton Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service		
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 **2:00pm**.

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:

- Bill McKay - Moonyoonooka Bush Fire Brigade
- Brendan McCann - Walkaway Bush Fire Brigade
- Bruce Garratt - Walkaway Fire Control Officer
- Daryl Hamersley - Walkaway Fire Control Officer
- Ian Grant - Eradu Bush Fire Brigade
- Jane Humphries – DFES, A/District Officer – Fire North
- Kieran Mussen – Department of Fire and Emergency Services
- Ryan Hall – CGG, Director of Development Services
- Tristan Penny - Geraldton Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service

4 Disclosure of Interests

Nil.

5 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Committee Recommendation:

RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the Greenough Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting held on 20 September 2024 as previously circulated, be adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings.

COMMITTEE DECISION:

MOVED CR A HORSMAN, SECONDED W TREASURE

RECOMMEND that the minutes of the Greenough Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting held on 20 September 2024 as previously circulated, be adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings.

CARRIED 5/0

Not Voted: **0**

Against Votes: **0**

For Votes: **5**

Name	Vote (For or Against)
Mayor Clune	FOR
Cr. Horsman	FOR
Cr. Parker	FOR
Rob Roffey Cape Burney Bushfire Brigade Captain	FOR
Warren Treasure Fire Control Officer	FOR

6 Agency and Brigade Updates

6.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer – N Johnstone

- See attachment.

6.2 CGG Coordinator Emergency Management – M Smith

- Nothing to report.

6.3 Department of Fire and Emergency Services

- Apology – no report.

6.4 Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attraction

- Murchison experienced 20 fires, Gascoyne experienced 7 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.
- Busy bushfire season with extended deployments across the state; crews are fatigued.
- Prescribed Burns initiated but significantly reduced due to drought; pending study on plant conditions. Planned for Kalbarri inland - weather permitting.
- Fire Programs are underway, with no prescribed burns in the Greater Geraldton area.

6.5 Cape Burney Fire Brigade

- See attachment.

6.6 Eradu Bush Fire Brigade

- Apology – no report.

6.7 Moonyoonooka Bush Fire Brigade

- See attachment.

6.8 Waggrakine Bush Fire Brigade

- Transitioned to quarterly meetings.
- 17 members attended incidents. Some members have left, and there have been inquiries about returning, but none confirmed yet.
- 13 incidents attended this financial year.
- Recruitment Event scheduled for 30 March at Waggrakine Hall.
- Annual General Meeting has been set for 29 June 2025 at midday.

6.9 Walkaway Bush Fire Brigade

- See attachment.

7 General Business

- Acknowledgment: Mayor Clune thanked everyone for their efforts this season and expressed hopes for a continued quiet season.
- Acknowledgment: Chief Bush Fire Control Officer expressed thanks for the ready availability of personnel during the quiet period.
- Harmony Festival: Truck presence noted; mostly kids showed interest, with limited recruitment follow-through. Provided valuable exposure for the brigade and an opportunity to educate the community on the DFES app.
- ESL Submissions: Operational budget submissions submitted by the City, with capital submissions due this week. Outcome expected in early June 2025.
- Community Water Supplies Partnership (CWSP) Grant Application submitted for two 210,000L water tanks near Wicherina standpipe and Casuarina, Walkaway. If successful, the 50,000L tank at Wicherina will be available for other supply gaps.
- Handheld devices are at the DFES office, awaiting allocation due to programming issues. They will be distributed as soon as practicable.

8 Date of next meeting

Proposed for Friday, 19 September 2025.

9 Close

There being no further business the Presiding Member closed the meeting at 2:25pm.



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GREENOUGH BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

TABLED DOCUMENTS

Item No. 5	Minutes – Greenough - 20 September 2024
Item No. 6.1	CBFCO Report - Greenough - March 2025
Item No. 6.5	Cape Burney BFB Report - 21 March 2025
Item No. 6.7	Moonyoonooka BFB Report - 21 March 2025
Item No. 6.9	Walkaway BFB Report - 21 March 2025

21 March 2025

ATTACHMENT :

**ITEM NO. 5 MINUTES –
GREENOUGH - 20 SEPTEMBER 2024**

Greenough Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Name	Greenough Bush Fire Advisory Committee	Meeting No.	2-2024
Meeting Date	20 September 2024		
Meeting Time	4:00pm		
Meeting Location	City of Greater Geraldton, Function Room		
Members	Mayor Jerry Clune Cr Aaron Horsman Cr Kim Parker Rob Roffey - Cape Burney Bushfire Brigade Captain Warren Treasure - Fire Control Officer	By Invitation	
		Leave of Absence	
Attendees	Andy Gaze – CGG, Manager Regulatory Services Bill McKay - Moonyoonooka Bush Fire Brigade David Hoare - Waggrakine Bush Fire Brigade Murray Smith – CGG, Coordinator Emergency Management & Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Neil Johnstone - Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Jane Humphries – DFES, A/District Officer – Fire North	Distribution	
Apologies	Aaron Halliday – CGG, Training Officer Brendan McCann - Walkaway Bush Fire Brigade Bruce Garratt - Walkaway Fire Control Officer Daryl Hamersley - Walkaway Fire Control Officer Ian Grant - Eradu Bush Fire Brigade Julia French – DBCA, District Fire Coordinator Kieran Mussen – Department of Fire and Emergency Services Ryan Hall – CGG, Director of Development Services Tristan Penny - Geraldton Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service		
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- Ian Grant - Eradu Bush Fire Brigade
- Julia French – DBCA, District Fire Coordinator
- Kieran Mussen – Department of Fire and Emergency Services
- Ryan Hall – CGG, Director of Development Services
- Tristan Penny - Geraldton Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service

4 Disclosure of Interests

Nil.

