



**City of Busselton**  
*Geographe Bay*

**Bush Fire Advisory Committee  
Minutes**

**25 June 2019**

City of Busselton, Kaloorup Room, 2 Southern Drive, Busselton on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2019,  
commencing at 7.30pm

**CITY OF BUSSELTON**

**MINUTES - 25 JUNE 2019**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>ITEM NO.</b>	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>PAGE NO.</b>
1.	Declaration of Opening	2
2.	Attendance and Apologies	2
3.	Disclosure of Interests	3
4.	Confirmation of Minutes	3
4.1	Confirmation of Minutes from meeting held 12 March 2019	3
5.	Presentations	3
5.1	Medal presentations, presented by Grant Henley	3
5.2	Thanking volunteer fire brigades, Grant Henley	3
6.	Business Before the Committee	3
6.1	Thank you to brigades for efforts on the 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2019, Blake Moore	3
6.2	Yallingup Rural new 3.4, Blake Moore	3
6.3	Amalgamation of North and South Acton Park brigades, Blake Moore	4
6.4	Amalgamation of Dunsborough and Yallingup Rural brigades, Blake Moore	4-5
6.5	Change of brigade boundaries to align with amalgamations, Blake Moore	5
6.6	Vehicle service schedule, Blake Moore	5
6.7	BFAC Terms of Reference, Blake Moore	5
6.8	Chainsaw training for brigades, Blake Moore	5
7.	Officer/Delegate Reports	5
7.1	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Mark Moore	8
7.2	City of Busselton/Department of Fire & Emergency Services, Blake Moore	9-10
8.	Matters of Urgency	6
8.1	DBCA Blackwood district thank you to brigades, Mark Moore	6
8.2	Department of Fire and Emergency Services career station Vasse, Peter Dawson	6
8.3	Burning permit zones, Peter Dawson	6
8.4	Burning prohibited during permit season, Blake Moore	6
8.5	Catering for fires, Todd Johnson	6
9.	Occupational Health & Safety (OH&S)	7
9.1	Promask Full Face Respirator training for Sussex BFB, Mark Smith	7
9.2	Jarrahwood Fire Health & Safety investigation, Blake Moore	7
10.	Next Meeting	7
11.	Closure	7

**CITY OF BUSSELTON****MINUTES – 25 JUNE 2019****1. DECLARATION OF OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS**

The Chairperson, Allan Guthrie declared the meeting open at 7:31pm.

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

Allan Guthrie	Chief Bushfire Control Officer
Grant Henley	Mayor, City of Busselton
Robert Reekie	Councillor, City of Busselton
Oscar Negus	Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer, Hithergreen BFB
Chris Payne	Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer, Kaloorup District
Peter Dawson	Fire Control Officer, Vasse BFB
Mark Smith	Fire Control Officer, Sussex BFB
Mark Jolliffe	Fire Control Officer, Wilyabrup BFB
Andrew Hunt	Fire Control Officer, Dunsborough BFB
Todd Johnson	Fire Control Officer, Ruabon BFB
Neville Haddon	Fire Control Officer, Yoongarillup BFB
Colin Sanderson	Fire Control Officer, Eagle Bay BFB
Doug Walters	Fire Control Officer, North Acton Park BFB
Mark Fisher	Fire Control Officer, Yallingup Rural BFB
Matt Muir	Fire Control Officer, Yallingup Rural BFB
Ken Sue	Fire Control Officer, Ambergate BFB
Ray Fokkema	Fire Control Officer, Metricup BFB
Ian McGregor	Fire Control Officer, South Acton Park BFB

**In Attendance**

Blake Moore	Community Emergency Services Manager, DFES/COB
Phoebe Buntain-Barrie	Senior Administration Officer
Mark Moore	Department of Parks and Wildlife
Mal Ballard	Captain, Dunsborough BFB
Ian Mitchell	Lieutenant, Yallingup Rural BFB
Peter Stark	ICV

**Apologies:**

Peter Thomas	Department of Fire & Emergency Services
Ian McDowell	Acting Manager, Environmental Services
Mark Cannon	Fire Control Officer, Jarrahood BFB
David Hunt	Fire Control Officer, Yallingup Rural BFB
Paul Blight	Fire Control Officer, Yallingup Coastal BFB

**3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Nil

**4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES****4.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD 12 MARCH 2019**

Moved: Mark Smith

Seconded: Andrew Hunt

CARRIED

**BUSINESS ARISING**

Nil

**5. PRESENTATIONS****5.1 Medal presentations, presented by Grant Henley**

Peter Stark awarded a 10 year service medal

Ian Mitchell awarded a 10 year service medal

Matt Muir awarded a 10 year service medal

Peter Dawson awarded a 10 year service medal

Mal Ballard awarded a National service medal accompanied by a 10 year service medal

**5.2 Thanking volunteer fire brigades, Grant Henley**

Mayor Grant Henley praised the efforts of the local fire brigade volunteers who worked hard to save the town site of Jarrahwood from a fire which took hold on the morning of Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

*Please refer to Media Release attachment 1*

**6. BUSINESS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE****6.1 Thank you to brigades for efforts on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019, Blake Moore**

An extended thank you to all of the brigades for their efforts at the Jarrahwood fire incident and for the efforts with the prescribed burn at Big Rock Place.  
Great work by all.

