

# Mullewa Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting

## Meeting Agenda

<b>Meeting Name</b>	Mullewa Bush Fire Advisory Committee	<b>Meeting No.</b>	2-2025
<b>Meeting Date</b>	19 September 2025		
<b>Meeting Time</b>	2:00pm		
<b>Meeting Location</b>	Chambers Room, Mullewa District Office		
<b>Attendees</b>	Mayor Jerry Clune Cr Aaron Horsman Cr Michael Librizzi Daniel Critch - Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer Gerard Rowe - Mullewa South Bushfire Brigade Captain  Aaron Halliday – CGG, Training Officer Andy Gaze – CGG, Manager Regulatory Services Brendan Weir - Tenindewa Bush Fire Control Officer Craig Moran - Mullewa Central Bush Fire Brigade Darren Simmons - Mullewa District Office Manager Julia French – DBCA, District Fire Coordinator Mark Teale – Department of Fire and Emergency Services Murray Preston - Casuarinas Bush Fire Brigade Murray Smith - CGG, Coordinator Emergency Management Neil Johnstone - Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Heath Martin – CGG, Director of Development Services Tony Crudeli - Mullewa Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service Zac Grima - Tardun/Pindar Bush Fire Control Officer	<b>By Invitation</b>	
		<b>Apologies</b>	
		<b>Leave of Absence</b>	
		<b>Distribution</b>	
<b>Purpose of Committee</b>	<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"> <li>• Matters relating to the preventing, controlling and extinguishing of bush fires;</li> <li>• Planning layout of fire breaks in the district;</li> <li>• Prosecutions for breaches of the <i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i>;</li> <li>• The formation of Brigades; and</li> <li>• Coordination and cooperation between Brigades and Agents.</li> </ul> <p>Refer to <a href="#">Committee Book</a></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**
- 2 Acknowledgement of Country**
- 3 Welcome & Apologies**
- 4 Disclosure of Interests**
- 5 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

---EMBEDDED ATTACHMENT---

Minutes - Mullewa Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting – 20 March 2025

# Mullewa Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting

## Meeting Minutes

<b>Meeting Name</b>	Mullewa Bush Fire Advisory Committee	<b>Meeting No.</b>	1-2025
<b>Meeting Date</b>	20 March 2025		
<b>Meeting Time</b>	2:00pm		
<b>Meeting Location</b>	Chambers Room, Mullewa District Office		
<b>Members</b>	Mayor Jerry Clune Cr Aaron Horsman Cr Michael Librizzi Daniel Critch - Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer	<b>By Invitation</b>	
<b>Attendees</b>	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	<b>Leave of Absence</b>	
<b>Apologies</b>	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	<b>Distribution</b>	All.
<b>Purpose of Committee</b>	<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"> <li>• Matters relating to the preventing, controlling and extinguishing of bush fires;</li> <li>• Planning layout of fire breaks in the district;</li> <li>• Prosecutions for breaches of the <i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i>;</li> <li>• The formation of Brigades; and</li> <li>• Coordination and cooperation between Brigades and Agents.</li> </ul> <p>Refer to <a href="#">Committee Book</a></p>		

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## 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

- 6 **PRESENTATION: DFES State Hazard Plan Fire Comprehensive Review 2024/25 - M Teale / Brent Allen**
- 7 **Agency and Brigade Updates**
  - 7.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer – N Johnstone
  - 7.2 CGG Coordinator Emergency Management – M Smith
  - 7.3 Department of Fire and Emergency Services
  - 7.4 Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attraction
  - 7.5 Mullewa Central Bush Fire Brigade
  - 7.6 Mullewa South Bush Fire Brigade
  - 7.7 Tenindewa Bush Fire Brigade
  - 7.8 Pindar/Tardun Bush Fire Brigade
  - 7.9 Casuarina Bush Fire Brigade
- 8 **Date of next meeting**
- 9 **Close**