



City of Busselton
Geographe Bay

**Bush Fire Advisory Committee
Minutes**

14 September 2021

City of Busselton, Kaloorup Room, 2 Southern Drive, Busselton held on Tuesday 14th September 2021

CITY OF BUSSELTON

MINUTES

14 SEPTEMBER 2021

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CITY OF BUSSELTON**MINUTES – 14 SEPTEMBER 2021****1. DECLARATION OF OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS**

The chairperson, Allan Guthrie declared the meeting open at 6:33pm.

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**Present**

Allan Guthrie	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (Chairperson)
Grant Henley	Mayor, City of Busselton
Ross Paine	Councillor, City of Busselton
Todd Johnson	Deputy Chief & Fire Control Officer, Ruabon
Chris Payne	Deputy Chief & Fire Control Officer, Kaloorup
Ken Sue	Fire Control Officer, Ambergate
Peter Dawson	Fire Control Officer, Vasse
Mark Fisher	Fire Control Officer, Yallingup Rural
Mark Jolliffe	Fire Control Officer, Wilyabrup
Colin Sanderson	Fire Control Officer, Eagle Bay
Andrew Hunt	Fire Control Officer, Dunsborough
Ray Fokkema	Fire Control Officer, Metricup
Paul Blight	Fire Control officer, Yallingup Coastal
Neville Haddon	Fire Control Officer, Yoongarillup
Ian McGregor	Fire Control Officer, Acton Park South
Mark Smith	Fire Control Officer, Sussex
Peter Stark	ICV, VBFSTAG

In Attendance

Blake Moore	CESM Busselton (Executive Officer)
Tanya Gillett	City of Busselton, Manager Environmental Services
Ian McDowell	City of Busselton, Coordinator Ranger & Emergency Services
Phoebe Buntain-Barrie	City of Busselton, Senior Administration Officer (Minute Taker)
Adam Jasper	CESM Shire of Augusta/Margaret River

Apologies:

Peter Thomas	DFES, District Officer Capes
Oscar Negus	Deputy Chief & Fire Control Officer, Hithergreen
Matt Muir	Fire Control Officer, Yallingup Rural
Ed Hatherley	DFES, Fire Operations Officer
Doug Walters	Fire Control Officer, Acton Park North

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Nil

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 Confirmation of minutes from meeting held 15 June 2021

Moved: Peter Dawson
Seconded: Andrew Hunt

CARRIED

5. BUSINESS ARISING

Nil

6. PRESENTATIONS

- 6.1 Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions - Ed Hatherly, presented by Blake Moore
- 6.2 Acknowledgment to Allan Guthrie for his OAM award - Grant Henley
- 6.3 Thank you to the BFAC committee as Mayor - Grant Henley

7. BUSINESS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

- 7.1 Mandatory Member Skills Refresher – Blake Moore
Attachment 7.1 Version 1.1 September– Crew Leader Skills Refresher 2021/22 (in development)
Attachment 7.2 Version 1.1 September– Firefighter Skills Refresher 2021/22

The two current mandatory member skill forms are version 1.1, these are yet to be adopted as final proofs. Please review both documents.

Once endorsed this will be a **compulsory** annual firefighter or crew leader skills refresher endorsed by the City of Busselton CBFCA, CESM, all DCBFCA's and brigade fire control officers.

Identification sticker kits will be issued once training is completed to the members, these will be coloured stickers to be placed on helmets at the completion of every annual training.

- 7.2 Tablets and associated applications – Blake Moore

Brigades are requested to put a written submission to Blake with how many tablets they would like for their brigade.

Tablet and associated costs are as follows:

Samsung Galaxy Tablet (mapping products, Microsoft Teams, SharePoint etc)

Tablet cradle & fixed mount

12 volt charger

Total cost \$1754.61 upfront and then an ongoing annual cost of \$270.76 (annual cost includes mapping and sim card costs)

- 7.3 Truck induction – Blake Moore

A truck induction will be placed in the trucks for members who are on a crew with a new vehicle type that they are not trained in.

7.4 Yallingup Main Road roadworks - Paul Blight

It was asked that Blake obtain a traffic controller in the event of an incident in Yallingup over summer with Main Roads having a traffic light system while repairing the bridge. The repairs are forecast to be completed by Main Roads by the 17th December 2021.

7.5 Changes to Bushfire Warnings - Watch and Act - Blake Moore

Attachment 7.5.1 Changes to Bushfire Warnings

7.6 Ordering medals for brigade members - Blake Moore

The responsibility falls under the individual brigades to ensure medals are ordered for their members.

8. OFFICER/DELEGATE REPORTS

Attachment 8.1 - CoB/Department of Fire and Emergency Services - Blake Moore

Attachment 8.2 - City of Busselton - Ian McDowell

Attachment 8.3 - VBFSTAG - Peter Stark

Officer Recommendation

The committee receives the following reports and notes the comments therein:

- 1) CoB/Department of Fire and Emergency Services – Blake Moore
- 2) City of Busselton – Ian McDowell
- 3) VBFSTAG – Peter Stark

9. MATTERS OF URGENCY

Nil

10. OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY (OH&S)

10.1 Emergency vehicle stickers - Mark Jolliffe

Emergency Vehicle stickers to be ordered and distributed to brigades for vehicles.