**6.2 Yallingup Rural new 3.4, Blake Moore**

The new 3.4 for Yallingup Rural. Please note it is the tallest and longest of the trucks in the entire fleet now.

### 6.3 Amalgamation of North and South Acton Park brigades, Blake Moore

Blake Moore proposed the amalgamation of North and South Acton Park brigades. Both Ian McGregor and Doug Walters confirmed that this had been voted on at the Brigade's AGM and supported the amalgamation unanimously, on the condition the individual Fire Control Officers stay with the same areas. Blake Moore confirmed this would be the case.

**Motion:** The Bush Fire Advisory Committee endorses the amalgamation of North and South Acton Park brigades.

**Moved:** Ian McGregor

**Seconded:** Doug Walters

**CARRIED**

### 6.4 Amalgamation of Dunsborough and Yallingup Rural brigades, Blake Moore

In April 2019 a meeting was held with the CEO Mike Archer, Director Planning and Development Services Paul Needham, Manager Environmental Services Tanya Gillett and Blake Moore to discuss the development and building of a new fire station and community facility on the corner of Biddle and Balmoral Drive, Yallingup.

The developers of this area have made contributions to the City of Busselton for the purpose of a fire station with a community facility component to be built on this specific site. This site location is located on the boundary of both Dunsborough BFB and Yallingup Rural BFB. It is on a 5 year long term plan with the expectancy timeline of a 3 year build. The funding money has the possibility to be brought forward as early as the next financial year.

The proposal for this site is for Dunsborough BFB and Yallingup Rural BFB to amalgamate with there being three brigade station sites;

- Biddle Road would be stationed with 2 Heavy vehicles and 1 LT
- Marri Drive would be stationed with 1 Heavy vehicle and 1 LT
- Caves Road would be stationed with 1 Heavy vehicle and 1 LT

The Dunsborough membership base is in a critical position and Yallingup Rural have an aging member base. We want to ensure we are providing the best service to the community.

Mark Fisher from Yallingup Rural commented on behalf of the brigade that their members do not want to lose the Yallingup Rural name as their members identify by that. Mark Fisher believes the brigade members need more time to process the proposal of an amalgamation and as such would suggest the proposal be postponed.

Matt Muir from Yallingup Rural commented that he is seriously concerned they will use members if the amalgamation is to happen in the near future. The biggest asset to a brigade is their people i.e. their volunteers. Members of this brigade have spent 10-15 years together helping the community and through these experiences they have held the name of this brigade. Matt personally extended his support to the Dunsborough brigade should they come to a critical position of not being able to source a crew.

Andrew Hunt from Dunsborough brigade explained that it is difficult to put pressure on members who have families as their member base is predominantly between the ages of 20,30,40 years old. With work commitments of these members the Dunsborough brigade face issues with crewing.

Allan Guthrie called no motion to be put forward to the Bush Fire Advisory Committee until the facility is built.

Blake Moore confirmed this statement and also advised the facility will not be under any ownership of either brigade until the discussion is raised again in the future.

#### **6.5 Change of brigade boundaries to align with amalgamations, Blake Moore**

New brigade boundary areas were displayed for proposal.

**Motion:** The Bush Fire Advisory Committee endorses the change of brigade boundaries and to align with amalgamation boundary changes.

**Moved:** Chris Payne

**Seconded:** Oscar Negus

**CARRIED**

#### **6.6 Vehicle service schedule, Blake Moore**

Vehicle service schedule starts on 15<sup>th</sup> July. Please deliver the vehicles ready for works on the Monday, if you are unable to deliver on Monday please do so on the Friday afternoon prior.

*Please refer to vehicle schedule Attachment 2*

#### **6.7 BFAC Terms of Reference, Blake Moore**

The BFAC Terms of Reference has been changed into a new template format, there are no content changes.

