

**SHIRE OF KOJONUP**

**Kojonup**



**Kojonup Bush Fire  
Advisory Committee**

**MINUTES**

*12 April 2017*

**MINUTES FOR THE KOJONUP BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**HELD 12 APRIL 2017**

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## MINUTES

### 1. **DECLARATION OF OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF GUESTS**

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 7:30pm and alerted the meeting of the procedures for emergencies including evacuation, designated exits and muster points.

### 2. **ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES**

#### **MEMBERS**

Mr Robert Sexton	Councillor – Presiding Member
Mr Ned Radford	Councillor
Mr Tony Fisher	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Mr Roger House	Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer
Mr Murray Gibbs	Senior Bush Fire Control Officer
Mr Geoff Gale	President of the Kojonup Bush Fire Association
Mr Robert Cowie	Administration/Regulatory Officer
Mr Rick Mitchell-Collins	Chief Executive Officer
Mrs Denise Berryman	Secretary of the Kojonup Bush Fire Association
Mr Bob Francis	Muradup Town Fire Control Officer
Mr Paul Retallack	Senior Ranger/Building Maintenance Coordinator
Mr Daniel Campbell	Kojonup Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service
Mr Matthew Crabb	Kojonup Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service

#### **APOLOGIES**

Mr Digby Stretch	Former Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Mr Myles Reid	Senior Bush Fire Control Officer
Mr Mort Wignall	Manager Regulatory Services

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**

ORDINARY MEETING 13 February 2017

**COMMITTEE DECISION**

9/17 Moved Dan Campbell, seconded Ned Radford that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Bushfire Advisory Committee held 13 February 2017 be confirmed as a true record.

**CARRIED 11/0**

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

Nil

8. **PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

Nil

9. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil

## 10. STATUS REPORTS

### 10.1 COMMUNICATIONS TOWER

AUTHOR Rick Mitchell-Collins – Chief Executive Officer

DATE 10 April 2017

ATTACHMENTS Nil

Since the Technical Work Group meeting on 8 March 2017, discussions have been undertaken with Telecommunications consultant – John Dent and the Shire’s Manager Corporate Services regarding the need for an audit of existing Telecommunication Towers – Telstra, WA POL. Council to ascertain the extent of coverage, gaps and shadows in Kojonup and surrounding shires. Advice has also been received (Refer below) from Department of Commerce of the new Lumeah Telstra tower which WA POL are co locating equipment onto.

*“Hi Rick*

*Thanks for your call this morning. Telstra will be seeking DA approval from the Shire shortly for a 60 metre mast at Lumeah to expand mobile coverage under the Mobile Black Spot Program Round 1. They expect the tower will on air in the second half of June 2017. The location has shifted slightly from the coordinates we discussed in late 2015 due to tenure constraints.*

*The new coordinates are: -33.960015, 117.26515*

*Under the contract with Telstra, the Shire has the option to install two VHF dipole (smd1) antennas and one UHF dipole antenna (yb10) on the Lumeah tower, rent free until 1 February 2031. WA Police acts as the central coordinator for all emergency services organisations. It is also co-locating equipment on the Lumeah tower and will coordinate placement and timing with Telstra on the Shire’s behalf too.*

*Hi Darryl and Tim*

*This is to introduce you to one another.*

*Tim – Darryl is the Shire’s technical consultant, on mobile 0429 389 259.*

*Darryl – Tim is the main contact point at WA Police, on 9370 7324 or 0419 947 462.*

*I’ll leave it to you both to touch base on the Shire’s requirements. WAPOL also has a 55-metre guyed mast at -33.857794, 117.164956 that may be of interest to the Shire.*

*I hope these arrangements are of benefit to the community. Please let me know I can help with anything else.*

*Regards Penny*

*Penny Griffin*

*Principal Project Officer – Regional Telecommunications*

*Labour Relations and Industry Development | Department of Commerce*

*Gordon Stephenson House | Reception Level 2 | 140 William Street | Perth 6005*

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This information is being passed onto Mr Dent for consideration.

Council will consider a Memorandum of Understanding with Stacy and Melissa Williams for the existing Tower at next week's Council Meeting.

*Whilst the Bushfire Advisory Committee appreciates the opportunity from Telstra to utilise their new tower, this does not comply with the previous Council decision that the bushfire tower will be placed on land managed solely by the Shire of Kojonup and would only be considered if investigations clearly demonstrated a 'gap' in coverage that would not otherwise be achieved without the Telstra Tower.*

## 10.2 RESERVES MANAGEMENT – FIRE STRATEGY FOR AUTUMN

*Opportunity to discuss any planned burning to manage reserves during autumn if weather conditions allow.*

All brigades are to formulate a list of areas of concern and have this list provided to Mr Cowie recognising that when weather conditions prevail we would need to act and mobilise promptly after a 24 hour notice period.

## 10.2 OLD FIRE TRUCK – TENDER FOR DISPOSAL “AS IS, WHERE IS” AT WORKS DEPOT

*Update requested.*

Council via Mr Cowie to ensure 'Public Notice' for the disposal of the truck is in a May 2017 edition of the Kojonup News.

