



City of Busselton
Geographie Bay

**Bush Fire Advisory Committee
Agenda**

10 September 2019

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

CITY OF BUSSELTON

**AGENDA FOR THE BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD ON
10 September 2019**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ITEM NO.	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
1.	Declaration of Opening	2
2.	Attendance and Apologies	2
3.	Disclosure of Interests	2
4.	Confirmation of Minutes	2
4.1	Confirmation of minutes from meeting held 25 June 2019	2
5.	Business Arising	3
6.	Presentations	3
7.	Business Before the Committee	3
7.1	Appointment of Todd Johnston as Third DBFCO - Blake Moore	3
7.2	Update on Bush Fire Risk Management Plan - Andrew Hunt	3
7.3	Traffic Management at Fires - Mark Fisher	3
8.	Officer/Delegate Reports	3
8.1	Department of Fire and Emergency Services	3
8.2	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attraction	3
9.	Matters of Urgency	3
10.	Occupational Health & Safety (OH&S)	3
11.	Next Meeting	3
12.	Closure	3

CITY OF BUSSELTON**MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA – 10 SEPTEMBER 2019**

NOTICE is given that a meeting of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee will be held at the City of Busselton, Kaloorup Meeting Room, 2 Southern Drive, Busselton on 10th September 2019 commencing at 7:30pm.

Your attendance is respectfully requested.

MIKE ARCHER
Chief Executive Officer, City of Busselton

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attendance:

Refer to attached list.

Apologies:

Andy Thompson	DFES, A/ District Officer Capes
Colin Sanderson	Fire Control Officer, Eagle Bay
Jeremy Friend	DBCA
Ken Sue	Fire Control Officer, Ambergate
Mark Jolliffe	Fire Control Officer, Wilyabrup
Matt Muir	Fire Control Officer, Yallingup Rural
Nathan Hall	DFES, A/ District Officer Emergency Management
Oscar Negus	Deputy Chief and Fire Control Officer, Hithergreen
Paul Blight	Fire Control Officer, Yallingup Coastal
Paul Needham	CoB, Director Planning and Development Services
Peter Stark	ICV
Peter Thomas	DFES, District Officer Capes

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

4.1 Confirmation of minutes from meeting held 25 June 2019

Moved:

Seconded:

5. **BUSINESS ARISING**

6. **PRESENTATIONS**

7. **BUSINESS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE**

7.1 Appointment of Todd Johnston as Third DBFCO - Blake Moore

7.2 Update on Bush Fire Risk Management Plan - Andrew Hunt

7.3 Traffic Management at Fires - Mark Fisher

8. **OFFICER/DELEGATE REPORTS**

Attachment 8.1 - Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Attachment 8.2 - Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Officer Recommendation

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

1) Department of Fire and Emergency Services

2) Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

9. **MATTERS OF URGENCY**

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

11. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on 10 December 2019 at 7:30pm at the City of Busselton (Kaloorup Meeting Room, 2 Southern Drive, Busselton).

12. **CLOSURE**

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

Agency: Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Officer Representing: Peter Thomas and Andy Thompson

Matters to be discussed: Region Report and Lewana Bushfire Debrief Actions



Government of Western Australia
Department of Fire & Emergency Services



Busselton Bush Fire Advisory Committee

DFES LSW Region Report – 10th September 2019

- **Staff**

Currently Nathan Hall is acting in the District Officer Emergency Management role, this has left his old job as AO Leeuwin vacant. We are hoping to advertise the DOEM job shortly allowing us to get some normality back in the Region. Both myself and Andy Thompson are going on leave soon with Marc Papalia to cover Andy's job whilst he covers mine and then goes on leave.

Marc Papalia will be in the region for a total of 7 weeks from the 2nd September and then finishing up on the 18th of October. Marc has a history with Volunteers, starting as a junior in the Busselton VFRS and has been a strong competitor in the VFRS running competition. Marc is currently a Station Officer in the metropolitan area and has been a career firefighter for 10 years. Marc brings with him a strong training background and has been heavily involved in the recent upskilling of career firefighters.

- **Core Skills Training for VFRS**

Just recently various fire managers from our office attended some core skills training to update us on skills for internal firefighting. We are now planning on rolling these out to our VFRS crews over the next few months.

- **DFES LSW Incidents**

On the 6th June the region recorded 43 bushfire incidents. This was primarily because of the mild autumn where many people conducted hazard reduction burns and then the first strong cold front for winter come through with 70-80km/hr winds causing many of the burns to escape. From this there were three larger fires in DBCA estate that were grouped into the Blackwood complex, with the Jarrahood townsite impacted but protected by local crews from DBCA, BFB and VFRS. I would like to thank all of the volunteers involved in the fires on the 6th of June, it was a very challenging day and everyone performed well in trying conditions.

So far winter has not caused too many issues in relation to storm incidents, with local SES units being able to manage any requests for assistance.

- **Home Fire Safety Campaign Launched**

The Home Fire Safety campaign has been launched to educate Western Australians about the dangers of home fires and how they can reduce their risk. In line with the launch, the new DFES Virtual Reality (VR) Home Fire Experience will be unveiled at the DFES Education and Heritage Centre, giving visitors a first-hand experience of how quickly a fire in the home can take hold when there is no working smoke alarm. A second version of the VR Home Fire Experience will be available soon to book out for events and educational opportunities.

The campaign educates the community on how they can prevent the most common causes of home fire and the need for a home fire escape plan. It also includes information about the importance of working smoke alarms and how to maintain and test them.



Government of Western Australia
Department of Fire & Emergency Services



- **Revised Community Safety Resources – Storm & Bushfire**

The Bushfire Travellers Checklist publication is targeted at people travelling or staying near bushland. The checklist helps people understand the risk and know what to do if a bushfire starts.

The Storm Smart publication provides preparedness information for storms, including what to do when a storm is forecast, weather warning information and emergency contact details.

Peter Thomas

District Officer Capes



OPERATIONAL DEBRIEF TEMPLATE

Lewana Bushfire

Region: Lower South West	Operational Debrief
Incident: Lewana Level 3 Bushfire	Incident No: 423437
Incident Date: 19 February 2019	Location: Shire of Donnybrook/Nannup
Incident Type: Bushfire	Size: 3338ha

1. Incident Overview

- Fire started at approximately 1430 on the 19 February 2019 in Lewana Pine Plantation approximately 8km South West of Balingup
- PSW initially managed the fire with ICC at Kirup and Operations Point at Nannup as Level 2
- Delta State PFT (Delta) mobilised and started at 0600 on 21st of Feb and Section 13 enacted for DFES management of fire as it transitioned to Level 3
- Fire size 3338ha
- 1791ha of state owned plantation impacted by fire
- 53ha approx. of private pine plantation impacted by fire
- Two community meetings were held during the fire and one post incident meeting was held at Balingup Recreation Centre
- Balingup Primary School closed for one day on Thursday 21/02/19
- Recovery programme put in place by Shires of Donnybrook and Nannup

2. Sequence of Events

- 19th Feb 19, 14:30 -Fire reported in Lewana plantation, DBCA crews and air support mobilised
- 19th Feb 19, 15:30 –Donnybrook volunteer brigades despatched to fire
- 19th Feb 19, 19:20-Incident declared Level 2
- 19th Feb 19, 21:44-Loss of 4 forestry machines reported, Emergency Warning released. Homes under threat at Wrights Bridge
- 20th Feb 19, 13:06- Fire reported as 2200ha, 70 firefighters, 31 appliances and 5 machines on scene
- 21st Feb 19, 06:00-Incident declared Level 3 and Preformed Team (Delta) assumed control of fire
- 21st Feb 19-Balingup Primary School is closed for the day
- 21st Feb 19,13:20 Fire downgraded to Level 2, Size is 3377ha and fire contained
- 23rd Feb 19, 16:11 Fire downgraded to Level 1
- 23rd Feb 19, 17:00 Control of fire is handed back to DBCA
- 8th Mar 19, 17:00-Post incident community briefing held at Balingup

3. Operational Effectiveness

What went well?

- CBFCO initial control and coordination between Local resources and DBCA was very effective
- Local communication across brigades and locals demonstrated good comradery
- Initial coordination between agencies on sector on the first night was effective
- Quick mobilisation of machinery
- Cleared vegetation at Wrights Bridge from previous mitigation works provided good protection for the bridge and crews to operate
- Locals (BFB members) were able to enact their own fire plans due to resources supporting the incident allowing them to leave and check on their own properties
- Community preparedness along Balingup – Nannup Rd was successful as most had effective protection zones around properties

What can be improved?

- Use of Local Facilities as divisional command points
 - The eastern and northern resources were requested to attend Nannup Ops point for briefings only to be sent back to the eastern side of the fire to work. A divisional point with check in at Balingup would have addressed numerous issues
- Plantation firebreaks and compliance
 - State of fire breaks around plantations was non compliant when local property owners are required to comply
- Mitigation of river reserve would provide a larger buffer considering this fire and previous crossed the river a number of times
- Community engagement during recovery
 - Locals feel there has been lack of follow up information of what the agencies are doing and how the community are coping. This criticism was more directed at the state agencies then the LG
- Accommodation providers may not have suitable response plan information for guests
 - Cottages / accommodation lets may not have information relating to bushfire and triggers for activating plans etc..
- Improved access to water points and dams
- Evacuation Centres – confusion in Balingup on the first night of the fire when local community members evacuated after receiving the warning to the Balingup Pub (only place open) were confused as to where they should be going. There is also an assumption that the warning area shown on EM WA confused some people thinking it was the fire shape
- Major issues with safe and effective local communications (WAERN)
 - The local repeater 106 is located on the eastern side of the SW Hwy, there is a stand-alone repeater 144 on the western side of the hwy above Balingup. This was again requested to be linked (same issue also reported post 2013 Southampton L3 bushfire)



4. Comments

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5. Recommendations for Follow-up Action

Actions	Person Responsible	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LSW will coordinate briefing session with LG,FPC and DBCA to review engagement options to support improved communication flows of updates to affected communities 	P. Brandrett	Ongoing updated July 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LSW to review warnings during incident and identify potential educational opportunities in ACEF strategy for Balingup 	S. De Bruin	May 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LSW will inform DFES communications of concerns over repeaters and options to link 144 with 106 	S. Ward	Business Case in progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LG (supported by DFES LSW) will review capacity to support resources unit and divisional command functions for future incident response 	J. Cooper / D. Virgo	Commenced training gap
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FPC to liaise with DBCA and provide position on plantation fire break status before next season 	G. Hodgson	FPC reviewing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue raised relating to river reserve to be communicated to incident review team 	P. Brandrett	May 2019
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Fire Services only	
	Date:
	Date:
File #:	

**Attachment 8.2 Report to City of Busselton Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting to be held on
10 September 2019**

Agency: DBCA, Parks and Wildlife Service

Officer Representing: Mark Moore and Ed Hatherley

Matters to be discussed: Autumn prescribed burn planning

The Blackwood district has 3 prescribed burns planned within the City of Busselton for Spring 2019 to Autumn 2020. These are -

- BWD_076 Yallingup 10.5 ha
- BWD_096 Yallingup 152.31 ha
- BWD_109 Abba 8455.97 but this burn will be completed over a couple of years to maintain a mosaic of fuel ages. The map shows the first section of burn being targeted for Spring 2019.