#### **6.8 Chainsaw training for brigades, Blake Moore**

The City is looking to run chainsaw training courses to brigade members. The intention is to train 10-20 members in trim and crosscut across the brigades and up to 5 on an advanced felling level. The two training courses offered are a basic trim and crosscut training course and the second will be an advanced felling training course. The trim and crosscut training course will be a 1 day training course. The advanced felling course will be 1 x 4 and 1 x 5 day course that will consist of day trips to local areas such as Nannup, Manjimup or Northcliffe. Please elect your members whom express interest and the course in which they would like to attend.

### **7. OFFICER/DELEGATE REPORTS**

Attachment 7.1 - Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Mark Moore

Attachment 7.2 - City of Busselton/Department of Fire & Emergency Services, Blake Moore

#### **Officer Recommendation**

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

- a) Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
- b) City of Busselton/Department of Fire & Emergency Services

## **8. MATTERS OF URGENCY**

### **8.1 DBCA Blackwood district thank you to brigades, Mark Moore**

On behalf of Ed Hatherley I make a point of extending our thanks for the support provided by the CoB for the Jarrahwood Incident. The reason Jarrahwood was saved was a direct result of support provided by CoB staff, Volunteer BFB and FRS, SES - including various other local Shires.

The broad circumstances of the escape - are:

1. that the heaps were last lit on the 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> May after widespread rains through the 16<sup>th</sup>.
2. The unseasonal dry spell through late May and early June was coupled with extremely strong winds from two cold fronts (30<sup>th</sup> May produced no rain)
3. These two key factors facilitated the remaining slash adjacent to the old heaps to ignite and escape into surrounding forests.
4. The 2R pine heaps were under constant aerial and ground patrols right up to the 6<sup>th</sup>, however the strength of the wind produced multiple points of ignition simultaneously.
5. DBCA is in discussion with FPC regarding the planning, preparation and implementation of 2R pine heaps.
6. Possible outcomes may include not burning them anymore and looking at residue markets, or additional preparation and fuel separation.
7. DBCA is working with Jarrahwood community and affected farmers through the relevant Local Government recovery coordinators.

### **8.2 Department of Fire and Emergency Services career station Vasse, Peter Dawson**

Blake Moore responded that the land has been transferred to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and is on the DFES long term financial plan after year 5.

### **8.3 Burning permit zones, Peter Dawson**

During the Vasse AGM members had a proposal for there to be 2 zones established when it comes to burning permits and the date they open. The proposal was for 2 zones to be created, 1 for the Cape and 1 for the flat farm land so that the properties on within the farm land could burn earlier.

Allan Guthrie, there will not be new zones established, the permit process will stay as it currently is and brigades are to advocate for the issuing of burning permits starting May 13 of each year.

### **8.4 Catering for fires, Todd Johnson**

The question was raised as to where the responsibility falls for brigade fire catering and what contact numbers can be provided for that person/s.

Blake Moore highlighted the need for all vehicles to have ration packs and that it is his expectation that all are equipped with them.

The catering for fires is the responsibility of the incident. Rangers will deliver catering to fires only within their operational hours. The City is currently looking at options to facilitate catering during fires.

**9. OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY (OH&S)****9.1 Promask Full Face Respirator training for Sussex BFB, Mark Smith**

A request for Promask Full Face Respirator training for brigade members.

**9.2 Jarrahwood Fire Health & Safety investigation, Blake Moore**

There is a current investigation into the Promask Full Face Respirators relating to the potential thermal degradation reported from the Jarrahwood fire ground.

**10. NEXT MEETING**

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

**11. CLOSURE**

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 9:40pm.



**Attachment 7.1 Report to the City of Busselton Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC) meeting to be held on 25 June 2019**

**Agency:** Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

**Officer Representing:** Mark Moore, Fire Operations Officer

**Matters to be discussed:** Agency report

**BUSHFIRE:**

The Blackwood District has responded to 87 bushfires this season. These bushfires have been a mixture of causes from natural occurrences, deliberate with malicious intent, deliberate and incident escalations.

The district has seen a big increase in arson attacks particularly in the Shire of Bridgetown – Greenbushes where around 17 fires have been lit over the past 12 months. During the W.A Day long weekend the district responded to 8 arson fires which resulted in a commitment until the pre frontal weather event of Thursday 6 June. It was surprising to see the fire behaviour of a couple of the deliberately lit fires given that we had entered winter, albeit a dry start. The illegal bushfire started on White Rd in Cundingup burnt very hot on sandy country.

The same pre frontal winds had an impact on pine debris burning resulting in bushfire declarations on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2019. The department and FPC are again reviewing this practice.

**PRESCRIBED BURNING:**

The department achieved just over 11700 ha of prescribed burning across the Blackwood District during Autumn 2019.