5 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Committee Recommendation:

RECOMMENDED that the minutes of the Greenough Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting held on 5 April 2024 as previously circulated, be adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings.

COMMITTEE DECISION:

MOVED Warren Treasure, SECONDED Rob Roffey

RECOMMEND that the minutes of the Greenough Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting held on 5 April 2024 as previously circulated, be adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings.

CARRIED 5/0

Not Voted: 0

Against Votes: 0

For Votes: 5

Name	Vote (For or Against)
Mayor Clune	FOR
Cr. Horsman	FOR
Cr. Parker	FOR
Rob Roffey Cape Burney Bushfire Brigade Captain	FOR
Warren Treasure Fire Control Officer	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

- Grain harvest aerial support likely to start first week in November 2024;
- Aerial support will be run by 1x Air Attack Platform and 2x water bombers;
- Geraldton-Greenough SES will be completing water bomber refuelling training early November 2024; and
- Redeployment of water bombers will be dependent on harvesting and the amounts received by CBH.
- Consensus from the meeting is that it's a large fuel load season and a large grain harvest, request from the committee is that the air support remain in the Mid West longer this year.

7.4 Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attraction

See report.

7.5 Cape Burney Bush Fire Brigade

See report.

7.6 Eradu Bush Fire Brigade

No report.

7.7 Moonyoonooka Bush Fire Brigade

See report.

7.8 Waggrakine Bush Fire Brigade

Verbal update provided by Captain.

7.9 Walkaway Bush Fire Brigade

See report.

8 General Business

Nil.

9 Date of next meeting

Proposed for Friday, 21 March 2025.

10 Close

There being no further business the Presiding Member closed the meeting at 4:45pm.

ATTACHMENT :

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

Greenough BFAC 21/03/2025

CBFCO report

61 incidents attended in total for CGG.

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.

Approval has been given by DFES to use the channel 194 to contact Com Cen on brigade turn out and arrival. This can be used by the 3 city-based brigades. The city will send out some instructions in the future.

The city was successful in gaining some MAF (mitigation activity funding) and have been able to complete 4 prescriptions 1 at mullewa and 3 around Geraldton. Total value \$31000.

The city is proposing to hold a get together for brigade members and families in late August or September. It may take the form of social bowls followed by dinner.

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 and crew leaders.

We will send out use instructions to brigade leaders soon.

ATTACHMENT :

**ITEM NO. 6.5 CAPE BURNEY BFB
REPORT - 21 MARCH 2025**

Cape Burney's March 2025 Report

From 1st of July til the 16th of March Cape Burney has responded to 10 callouts with the Irwin fire and Minnenooka fire being multiple shifts .

We have done 6 public events in the same time all with a good response from our members and a special appearance of Squirt the miniature fire engine with the association member Shane Hart at Christmas on the terrace .

Just recently we have had 2 new members Join up with us taking our numbers up to 14 .

With the training calender been released by DFES , several members have taken the opportunity to expand on their skill set .

Some of the highlights for our members include seeing the blackhawks in action and some members receiving their service medal and 3 members receiving life membership.

ATTACHMENT :

**ITEM NO. 6.7 MOONYOONOOKA BFB
REPORT - 21 MARCH 2025**

Moonyoonooka Bushfire Brigade - BFAC March 2025

Membership:

Membership is steady at 34 members with 30 available to attend incidents when work and personal commitments permit.

Two new members have joined and have been through basic training and are available to attend incidents.

Incidents:

We have attended Thirty (30) incidents to date in this 24/25 fire season.

Ranging from lightning strikes, pole top fires, vehicle fires, a crow interacting with a powerline (fire controlled, crow deceased) and an emergency level bushfire at Minnenooka, which crews attended over two days.

Equipment:

All vehicles have performed well through the season so far and for a short time we had a high season one four to assist in our deployments.

Training:

Training has been conducted regularly throughout the season, occurring on the first Monday of the month and has been well attended.

ATTACHMENT :

**ITEM NO. 6.9 WALKAWAY BFB
REPORT - 21 MARCH 2025**

Captains Report
BFAC Meeting 21st March 2025
Walkaway Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Turn-outs

So far the brigade has been to 5 incidents this financial year

A big thankyou to the city, brigades and other support personal for the assistance with the fires that impacted the Smiths and Garretts property in January.

The brigade has had two new members join the crew.

1 member transferred from Metro VFRS and a new member from the walkaway townsite. It will good to see them on the fire ground once there training has been completed.

The brigade also conducted the Walkaway Santa lolly run. Which was great success for the community

Thank you

Regards

Brendan McCann

Captain / Fire Control Officer

Walkaway Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade