



City of Busselton
Geographic Bay

**Bush Fire Advisory Committee
Minutes**

10 December 2019

City of Busselton, Kaloorup Room, 2 Southern Drive, Busselton on Tuesday 10th December 2019,
commencing at 7.30pm

CITY OF BUSSELTON

MINUTES

10 December 2019

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CITY OF BUSSELTON**MINUTES – 10 DECEMBER 2019****1. DECLARATION OF OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS**

The Chairperson, Allan Guthrie declared the meeting open at 19:30hrs.

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**Present**

Allan Guthrie	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (Chairperson)
Oscar Negus	Deputy Chief & Fire Control Officer, Hithergreen
Todd Johnson	Deputy Chief & Fire Control Officer, Ruabon
Ross Paine	Councillor, City of Busselton
Doug Walters	Fire Control Officer, Acton Park North
Ian McGregor	Fire Control Officer, Acton Park South
Ken Sue	Fire Control Officer, Ambergate
Andrew Hunt	Fire Control Officer, Dunsborough
Mark Smith	Fire Control Officer, Sussex
Peter Dawson	Fire Control Officer, Vasse
Mark Fisher	Fire Control Officer, Yallingup Rural
Annette Batley	Fire Control Officer, Yoongarillup
Neville Haddon	Fire Control Officer, Yoongarillup
Mark Joliffe	Fire Control Officer, Wilyabrup
Ray Fokkema	Fire Control Officer, Metricup

In Attendance

Blake Moore	CESM Busselton (Executive Officer)
Phoebe Buntain-Barrie	City of Busselton, Senior Administration Officer (Minute Taker)
Tanya Gillett	City of Busselton, Manager Environmental Services
Andy Thompson	DFES, Area Officer Geographe
Ed Hatherley	DBCA Parks and Wildlife Service, Blackwood District Fire Coordinator
Helen Holzheuer	DBCA Parks and Wildlife Service, Fire Operations Officer
Mal Ballard	Dunsborough BFB, Captain
Peter Campbell	Bush Fire Ready Facilitator, Yallingup Rural

Apologies:

Colin Sanderson	Fire Control Officer, Eagle Bay
Matt Muir	Fire Control Officer, Yallingup Rural
Peter Thomas	DFES, District Officer Capes
Chris Payne	Deputy Chief & Fire Control Officer, Kaloorup
Paul Blight	Fire Control officer, Yallingup Coastal

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Nil

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**4.1 Confirmation of minutes from meeting held 10 September 2019**

Moved: Mark Smith

Seconded: Mark Fisher

CARRIED 15/0

5. BUSINESS ARISING**5.1 Ration packs in reference to catering at fires- Blake Moore**

(Ref section 5.1 from previous minutes)

Blake Moore advised members that there are now ration packs available for all brigade vehicles to assist with catering in the event of incidents/fires.

5.2 Amalgamation of Dunsborough and Yallingup Rural BFB resolution- Tanya Gillett

(Ref section 5.2 from previous minutes)

Tanya Gillett updated the members that the resolution to this is for a roundtable workshop to be held to provide the opportunity and space for any and all ideas to be put forward and discussed. The approach is to brainstorm suggestions for the building, what to build, who to occupy the building etc. The building will be happening regardless, however the city wants to support the brigade members in creating a building that has the brigade consensus. Once there is a platform and direction the proposal will be presented to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services for their review. This workshop is forecast to happen in March 2020.

6. PRESENTATIONS**6.1 Overview on the brigade training kits - Peter Stark and Todd Johnson**

There will be 6 training modules as part of the brigade training kits rolled out to brigades in March 2020. These will be modules such as AIIMS Structure, Burn over drills and radio training. All of the content for these units are extracted from Department of Fire and Emergency services to ensure the training is rolled out in alignment with standards.

Tanya Gillett said thank you and acknowledged that this training is a great way to ensuring consistency and ensuring there is the same skill set across the board.

6.2 New Occupational Health and Safety Act changes - Blake Moore

Be aware that there are new changes coming to the Occupational Health and Safety Act which will class all volunteers are considered employees of the City of Busselton. This may introduce minimum entrance and training requirements.

6.3 Ambulance brigade training opportunity – Todd Johnson

Offering brigade members training on defibrillators, life threatening injuries and situations, bleeding, neck injuries, burns etc. This training has already been rolled out to Sussex and Vasse

brigades who both commented at BFAC that it is valuable training, very worthwhile and highly recommended that all brigades take part. It is a good refresher for brigade first aid equipment, finding that during Sussex's brigade training their defibrillator had failed when being turned on. Please put any expressions of interest forward to Todd Johnson.

