

SHIRE OF KOJONUP

Kojonup



Kojonup Bush Fire Advisory Committee

Minutes

09 February 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 9 FEBRUARY 2022

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Minutes of Meeting

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF GUESTS

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 7:27 pm and alerted the meeting of the procedures for emergencies including evacuation, designated exits and muster points.

2. ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

MEMBERS

Paul Webb	Councillor (Presiding Member)
Digby Stretch	President Kojonup Bush Fire Association
Denise Berryman	Secretary of the Kojonup Bush Fire Association
Tony Fisher	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Nick Trethowan	Senior Bush Fire Control Officer
Ross 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
Stephanie Swain	Shire of Kojonup Ranger
Este Lottering	Administrator Regulatory Services (Minute taker)

APOLOGIES

Brad Nagtegaal	Kojonup Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service
Ned Radord	Shire President
Derek Jones	DFES
Matthew Crabb	Kojonup Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service

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 14th October 2021 were previously circulated under separate cover.

COMMITTEE DECISION

That the minutes of the Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting held 14 October 2021 be confirmed as a true record.

Moved by Nick Trethowan and second by Tony Fisher

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** by the Presiding Member without discussion

Nil

8. **PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

Nil

9. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil

10. STATUS REPORTS

10.1 2021/2022 Fire Season Update

As of 9 February 2022, there have been the following fires reported within the Shire:

Brigade	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	Total
Boilup													0
Boscabel							2						2
Changerup					1								1
Cherry Tree Pool													0
Jingalup					1	2	2						5
Kojonup						1							1
Lumeah													0
Mobrup													0
Muradup						2							2
Orchid Valley													
Qualeup													
Ryans Brook													
Total		0	0	0	0	2	5	4	0	0	0	0	11

Brigade	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	Total
Boilup													
Boscabel													
Changerup							1		2				3
Cherry Tree Pool				1			1			1			3
Jingalup						1	4						5
Kojonup							5		1				6
Lumeah						1	2						3
Mobrup										1			1
Muradup				2									2
Orchid Valley							1	1					2
Qualeup						1	1						2
Ryans Brook						1	1	1					3
Total				3		4	16	2	3	2			30

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

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

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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				3
Jingalup						1	4		3		1		9
Kojonup						1	2		1	1	3	1	9
Lumeah						3	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	0	1	8	10	0	11	2	9	43

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													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.

One additional fire for Kojonup on the 9th of February 2022 that should still be added to the list.

11 GENERAL ITEMS

Ranger Swain:

- Introducing herself as the new ranger
- Bringing proposal for changes to Urban Kojonup and Muradup (*Please see Attachment 1*)
- These changes are coming from community complaints
- Comparing Kojonup firebreak notices with surrounding shires firebreak notices
- Digby Stretch – Chemical spray does not always work; the grass will die but will still be tall enough to be a hazard. So, he recommends that it should be sprayed and slashed. The breaks should be at least 3m wide for agricultural vehicles and fire trucks.
- Questions were raised if there should be a choice for property owners regarding the 2.4 or 3m break. Where to Tony Fisher (Zulu 1) said No.
- There are large blocks just outside of town, the don't look compliant but they are. All due to the current wording on our fire break order.
- Tony Fisher mentioned that years ago they did a burn from the Town outwards so that fires would not reach the farms but also that the towns were protected.
- General discussion came to the conclusion that the height for wheat blocks should be reduced to 100 – 150mm and 3m wide
- Woodpiles who's fuel depots should have the 3m firebreak around them.
- Denise mentioned that Muradup is disgusting at the moment. Landowners are not clearing their blocks. Bob had sprayed and slashed most of these private blocks and Crownland for years out of his own pocket.
- Ranger Swain did mention that Simon Klopper Contracting was contracted to do the slashing but was still waiting to hear from him.
- Also, Marina Murray did not want to touch properties that is not part of the Shire's properties.
- Ranger Swaine explained to Denise how crownland works with DFES and that they cannot just go and slash it. And that the schoolgrounds are the property of the State Government. All agreed that if the crown land started burning it can cause a big fire for Muradup.
- Ranger Swain took photo's to show more visual examples on how should the firebreaks look like.
- Denise asked if these gazetted notices would be for other townsites like Jingalup as well. Denise also asked for bigger magnets on the back of our fire break notice booklets.
- Digby moved and Ross second it.

