



# **Bush Fire Advisory Committee Minutes**

**08 September 2020**

City of Busselton, Kaloorup Room, 2 Southern Drive, Busselton on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020  
commencing at 7.30pm

## CITY OF BUSSELTON

## MINUTES

8 September 2020

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**CITY OF BUSSELTON****MINUTES – 8 SEPTEMBER 2020****1. DECLARATION OF OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS**

The Chairperson, Allan Guthrie declared the meeting open at 7.33pm.

**2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES****Present**

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

**In Attendance**

Blake Moore	CESM Busselton (Executive Officer)
Tanya Gillett	City of Busselton, Manager Environmental Services
Phoebe Buntain-Barrie	City of Busselton, Senior Administration Officer (Minute Taker)
Tanya Simpson	City of Busselton, Administration Officer
Ed Hatherly	DBCA, Fire Operations Officer
Kay Lehman	City of Busselton, Environmental Management Officer
Will Oldfield	City of Busselton, Environmental Officer

**Apologies:**

Peter Thomas	DFES, District Officer Capes
Oscar Negus	Deputy Chief & Fire Control Officer, Hithergreen
Matt Muir	Fire Control Officer, Yallingup Rural
Ray Fokkema	Fire Control Officer, Metricup
Annette Batley	Fire Control Officer, Yoongarillup
Mark Moore	DBCA, Fire Operations Officer

**3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Nil.

**4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES****4.1 Confirmation of minutes from meeting held 14 July 2020**

4.11 Incorrect date for the next BFAC corrected from 15 September to 8 September.

Moved: Peter Dawson

Seconded: Colin Sanderson

**CARRIED**

**5. BUSINESS ARISING**

5.1 Items eligible for ESL funding – Action, Allan Guthrie  
Allan to take Oxyviva equipment request to ROAC.

5.1.1 Allan will be taking this request to ROAC for the October 2020 meeting.

5.2 Formal apology from the City of Busselton BFAC to Mal Ballard – Action, Allan Guthrie.  
Allan to issue Mal Ballard a written apology letter.

5.2.2 A formal in person discussion was had with Mal Ballard to which the apology was accepted. A written letter will be created and sent to Mal in the near future following this meeting.

**6. PRESENTATIONS**

6.1 City of Busselton Environmental Services - Kay Lehman  
Attachment 6.1

6.2 Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions - Ed Hatherly  
Attachment 6.2

**7. BUSINESS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE**

Nil.

**8. OFFICER/DELEGATE REPORTS**

Attachment 8.1 - Department of Fire and Emergency Services - Peter Thomas

Attachment 8.2 - CoB/Department of Fire and Emergency Services - Blake Moore

**Officer Recommendation**

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

- 1) Department of Fire and Emergency Services
- 2) City of Busselton/Department of Fire and Emergency Services

**9. MATTERS OF URGENCY****9.1 Location and roll out of new defibs in appliances - Blake Moore**

New defibs will be rolled out to all brigade vehicles. They will be located on the driver's side of the vehicle, the right-hand side and the same side as the first aid kits. Should any brigade members want additional training on how to use the defibs they are to contact Blake Moore to arrange an external provider to provide additional training.

**9.2 Caves house upcoming summer events and brigade attendance - Blake Moore**

Brigades in the local area who are contacted by Caves House regarding the standby attendance at events can attend, however written requests and approval must be approved through the Community Emergency Services Manager prior to attendance. If brigades do attend the events they are to be on standby and not to provide any other service. Local brigades such as Yallingup Rural and Yallingup Coastal should be aware of these summer events held at Caves House in case of any incidents that may occur.

**10. OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY (OH&S)**

Nil.

**11. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on 8 December 2020 7:30pm at the City of Busselton (Koorup Meeting Room, 2 Southern Drive, Busselton).

**12. CLOSURE**

There is no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 9.23pm.

