

**Attachment 7.1 Report to the City of Busselton Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC) meeting to be held on 12 September 2023**

**Agency:** Department of Fire & Emergency Services

**Officer Representing:** Peter Thomas, District Officer Capes - LSW

**Matters to be reported:**

- **NATIONALLY CONSISTENT WARNINGS FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

By mid-2024, the (DFES) will join other Australian States and Territories to achieve nationally consistent warnings for bushfire, cyclone, flood, and storm through the implementation of the Australian Warning System (AWS). The DFES Public Information Branch has consulted with internal and external stakeholders to evaluate implementation options for the next phase of the AWS rollout. After careful assessment, it has been decided that the implementation of the second phase will take place after the 2023-2024 High Threat Period. The second phase will include changes to warning levels, colours, and icons for cyclone, flood, and storm. Additionally, warning levels for each of these hazards, including bushfire, will be accompanied by a set of action statements providing the community with clear guidance during an incident.

- **New Public Information Number**

The existing public information line mobile number is being phased out and replaced with a more robust, reliable way to activate or contact the Coordinator Public Information.

Please obtain the new number via the CESM.

This number is for internal operational purposes only and should not be circulated to the public.

- **LSW Leadership Forum**

Thanks to the number of volunteers from the City of Busselton that attend the Forum held in Nannup on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September. We had a total of 43 (BFB, VFRS & VFES) volunteers from across the region. With presentations from Air Operations, Wellness, Health and Safety, Professional Standards, Fire Investigation and then activities around Dynamic Risk Assessment and incident response. Volunteers also had the opportunity to view the new 1.4 Tanker.

- **WAFES Conference**

The 2023 WAFES Conference kicks off on Friday 8 September at Crown Perth.

The theme for this year's conference, Working Together to Make a Difference, underscores the significance of collaboration across all levels, services, and agencies to positively impact the Western Australian community, featuring keynote speakers such as former Australian cricket coach Justin Langer AM and international humanitarian lawyer Rabia Siddique.

- **Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Forum**

The DFES Bushfire Centre of Excellence recently hosted the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (CBFCO) Forum on July 19-21. More than 60 CBFCOs or proxies travelled from various regions across WA, spanning from the northern areas of the Kimberley and Pilbara to the eastern Wheatbelt region and all the way down to the Great Southern.

The forum was also live streamed across the state. With the theme of the forum being Success through collaboration, the aim of the event was to empower the role of the CBFCO by fostering knowledge exchange, sharing experiences, and facilitating networking opportunities.

Each session was recorded with the intention to share with the greater community. These session recordings and a Post-Event Summary are now available on the DFES website.

The Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Forum was a huge success, and the Bushfire Centre of Excellence has plans to hold the event again in the future.

- **LSW Operational Fleet Handover**

Over the past 12 months, 13 new operational assets have been delivered to brigades, groups and units in the Lower South West Region, including:

8 x Light Tankers

1 x 3000L 4WD Urban Tanker

2 x General Rescue Units

1 x Flood Boat

1 x Marine Rescue Vessel

On Monday 4th September volunteers, local government representatives and invited guests attended the official handover in Nannup, along with Jane Kelsbie MLA Member for Warren-Blackwood (representing the Minister for Emergency Services), Assistant Commissioner Country Gary Gifford and DFES regional staff.

Thanks to the volunteers from Dunsborough BFB and Dunsborough VFRS who attended along with City of Busselton staff to accept the handover of the new vehicles.

Peter Thomas

District Officer Capes - LSW