Digby Stretch

- Sub regions came under discussion. Cherry Tree Brigade had complaints about a ban not put in place, but they had real bad weather conditions. Should there be a line / divider in the Shire between brigades and areas with different fire bans.
- Tony F said that he's against the idea and that it was only Cherry Tree that had an issue that specific day, but there were concerns with Boscabel brigade and they took the advice and shut down their operations.
- Mobrup brigade mentioned that they had day that was favourable and did not need to have the fire bans. The biggest concern is about people working in the areas and then no one know where they are. So, it is a big favour what we do as one big unit. No one would like to make that decision and then something goes terribly wrong. We all go to a fire, we don't split
- Ross FS agreed with Tony that this might only be one day a year.
- Nick T mentioned that they did look at the figures when Cherry Tree Pool Brigade were not happy. And they were on the opposite of the line. There was discrepancy with the numbers. We will only deal with the facts and figures.

Robert Jehu

- Mentions the attachments for WHS & Bushfire – going into March people that are classed as “Who is an officer” – Only the people who makes decisions - Councillors, Ceo's , Senior managers that is liable and accountable.
Please see Attachments 2
- The Shire has received about 40% of all the volunteer brigade members Covid vaccination copies. The Shire really wants to give everyone a choice but is really struggling currently to get all the copies. It may be time to go past the secretaries and going directly to those who's not send in their copies yet?
- The Shire is getting hassled to get his done, and it is under the Health Directive. The Shire is being forced to get this info.
- If the volunteers are not showing their covid vaccination certification they're not allowed into Shire owned public buildings.
- Kevin B mentioned that anyone can pitch up to a fire, but as soon as the rest of the brigade arrives the person who's not vaccinated should remove themselves from the fire ground.
- We want to start sending out letters but do need to do this with the lease pushback from the volunteers. We still do need them for firefighting.
- We will send out text messages again as reminders.

12 MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil

13 LATE ITEMS

Kevin Bransby

- Using an example from the Shire of Cranbrook to describe the Fire Seasons, dates etc.
- Describing **Total Vehicle ban** – No activities as harvesting and watering etc.
- Digby S mentions that they're getting so many questions on what the public is allowed and not allowed to do. It's not our obligation to advertise this but it is a morally good thing to do.
- **Total fire** ban does not include harvesting or farming.
- Kevin describes the Review on Weather (*Please see attachment 3*)
- Fire weather districts will be changing, and borders will be re-aligned.
- This was done on the advice through local feedbacks, vegetations and climate studies. How to do the weather checks and bans might change
- The two fuel types will change from 2 to 7.
- The new names are still to be decided but the Shire of Kojonup can fall into two different fire districts. Kojonup will be known as part of Stirling West (Page 89) from September 2022 and onwards.
- The Fire Danger pie charts will also change. (*Please see attachment 4*)
- There will be teams' meetings on the 15th of February and ROAC in April. Nick T was nominated to go to these meetings.
- Kevin just stated the changes, Digby mentioned that these changes might not work for Kojonup.

Bob Francis

- Asked if we can advise the Graders to make the roads wider so trucks can go through. The graders ignored him when he asked them, but Grant Thompson said that he will discuss this with the Depot.

Tony Fisher

- Asked that the fire permits that is eligible from the 15th of February to be moved to the 5th of March 2022. All agreed.

Grant Thompson

- Announced that there is a newly fully funded BRMC. Kojonup will host the BRMC but the person will be shared with Katanning and Broomhill-Tambelup. Once the Bushfire Risk

management plans are written, risks on farms can be looked at and we can request funding to get more work done.

- Text messages to brigade members and members of the public will be done by the Zulu's, this should be controlled. This is a big expense to the Shire and should not be wasted. The messages should be worded a bit better, perhaps a template should be created.
- Nick T replied about the many variables that is happening that a template will not always work.
- Heather Marland is the Shire's main contact person to send text messages.

Ross Fryer Smith

- Want to acknowledge working with Ranger Swain the past few months and what a pleasure it is. She's doing such a good job and effort.

14 NEXT MEETING

Will be on the 11th of May 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 9:12pm.

Minutes Confirmed



Presiding Member

11 MAY 2022
Date