**Attachment 8.1            Report to the City of Busselton Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC)  
meeting to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

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

**Officer Representing:** Peter Thomas

**Matters to be discussed:**

- **DFES LSW Incidents**

**Storm 24-25/May**

This event was the most severe in the past two years, with forecast winds to 125km/h. Across the Lower-South West region we received more than 50 Requests for Assistance (RFAs, or call-outs) from Sunday afternoon through to Monday night. Approximately two-thirds of these were in the Busselton area (Yallingup to Capel); 10 in Augusta-Margaret River, and the remainder across the inland areas. The storm caused structural damage to two properties, with widespread minor damage, uprooting of trees, loss of power, and subsequent loss of telephone and communications networks.

Approximately 80 SES volunteers responded during the incident, with Donnybrook, Busselton and Margaret River SES units remaining in operation for over 24 hours. The most common call-outs were for trees on houses/vehicles and for roof damage.

**Storm 28-29/June**

This minor storm resulted in 22 Requests for Assistance (RFA) across the region; with most (14 RFAs) from the City of Busselton area. Widespread minor damage with roof damage, trees blocking access and minor flooding.

**Land search 30 June**

33 SES volunteers from across the SW and LSW regions supported WAPOL in searching for a missing person swept off rocks at Wyadup.

**VFRS**

As is common this time of year Brigades have had several Road Crash Rescue incidents across the region. There has also been an increase in structure fires which together with the colder weather and covid stay at home restrictions the likely reasons for this.

A new rescue vehicle was shown to the members at Busselton with volunteers from Margaret River and Dunsborough also attending. This vehicle is designed solely for Road Crash Rescue and will be rolled out to Manjimup and Donnybrook to replace their aging Rescue Trailer.

- **Training**

Training is starting to increase since the lifting of Covid restrictions. We have had an increase in members across the Manjimup District which has placed a demand on training for the VFRS.

Emphasis over the next month for staff is on upskilling VFRS in Breathing Apparatus procedures for large complex incidents. This will involve a number of dual brigade turnouts with a total of 7 different drills being conducted across our region.

An initiative in sending out training themes to volunteers with articles to read and videos to watch has also been implemented. This allowed volunteers stuck at home to still be involved in brigade training and maintain enthusiasm. As this was a great success we have rolled this on after the lifting of Covid restrictions

- **Pre-Season Training**

Plans are in place for both staff and volunteers in preparation for the upcoming season. This includes both local sessions for volunteers, a major exercise for Incident Management Personnel and a combined agency briefing which will include representative from DFES, DBCA and WAPOL.

- **NEW BUSHFIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY RESOURCES**

There has been an update on some of the resources available for bushfire preparedness. These include updated,

- REVISED: AM I AT RISK FROM BUSHFIRE Factsheet
- NEW: AT RISK BE SAFE AND LEAVE EARLY Plan

A copy of these resources can be found on the DFES website. Hard copies of both resources can be ordered by filling out a Resource Order Request Form and emailing it to [communitypreparedness@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:communitypreparedness@dfes.wa.gov.au) A list of all current publications and resource order forms can be found on the Community Engagement Toolbox on both the DFES Intranet and Volunteer Hub.

**Attachment 8.2            Report to the City of Busselton Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC)  
meeting to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**Agency:** City of Busselton/Department of Fire and Emergency Services

**Officer Representing:** Blake Moore

**Matters to be discussed:**

Incidents

- Nil significant

Mitigation

- Working on burn prescriptions for spring burns

Bart

- Roll out going very well. Keep up the good work
- Will be used to disseminate information to FCOs and Brigades going forward

Defibs

- Rollout commencing
- To be place in locker on right hand side of appliances

Training

Up coming

- Bush Fire Firefighting Skills 12 & 13 September – City of Busselton Office
- Sector Commander 19 & 20 September – Rosa Brook Fire Station
- Ground Controller 10 October – Cowaramup Fire Station
- Bush Fire Safety Awareness 17 & 18 October – Ambergate Fire Station
- Bush Fire Firefighting Skills 14 & 15 November – Witchcliffe Fire Station

Operational Circulars

- Nil significant