

# Bush Fire Advisory Committee – Mullewa

## Meeting Minutes

<b>Meeting Name</b>	Mullewa BFAC Meeting	<b>Meeting No.</b>	2/2021
<b>Meeting Date</b>	23 September 2021		
<b>Meeting Time</b>	9:30am		
<b>Meeting Location</b>	Chambers Room, Mullewa District Office		
<b>Attendees</b>	Jerry Clune – Councillor (Chair) Tarleah Thomas – Councillor Brett Steele – Mullewa South Captain/FCO Murray Preston – Casuarinas Captain/FCO Zac Grima – Tardun/Pindar Captain/FCO Peter Barnetson – Ambania FCO Ben Clune – DFES Area Officer Kieran Mussen – DFES District Officer Chris Lee – CGG Director Infrastructure Services Wayne Ellis – CGG Coordinator Emergency Management Murray Smith – CGG Emergency Operations Officer, Chief FCO Sydney Amphlett - Secretariat	<b>By Invitation</b>	DBCA, DFES, VFRS
		<b>Apologies</b>	Brendan Weir – Tenindewa FCO Daniel Critch – Tenindewa Captain/FCO Darrin Fulker – Mullewa Central Captain/FCO Jennifer Critch – Councillor Cr Kim Parker - Absent
		<b>Distribution</b>	Attendees, CGG Council

### 1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Chair opened the meeting at 9.38am.

#### 1.1 Introduction of visitors (If applicable)

### 2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Nil due to no quorum.

### 3. ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Nil due to no quorum.

### 4. AGENDA ITEMS

#### 4.1. City of Greater Geraldton Draft Bushfire Agreement – Chris Lee

Background of the City of Greater Geraldton Draft Bushfire Agreement (Draft Agreement) and Bushfire Local Law (BFL) review given to members to offer context and reasoning.

Review of the BFL was outsourced to a consultant. The direction the City received was to separate the BFL to create the Draft Agreement and updated it inclusive of the new WHS legislation, that is expected to be endorsed in January 2022. The Draft Agreement was distributed and feedback requested.

Note that feedback on the Draft Agreement has been received from 4 brigades.

The City is now proposing a straight extraction of administration information from the BFL to form a new version of the Draft Agreement and will cover all the City's Brigades,

in one Agreement. If the WHS legislation is endorsed in 2022, the Agreement will need to be revised again. The proposed Agreement includes no changes but simply states what should be done now. If this proposition is approved, the first Draft Agreement will be void.

The Chair confirmed the BFLL could be put to Council without the Agreement.

Implications of the new WHS legislation and what it means for the City and Volunteers was discussed.

**MOTION:** The Chair requested the City redraft the Agreement, by separating the administration information from the Bushfire Local Law and circulate to members for consultation and feedback, before the next BFAC meeting.

**MOVED PETER BARNETSON, SECONDED BRETT STEELE  
CARRIED 5/0**

#### **4.2. Terms of Reference Mullewa review – Wayne Ellis**

Issues identified in the current Terms of Reference Mullewa (ToR).

The City is proposing to review and align the ToR with the new BFLL once endorsed. Once drafted, there will be a consultation period where feedback is requested.

Following the Council election in October, all Advisory Committee's will be formally disbanded and re-established when Council has been reformed.

**MOTION:** Terms of Reference Mullewa be revised, distributed for comments and ready to vote on at the next BFAC Meeting.

**MOVED MURRAY SMITH, SECONDED: PETER BARNETSON  
CARRIED 5/0**

### **5. AGENCY AND BRIGADE REPORTS**

#### **5.1. Chief Bush Fire Control Officer – Murray Smith**

- Thanked brigades for efforts over the last season.
- City has applied for Mitigation Assistance Fund (MAF) funding to complete mitigation works.
- Mechanical services have been completed on bushfire appliances.
- Harvest Vehicle Movement Bans (HVMB) will be more frequent this year with higher fuel loads, FCO's will be consulted on the process before issuing HVMB.
- The new crew-cab fire truck for Mullewa South will be the first in the region. There has been delays in production.
- Ensure all calls are routed through 000.

#### **5.2. Coordinator Emergency Management – Wayne Ellis/Chris Lee**

- It has been an eventful year, floods, cyclone and fires.
- Predicted to be a significant fire season.
- Firebreak inspections begin on 5 October.
- Mitigation works have started with the City.
- There is a Council Item going to September's Council Meeting for approval to amend the FY2021-22 budget of \$106,000.
- The MAF application is for additional funding to complete mitigation works on properties under management order to the City. The application is for \$334,000. The application was submitted this week and if successful, the City will receive funds at the end of November.

#### **5.3. Department of Fire & Emergency Services - Kieran Mussen/Ben Clune**

**Kieran:**

- Introduce Ben Clune who is in the Acting role for 6 months.

- Working in conjunction with the City, mitigation progressing well.
- DFES strategic regional plan – strategies are being focused on.
- WAFES awards were well represented and there were few awards from around the Midwest.

**Ben:**

- To align with the rest of the country, there are some colour changes to warning signs.
- There is a DFES media campaign running to get the word out.
- Chris will support DFES liaising with City to included changes of the warning signs in City media campaign.
- For awareness: all staff and volunteers in DFES are required to receive COVID-19 vaccinations as of 1 December as part of implementing the DFES Infection Prevention Policy.
- The City nor DFES cannot mandate that employees receive vaccinations.
- Ben distributed pamphlets on the warning sign changes.

**5.4. Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (P&W)**

- Nil as no representatives present

**5.5. Mullewa Central Bush Fire Brigade**

- Nil as no representatives present

**5.6. Mullewa South Bush Fire Brigade – Brett Steele**

- There were a few big fires in Mullewa last season.
- Mullewa South will be one of the first to get the crew cab truck.

**5.7. Tenindewa Bush Fire Brigade – Peter Barnetson**

- About the big fire in Mullewa last season, there were good learning points come out of the fire. Communication being the biggest improvement point.
- Attending this fire has damaged some farmer's fire units due to the rough terrain.

**5.8. Pindar/Tardun Bush Fire Brigade – Zac Grima**

- Non-eventful fire season.

**5.9. Casuarinas Bush Fire Brigade – Murray Preston**

- Nothing to note.

**6. GENERAL BUSINESS**

**6.1. Permits – Brett Steele**

Fire permits are required in Mullewa after 1 September this year. In previous years, this date was always 1 October with discretion to change. 1 September was too early this year.

**Action: City Officers to investigate the timing of Mullewa requiring Fire Permits.**

**6.2. Meeting to discuss WHS Legislation – Brett Steele**

Would be beneficial to have a meeting with brigades to discuss new WHS legislation further.

Seasonal workers are too inexperienced to be on the fire ground.

Training requirements of the new legislation says that volunteers need appropriate training to complete works.

The position of the Farmers will be to train the volunteers or not have them attend the fires. Will be the Farmer's decision.

### **6.3. FCO Training – Brett Steele**

There needs to be training for new FCO's.

Action: City Officers to organise FCO training for March.

### **7. NEXT MEETINGS 2022:**

MARCH 2022 – To be scheduled

SEPTEMBER 2022 – To be scheduled

### **8. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The Chair closed the meeting at 10.38am