## **11. ITEMS**

### **11.1 FIREBREAK ORDER COMPLIANCE**

**AUTHOR** Paul Retallack – Senior Ranger  
**DATE** Monday, 27 March 2017  
**ATTACHMENTS** 11.1 Confidential Example (to be tabled)

#### **SUMMARY**

To achieve a clear direction of how to make an abandoned house/homestead that does not comply with the fire break order comply without starting a fire in fire season, who would be responsible if we sent contractors in and a fire did start.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Kinghurst is an abandoned homestead and is a major fire risk, it is situated in the midst of a tree plantation. The property owner was instructed that the advisory committee agreed that all abandoned houses must comply.

I advised that he comes to the next advisory meeting to put his views forward in regard to exemptions.

#### **COMMENT**

I have concerns about forcing a non-compliant property owner to slash in the middle of fire season as the chance of a spark is high in dry grass. The perimeter is overgrown and not clean and often littered with bits of machinery and junk.

#### **CONSULTATION**

NIL

#### **VOTING REQUIREMENTS**

Simple Majority

#### **RECOMMENDATION.**

That the Bushfire Advisory Committee recommends that the Shire of Kojonup allow the Senior Ranger in consultation with the Chief Bushfire Control Officer to enforce the installation of a firebreak for properties where there is an unacceptable risk. An infringement shall be raised against the owner and firebreaks shall be installed at the first suitable time by the owner or the Shire shall organise for the work to be carried out at the cost of the owner.

*The meeting decided that the Ranger already has the powers available to him under the Bushfires Act 1954 so the Officer's Recommendation was not required to be voted on.*

## 11.2 VOLUNTEER BUSHFIRE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**AUTHOR** Rob Cowie – Regulatory/Admin Officer  
**DATE** Wednesday, 5 April 2017  
**ATTACHMENTS** 11.2 Kojonup Volunteer Bushfire Brigade AGM Minutes (tabled)

### **SUMMARY**

The 2017 Kojonup Bushfire Brigade AGM was held on Monday, 3 April 2017 and the minutes and recommendations from the meeting are to be tabled at the BFAC for the Committee's consideration.

### **BACKGROUND**

Nil

### **COMMENT**

The following items have been tabled for discussion at the BFAC Meeting:

- a. Clarification of the wording in respect to the following points:  
Urban/residential firebreak requirements contained within the Firebreak Order over 4000M2. What about property adjacent to sheds, etc.?
- b. Advice required from the Committee regarding the requirements when driving the DFES supplied Fire Trucks as tabled at the AGM are sufficient and whether training of future drivers would be required.
- c. Responsibility for repairs of non-WAERN radios should remain with individual not the Shire!
- d. Advice to the Brigade Captains regarding the use and auditing of the Fuel Cards
- e. How the radio skeds are to be handled. Is this not responsibility of CBFCO and Zulu's?

### **CONSULTATION**

NIL

### **VOTING REQUIREMENTS**

Simple Majority

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the unconfirmed minutes of the Kojonup Volunteer Bushfire Brigade Annual General Meeting held 3 April 2017 be received.



**COMMITTEE DECISION**

**12/17 Moved Roger House, seconded Geoff Gale that the unconfirmed minutes of the Kojonup Volunteer Bushfire Brigade Annual General Meeting held 3 April 2017 be received and that:**

- 1. The Kojonup Volunteer Bushfire Brigade be advised that the Committee is recommending the following to Council:**
  - a) That the diagrams from the Firebreak order be removed and that the wording will remain;**
  - b) The existing road laws remain applicable to any fire truck driver operating for the Shire of Kojonup or within the Shire boundary as 20 kilometres per hour over the speed limit is not justifiable even in an emergency; and**
  - c) That the Shire be requested to write to all brigades advising that individuals are responsible for repairs to non-WAERN radios.**
- 2. All other points are an operational matter and are to be handled as such by the Zulus.**

**CARRIED 11/0**

**REASON FOR CHANGE:** The Bushfire Advisory Committee wished clarify the steps to be taken with Council post receiving the Volunteer Bushfire Brigade minutes for the following reasons:

- 1a) Removing the diagrams from the Firebreak order will remove any ambiguity surrounding the issue of firebreaks.
- 1b) A fire truck travelling to a grass, bush or crop fire is predominantly trying to protect assets and not necessarily human life. Fire trucks are generally bulky, not easy to manoeuvre (carry over 1000 litres of water) and not built for speed. The risk of an accident occurring due to excess speed for a vehicle of that size is significant and drivers should not be putting their own lives at risk by breaking the speed limit even in the event of an emergency.
- 1c) Notification needs to be provided to brigades advising them of each member's individual responsibility for repairing non-WAERN radios which are no longer the main method of approved communication.
- 2) Responsibility falls to the Zulus to handle operational matters and they should be able to do so unimpeded.

**12 MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN**

Nil

**13 LATE ITEMS**

Cr Radford:

*Raised concerns about an FCO writing permits out of his brigade area. The Chief Bushfire Control Officer responded that this had been dealt with and was no longer an issue.*

Dan Campbell:

*Asked permission to erect a sign at the VFRS Station on Albany Highway which would be able to display the Burning Period dates and other relevant messages. This was supported by the BFAC. The VFRS will need to apply to Council for formal planning (signage) approval for this to occur.*

**14 NEXT MEETING**

Monday, 4 September 2017 commencing at 7:30pm.

**15 CLOSURE**

There being no further business to discuss the Presiding Member thanked the members for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 8:35pm.

**16 ATTACHMENTS (SEPARATE)**

Item 11.1 Confidential Example (tabled)

Item 11.2 Kojonup Volunteer Bushfire Brigade AGM Minutes (tabled)

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*Presiding Member*

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*Date*