

SHIRE OF KOJONUP



Kojonup Bush Fire Advisory Committee

Minutes

11 May 2022

BUSHFIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Established under *Section 67 of the Bush Fires Act 1954*.

Terms of Reference

The Bush Fire Advisory Committee is established for the purpose of:

- a) Advising the Shire regarding all matters relating to the preventing, controlling and extinguishing of bush fires;
- b) The planning of the layout of firebreaks in the district;
- c) Prosecutions for breaches of this Act;
- d) The formation of bush fire brigades and the grouping thereof under group brigade officers (in accordance with any local laws);
- e) Recommendations on Fire Control Officer positions;
- f) Feedback on the Council's Fire Break Notice;
- g) Specific requirements from each brigade with regard to:
 - Protective Personal Equipment;
 - Equipment and vehicles resources required; and
 - Training Requirements;
- h) The ensuring of cooperation and coordination of Bush Fire Brigades in their efforts and activities; and
- i) Any other matter relating to bush fire control whether of the same kind as, or a different kind from, those specified in this subsection.

Other:

- a) The Bush Fire Advisory Committee shall include an elected member of the Council;
- b) The committee shall elect one of their members to be chairman;
- c) The quorum required for the transaction of business at meetings of the committee is set at 50%

Membership

Voting Members (9 in total)

- Councillors x2 (Currently Cr Radford and Cr Benn);
- The President of the Kojonup Bushfire Association;
- The Chief Bush Fire Control Officer;
- The Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer;
- Senior Fire Control Officer (Zulu)
- Senior Fire control Officer (Zulu)
- Secretary of the Kojonup Bushfire Association
- Captain of the Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service

Observers

- The Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
- Shire Delegates x2
- Muradup Town Fire Control Officer (FCO)

MINUTES FOR THE KOJONUP BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD 11 MAY 2022

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MINUTES

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF GUESTS

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 07:04 pm and alerted the meeting of the procedures for emergencies including evacuation, designated exits and muster points.

2. ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

MEMBERS

Ned Radford	Shire President (Presiding Member)
Digby Stretch	President Kojonup Bush Fire Association
Denise Berryman	Secretary of the Kojonup Bush Fire Association
Nick Trethowan	Senior Bush Fire Control Officer
Matthew Crabb	Kojonup Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service
Ros Fryer – Smith	Senior Bush Fire Control Officer

OBSERVERS

Bob Francis	Kojonup Bushfire Brigade Member
Grant Thompson	Chief Executive Officer
Robert Jehu	Manager Regulatory Services
Kevin Bransby	Community Emergency Services Manager
Estelle Lottering	Regulatory Services Administrator (Minute taker)
Derek Jones	DFES District Officer Great Southern
Wayne Green	DFES Superintendent Great Southern
Diarmuid Kinsella	DFES DO Albany Urban

APOLOGIES

Tony Fisher	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Matthew Crabb	Kojonup Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service
Roger House	Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer
Stephanie Swaine	Shire of Kojonup Ranger

3. SUMMARY OF RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Nil

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Nil

5. APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting held on 9th of February 2022 were previously circulated under separate cover.

COMMITTEE DECISION

That the minutes of the Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting held 9th of February 2022 be confirmed as a true record.

Moved by Digby Stretch and second by Ross Fryer-Smith.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS by the Presiding Member without discussion

The Presiding member would like to thank Bob Francis for all of his hard work, support. We do appreciate it.

Grant Thompson welcomed Diarmuid Kinsella from DFES to the meeting as an observer.

8. PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Nil

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

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10. STATUS REPORTS

10.1 2021/2022 Fire Season Update

As at 30 April 2022, there have been the following fires reported within the Shire:

Fires for Fire Brigades 2021 - 2022														
Brigade	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	Total	
Boilup	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boscabel	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Changerup	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	4
Cherry Tree Pool	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Jingalup	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	3	0	0	0	0	9
Kojonup	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	3
Lumeah	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mobrup	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Muradup	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	5
Orchid Valley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Qualeup	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Ryans Brook	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	2	5	4	4	11	3	0	0	29	

This compares with the following data for the previous four years.

Fires for 2019-2020 by Brigades													
Brigade	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	Total
Boilup													0
Boscabel					3	1							4
Changerup							1						1
Cherry Tree Pool							1						1
Jingalup								1		2			3
Kojonup										2			2
Lumeah						1	1	1	3				6
Mobrup								1		1			2
Muradup				1		1		1					3
Orchid Valley										1			1
Qualeup									1				1
Ryans Brook						1							1
Total	0	0	0	1	3	6	1	4	4	6	0	0	25

Fires for 2018 - 2019 by Brigades													
Brigade	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	Total
Boilup													0
Boscabel													0
Changerup					1	1			2				4
Cherry Tree Pool						1	1	1	1				3
Jingalup						1	4	3		1			9
Kojonup						1	2	1	1	1	3	1	9
Lumeah						3	1	1	1	1		2	8
Mobrup							1					1	2
Muradup									2				2
Orchid Valley									1				1
Qualeup						1					2	1	4
Ryans Brook								1					1
Total	0	0	0	0	1	8	10	0	11	2	9	2	43

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Fires for 2017 - 2018 by brigade													
Brigade	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	Total
Boilup									1				1
Boscabel													0
Changerup											1		1
Cherry Tree Pool										1			1
Jingalup						1				1	1		3
Kojonup					6	1				4	2		13
Lumeah						1			2	1	3		7
Mobrup											1		1
Muradup						1							1
Orchid Valley							1						1
Qualeup											1		1
Ryans Brook						1							1
Total	0	0	0	0	8	4	0	0	3	7	9	0	31

Fires for 2016 - 2017 by brigades													
Brigade	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	Total
Boilup											1		1
Boscabel													0
Changerup						1							1
Cherry Tree Pool					1	1							2
Jingalup								1			2		3
Kojonup							1						1
Lumeah								1					0
Mobrup													0
Muradup										2	1		3
Orchid Valley									1				1
Qualeup													0
Ryans Brook									1			1	2
Total	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	2	1	2	5	0	14

These reported fires provide a vital argument when the Shire requires extra funding or there is a need for extra resources to be allocated to this area. All fires need to be reported to DFES Communications Centre. This allows a record of incidents which can be utilised for resource allocation.

Denise informed the committee that there was another fire in May 2022, the total fire is currently 30.

11. GENERAL ITEMS

11.1 Fire Break Notice

11.1.1 Kevin Bransby:

Discussed the Fire Break Notice booklet.

Changes were done by Stephanie Swain, small alterations by Kevin. It is now ready to go out for publishing.

11.1.2 Robert Jehu

Questions received from Steve Gash via email regarding the Fire break notice

Email with questions and answers attached.

11.1.3 Denise Berryman

Question regarding land blocks in Muradup. The firebreak will only go around the external boundary.

11.1.4 Grant Thompson

Mentions blocks on the North Side of Katanning that has not been managed.

11.2 Derek Jones – document send through in advance

11.2.1 Realignment of officer roles in Albany.

I am now DFES contact for Shire of Kojonup. Also, Plantagenet, Cranbrook, Gnowangerup and Katanning. Bushfire background.

City of Albany CESM – Area Officer (Esperance) & back in Albany.

11.2.2 2021/2022 - Fire season.

First time we saw 4 concurrent level 3 incidents in WA. Combined with multiple lightning strikes.

Tested all aspects of the agency.

11.2.3 Recent summer reinforced need for mitigation works.

Jerramungup – fire skirted/impacted townsite and then returned on the wind change.

Firebreaks, controlled burning, mulching etc all combined to reduce impact/damage to town.

11.2.4 Emergency WA Website

Capacity to incorporate incident maps included 2 years ago Website being further upgraded over winter.

Will include increased awareness of CaLD persons. Broaden scope of incidents being shown on website. Provision for alert zones for travellers in the local area.

Request this website be promoted in literature and activities being conducted locally.

11.2.5 Emergency Warnings & National Warning System

National Warning System now adopted. Consistency of colours and symbology Emergency Warnings - now require the use of Telephone Warning System.

11.2.6 Fire Weather District Review is now complete.

Kojonup Shire now combined with Plantagenet and Kojonup to form Stirling West FWD. New FWD with new name – comes into being on Sept 1.

Recommend the name change be publicised in Shire literature.

11.2.7 AFDRS review well advanced.

Number of fuel types enhanced beyond just two. Existing six bands reduced to four.

Needs to be further work to adapt such matters as 'cancellation of permits, vehicle movement and harvest bans, total fire bans and other parts of the Act which reference the 'old FDRs' Corrigin/Bruce Rock fire outcome - may be some value in having a discussion surrounding appropriate conditions for permits.

Public messaging reviewed.

11.3 Digby Stretch – AGM postponed

11.3.1 Decision was made not to have all FCO's and Zulu's in one room. The AGM went ahead via email correspondence.

11.3.2 Like to thank the Zulu's for putting their hands up again for the next year.

11.3.3 A sensational job was done this permit season. The golden rule was if any fires escaped from a permit that was given you will not receive another permit until the following year. Only one fire had escaped from a new landowner.

12 MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil

13 LATE ITEMS

This section of the meeting is for discussing late items which did not make it into the Agenda and of which a decision is required by the BFAC as to the course of action to be taken for Council consideration.

13.1 Bob Francis raised a question about the clearing of grass around the school grounds, train tracks and road reserves. It was done previous years but not the last year. Robert Jehu explained the processes of addressing Fire Break orders compliance notices. The Shire will investigate this matter.

13.2 Matt Crabb apologized for not being here, but send an email to Robert Jehu to discuss. Email attached.

13.2.1 Question on who's responsibility is Drive-in – Shire

13.2.2 Opposite of CJS needs cleaning, the reserve on the west side of the works department too. The shire maintains this area, but the cost of it will be send through to the Aboriginal Corp.

13.2.3 Banners that is missing – we will need to get replacements. Grant Thompson said he will take responsibility for replacing these banners or look at alternative options.

13.3. Update on the radio tower were given. DFES will not be able to support this project financially. The shire will take up this project on their own. Wayne Green explained that DFES can assist with a third party to receive more radios. Once this is done DFES will put up VHF towers and setup WAERN. Digby Stretch explained the black spots in signal all over Kojonup and that we still need a better communication tower.

14 NEXT MEETING

Will be on the 10th of August 2022 at 7:00pm.

15 CLOSURE

There being no further business to discuss the Presiding Member thanked the members for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 8:12pm.

The meeting was re-opened at 8:13pm

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Request to formally endorse the BFA members chosen as per attached AGM Minutes were moved by Digby Stretch and seconded by Nick Trethowen.

There being no further business to discuss, the Presiding Member thanked the members for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 8:14pm.



Presiding Member

9 August 2022
Date