BWD\_080 Chester Moonah 8600 ha. Brockman H'way and Milyeannup Coast Rd

BWD\_122 McCorkhill 2731 ha. Mowen Rd

BWD\_079 Upper Capel 100 ha. Vernon and Claymore Rds.

BWD\_111 Greenbushes 95 ha west side of town.

Mc Gregor Millbrook BWD\_102 330 ha on Vasse Hwy

**GENERAL:**

- The government has allocated further funding towards the enhanced prescribed burning program in the form of 5.5 million dollars per year for 4 years following the current allocation which expires in June 2019. This funding will provide DBCA districts with the capability to further develop a prescribed burning program which includes planning, operations, contractor engagement, burn boundary upgrades and meeting the requirements of the new Federal Biodiversity Conservation Act
- The Blackwood District has consolidated our 1 and 3 year burn plans. If there are any special areas that are considered high risk and that need to go onto the burn program please contact Ed Hatherley at the Blackwood District as soon as possible to discuss.

Mark Moore Fire Operations officer, Blackwood District Parks and Wildlife Service.

**Attachment 7.2 Report to the City of Busselton Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC) meeting to be held on 25 June 2019**

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

**Officer Representing:** Blake Moore, Community Emergency Service Manager (CESM)

**Matters to be reported:**

**Incidents since 21/06/2018 as at 25/06/2019 (06/03/2019)**

- 71 (31)
- 45 - Bush Fire (23)
- 4 - Vehicle Fire (3)
- 5 - Structure Fire (2)
- 3 – DBA (1)
- 9 - False Call – Good Intent (2)
- 1 – Animal rescue

**Training**

- Courses Completed
  - On-Road Driving 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> March
  - On-Road Driving 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> March
  - Structural Firefighting 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> March
  - Introduction to Firefighting 6<sup>th</sup> April
  - On-Road Driving 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> April
  - Bush Fire Firefighting 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> May
  - On-Road Driving 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> May
- Upcoming courses
  - Structural Firefighting 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> June
  - Advanced BFF & CL 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> July
  - Advanced BFF & CL 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> July
  - Leadership Fundamentals 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> July
  - AIIMS 2017 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> August
  - Introduction to Firefighting 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> August
  - Bush Fire Firefighting 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> August

**Fires**

- Well who would have expected that for the second year in a row...  
Thank you all for your tremendous efforts and patience in the last week of May and first week of June.  
The work that was done on the Thursday by all involved has was nothing short of amazing and has resulted in no property losses. Well done all.
- Thank you to all that also assisted with the hazard reduction burns through autumn, we got some great work done in a very short amount of time

**Operational Circulars**

- **General Circular 88/2019 - EMERGENCY SERVICES VOLUNTEER FUEL CARD SCHEME** – Applications for the Volunteer Fuel Card Scheme 2019/20 financial year are now open.
- **General Circular 87/2019 - Collie Facility Project** – DFES multipurpose facility in Collie. The \$8 million facility will accommodate a Level 3 Incident Control Centre, Emergency Driver Training School, Fleet Maintenance and Management Services, and IT and Radio Communications regional support.

- **General Circular 80/2019 - OPERATIONAL FLEET PROJECT – JUNE UPDATE – 4.4 Broadacre Tanker:** Under evaluation. Light Tanker: Still under Tender Evaluation, with PAT members being included as observers.
- **General Circular 78/2019 - REGISTRATIONS OPEN 2019 WA FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES CONFERENCE –** Registrations are now open for the 2019 WA Fire and Emergency Services conference to be held from Friday 6 September to Sunday 8 September 2019 at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre.
- **Operational Circular 28/2019 - RAPID ALERT CALLER ID –** Text Messages generated by Rapid Alert will utilise different Caller IDs. Personnel and volunteers who receive Rapid Alert Messages in the course of their duties should reconfigure their personal devices to accommodate the change.
- **Operational Circular 26/2019 - DAUPHIN AS365 UTILITY HELICOPTER –** The Dauphin Helicopter can be used to transport equipment and personnel to assist local resources respond to various types of incidents.
- **Safety Circular 07/2019 - TOYOTA LANDCRUISER TYRE INFLATION –** A hazard has been identified when inflating Land Cruiser tyres using the Bushranger Max Air III Compressor. As some Land Cruisers have split rim wheel assemblies, there is a risk of injury should personnel attempt to reinflate tyres from below 21psi, when the wheel is damaged, or the locking ring has dislodged.
- **Safety Circular 02/2019 - AUXILIARY PUMP FUEL TANK MOUNTING BRACKET CHECK –** As part of the Comprehensive Crew Protection Project (CCPP), petrol motors on auxiliary pumps on fire appliances have been replaced with diesel motors. Replacements commenced in late 2015.