10.2 Covid restrictions at incidents - Allan Guthrie

Allan Guthrie raised about continuing to work with the Covid environment and having to vary responses and restrictions as necessary in line with Department of Health's advice.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 14 December 2021 6:30pm at the City of Busselton (Kaloorup Meeting Room, 2 Southern Drive, Busselton).

12. CLOSURE

There is no further business, the Chairperson declared this meeting closed at 8:48pm.

**Attachment 8.1 Report to the City of Busselton Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC)
meeting to be held on 14th September 2021**

Agency: CoB/Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Officer Representing: Blake Moore

Matters to be discussed:

Incidents

- Nil significant

Mitigation

- The City of Busselton has received \$500,000 from the Mitigation Activity Fund Grant for mitigation in the 2021/22 financial year
- Spring burns as part of this program will require brigade assistance

Vehicles

- Annual servicing has been completed with no major breakdowns occurring

Brigade initial turnout area SMS

- New area mapping changes being finalised with mapping being sent to DFES for upload and implementation shortly

Capes Fire Station

- Nil progress at this time

Training

- Courses still being cancelled due to lack of numbers. Please encourage members to register on eAcademy for course they wish to attend.
- Sector Commander course completed with low number of participants being marked as competent

General Points

- LSW combined Leaders Forum coming up this weekend
- The new Combined Emergency Services Act is currently being drafted. Will replace the Bushfires Act 1954. This may result in some changes to how we operate.
- The Workplace Health and Safety Act applies to volunteers as of January 2022. We are still working to understand implications associated with the implementation
- Similar Firefighting aircraft fleet to last year.

Operational Circulars

- **As per the attached**

Attachment 8.2 Report to the City of Busselton Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC) meeting to be held on 14th September 2021**Agency:** City of Busselton**Officer Representing:** Ian McDowell - Ranger & Emergency Services Coordinator**Matters to be discussed:** Review of the City's Annual Bushfire Notice

In March 2020 the Council adopted for consultation, a revised draft bushfire. The City received 1501 written submissions to the consultation process with the majority of respondents opposed to the proposed changes on the basis of cost, environmental impact, and amenity.

At its meeting of 24 August 2021 the Council resolved to defer further work on the bushfire notice review (including further consultation) until at least March 2022 meaning our current notice will remain in place for at least the next two fire seasons.

A report will be taken to the Council no later than 30 June 2022 seeking direction on whether and how to recommence the review.

In the meantime, the City has commenced and will continue advocating with the State Government to address the following key concerns:

1. A review of bushfire prone area mapping to avoid situations where neighbouring properties are subject to significantly different controls whilst having very similar exposure to bushfire risk (noting that the State Government has contacted the CSIRO to develop a new bushfire prone methodology using the best available bushfire science and modelling; and it is anticipated the new methodology and updated map will be available in late 2022).
2. Introduction of simplified and standardised approaches to planning and building regulation in urban bushfire prone locations.
3. Identifying the current APZ standard set out in State Planning policy documents is not consistent with community values and needs to be reconsidered.
4. Identifying that achieving consistency between planning control regulation and ongoing compliance through bushfire notice requires proactive State leadership.

The overall rationale for the resolution is to continue advocacy with the State Government, and also to see what comes of the review of the Wooroloo bushfires.

Future reviews of the bushfire notice will include extensive consultation with the community, community groups, and other stakeholders including the BFAC.

Attachment 8.3 Report to the City of Busselton Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC) meeting to be held on 14th September 2021**Agency:** Volunteer Bush Fire Service Training Advisory Group (VBFSTAG)**Officer Representing:** Peter Stark, Lower South West Representative**Matters to be discussed:**

1. In June, the Volunteer Bushfire Service Training Advisory Group (VBFSTAG) Terms of Reference were ratified and the Group held its first meeting at the Bushfire Centre of Excellence (BCoE) in Nambeelup.
2. This consultative Group was established under the authority of the Executive Director Rural Fire Division at DFES and is made up of key DFES BCoE staff, representatives from DFES regions across WA, and a representative of the Assoc. of Bushfire Volunteers. It is chaired by Supt. Craig Garrett
3. The primary aims of the Group are to:
 - a. Consider and review matters related to the Volunteer Bush Fire Service Training Program, training products, training development and delivery,
 - b. To provide formal recommendations to be considered in developing new strategies to improve training for VBFB personnel to better meet the current operational needs and requirements,
 - c. To help improve the operational effectiveness of volunteers through the Group's advice and recommendations.
4. At a regional level, the LSW Superintendent Phil Brandrett and all LSW ROAC members are kept up to date with developments on a quarterly basis. Also, the Group endeavours to distribute this information via other groups such as BFAC.
5. Attached is a summary of the progress of current projects at BCoE. Attachment 1. Training Development Priorities 2021
6. Should any volunteer, staff, or groups such as ROAC or BFAC's have a contribution or comments to make, they can contact me directly or through their local ROAC members.

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