6.4 City of Busselton LGA Bush Fire Advisory Summer 2019 - Ed Hatherley

6.5 Carburnup Reserve burn videos, Blake Moore

The burn was very successful.

It was commented as an area for improvement by Mark Smith that all brigade trucks should carry log rollers.

6.6 How to use ration packs, Todd Johnson

7. BUSINESS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

7.1 Nomination for Dunsborough Fire Control Officer Mal Ballard - Blake Moore

This item is confidential in accordance with section 5.23(2) (a) and (b) of the Local Government Act 1995* as it contains information relating to an active volunteer.

Motion:

The Bush Fire Advisory Committee endorses appointing Mal Ballard as a Fire Control Officer

Moved: Andrew Hunt

Seconded: Ken Sue

MOTION LOST 0/14

7.2 Requirements for notices regarding fire risks and regulations in Holiday Rental Houses (Air BnB etc.) – Mark Fisher

There has been a few incidents relating directly to holiday homes in the area, incidents such as bonfires being lit in the open paddock during burning prohibited/restricted times. With Dunsborough and the Southwest being such a tourist attraction there are more issues happening relating to holiday home occupiers with not being educated on the local area bush fire requirements and regulations. It was suggested that the CoB incorporates some educational flyers, or informational documentation into our pre-existing holiday home registration process.

Tanya Gillet responded that she would report back to the next BFAC with an update.

7.3 Fire Control Officer refresher training – Doug Walters

Doug requested FCO refresher training for this bush fire season.

Blake Moore advised the committee that he will roll out more training in late Jan/Feb 2020.

7.4 Best wishes for the holiday season – Tanya Gillett

From behalf of the Mayor and staff of the City of Busselton we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe holiday and bushfire season. Thank you for your commitment and good work throughout 2019 and best wishes to you all and your families.

7.5 Thank you to David Hunt, Fire Control Officer Yallingup Rural – Allan Guthrie

On behalf of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee and brigade members we thank David Hunt for his time as a Fire Control Officer with Yallingup Rural Brigade.

8. OFFICER/DELEGATE REPORTS

Attachment 8.1 - Department of Fire and Emergency Services – Peter Thomas and Andy Thompson

Officer Recommendation

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

- 1) Department of Fire and Emergency Services

9. MATTERS OF URGENCY

9.1 Restricted and Prohibited date changes – Blake Moore

**Restricted burning times will be varied to reflect 15th October until the 30th May.
Prohibited burning times will be varied to reflect 1st December until 28th February.**

Moved: Ken Sue

Seconded: Mark Smith

CARRIED 15/0

9.2 Deployment Officer Position – Blake Moore

Please advertise throughout your brigades for the available position of a Deployment Officer. This position will be responsible for organising trucks, the dietary requirements of the crew members, next of kin information, and collate to present it back to Blake or Allan.

9.3 Clarification on Harvest, Vehicle Movement, Hot Works and Combustion Engines Ban – Blake Moore

When a ban has been declared you must not:

- Light a fire in the open air
- Cook outside in the open air using an open fire (this includes under verandas and patios)
- Move vehicles or plant equipment in bushland or paddocks (this includes fire break works, property inspections, spraying, slashing/mowing and vehicle movements through vineyards)
- Harvesting (including but not limited to forestry, cereal, wineries and irrigated fruit or vegetable area)
- Use or operation of any engine, vehicle, plant, equipment or machinery in the area likely to cause a bush fire or contribute to the spread of a bushfire (this includes but no limited to road shouldering with graders)
- Undertake 'hot works' such as welding, grinding or activity that may cause a spark or ignition unless you have an exemption issued by DFES

- Use fireworks or hot air balloons.

When a ban has been declared you may:

- Use a gas cooker or barbeque with an enclosed flame on your own property or in a public recreational area designated for that purpose
- Undertake essential feeding and watering of livestock
- Use mowers, chainsaws, line and hedge trimmers and similar plant in built up urban environments which are clear of flammable materials or surrounded by green grass etc.
- Smoke cigarettes, provided cigarettes or cigars are properly extinguished and discarded.
- Conduct any work that has been covered by a current and relevant exemption, and provided that all conditions on that exemption are adhered to.

For more information on the Total Fire Ban declared by DFES please visit <https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/totalfirebans/Pages/index.html>

9.4 Text alert for Harvest, Vehicle Movement, Hot Works and Combustion Engines Ban – Blake Moore

The CoB is currently undertaking communications with our IT department to determine whether a text message alert system can be created to advise the community of the Harvest, Vehicle Movement, Hot Works and Combustion Engines Ban.

9.5 Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions FAWNA changes private property – Ed Hatherly

Please refer to Attachment 1 Changes and challenges with the Biodiversity Conservation Act in reference to mitigation activities.

10. OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY (OH&S)

Nil

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 10 March 2020 at 7:30pm at the City of Busselton (Kaloorup Meeting Room, 2 Southern Drive, Busselton).

12. CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 21:58pm.

Attachment 8.1 Report to the City of Busselton Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC) meeting to be held on 10 December 2019

Agency: Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Officer Representing: Peter Thomas and Andy Thompson

Matters to be discussed:



Busselton Bush Fire Advisory Committee

DFES LSW Region Report – 10th December 2019

- **DFES LSW Incidents & Arrangements**

9th & 10th October saw SES units from Margaret River, Busselton, Nannup & Bridgetown activated for a land search along the Blackwood River near Alexandra Bridge. The SES supported WAPOL in the successful location of a missing teenage boy who had become stranded in his canoe and walked off into the bush trying to get back to his camp site.

Winter resulted in no further significant storm events with local SES attending to isolated incidents around the region.

The Capes Zone response came into effect on the 1st of December, these arrangements have proved to be very successful over the past few years. Preparations are well underway in the lead up to the bushfire season. Events and forums bringing together agencies such as police, DFES, DBCA, Local government are planned to provide a coordinated response to the region over the summer period.

A new draft response arrangement is currently under development in the Blackwood catchment area that will see an enhanced response from local government, DFES & DBCA – including air craft support. An update to the DBCA & DFES response arrangements for the SW & LSW regions is also nearing completion for summer that will bolster the preparedness levels of these agencies over the 19/20 bushfire season. Both these arrangements are a result of the post incident analyses for the Lewana and Blackwood fires.

- **Country Aerial Firefighting Fleet 2019-2020**

Bunbury:

Are now active, available daily 0600-1800hrs

- 2 x Air Tractor 802 fixed wing (SEATs/*BOMBERS*)
- 1 x AS350 Squirrel Type 3 *FIREBIRD* helicopter (AAS, utility)
- 1 x GAB Airvan *BIRDDOG* fixed wing (AAS, utility)

Busselton:

15 December 2019, available daily 0900-1800hrs

- 2 x Bell 214B Type 2 *HELITAKS*

Manjimup and Albany:

Are now active, available daily 0600-1800hrs

- 2 x Air Tractor 802 fixed wing (SEATs/*BOMBERS*) at each base
- 1 x Champion Scout *BIRDDOG* light fixed wing (AAS) at each base

Manjimup and Albany:

Are now active, available daily 0600-1800hrs

- 2 x Air Tractor 802 fixed wing (SEATs/*BOMBERS*) at each base
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• Interstate Deployment

Expressions of Interest (EOI) are requested from suitably qualified BFB personnel wishing to be considered for deployment (should the need arise) to intrastate, interstate and international emergencies. This EOI is for the period 15 October 2019 – 14 October 2020.

NSW/Queensland Deployments

Several deployments have now been sent with the possibility of more to come. The LSW region has played a significant role in supporting these deployments with volunteers from across the region giving up their time to assist. I would like to thank all of those who have put their hands up to assist.

• High Season Fleet

Wilyabrup have received a 2.4 with Sussex set to receive a LT towards the end of December.

• Legislative Review of the Emergency Services Acts

Cabinet has approved the consolidation of the three emergency services Acts into a single piece of legislation. The Fire Brigades Act 1942, Bush Fires Act 1954 and Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998 will be replaced by one Act which will provide a strong foundation for effective emergency services management for the future.

• Passing of Norm Flynn (AFSM)

Sadly Norm Flynn of the Busselton VFRS passed away on the 24th of November, Norm was a very influential member of the Busselton VFRS and community. Some of Norms achievements are listed below,

- Awarded AFSM 1998
- Awarded Queen's 20 year good conduct medal
- Life member of Busselton VFRS and VFRS Association/South West Zone
- 22 years as Captain of Busselton VFRS
- 62 years of Service

Norm continued to support the brigade by regularly attending, community events, training and meetings, he will be sadly missed by all.

Peter Thomas

District Officer Capes