

SHIRE OF KOJONUP



Kojonup Bush Fire Advisory Committee

MINUTES

17 October 2016

SHIRE OF KOJONUP**MINUTES FOR THE KOJONUP BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD 17 OCTOBER 2016****TABLE OF CONTENTS**

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MINUTES

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

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

2 **ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES**

Members

Cr Robert Sexton	Presiding Member – Councillor
Cr Ned Radford	Councillor
Mr Tony Fisher	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Mr Murray Gibbs	Senior Bush Fire Control Officer
Mr Myles Reid	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 Paul Retallack	Senior Ranger
Mr Daniel Campbell	Kojonup Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service

APOLOGIES

Mr Roger House	Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer
Mr Mort Wignall	Manager of Regulatory & Community Services

3 SUMMARY OF RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Nil

4 APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Nil

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

ORDINARY MEETING 18 April 2016

COMMITTEE DECISION

Moved Cr Sexton, seconded Mr Gale that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Bushfire Advisory Committee meeting held on 18 April 2016 be confirmed as a true record.

CARRIED

6 ANNOUNCEMENTS by the Presiding Member without discussion

Nil

7 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Nil

8 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Nil

9 ITEMS

9.1 FERGUSON REPORT & RESPONSE TO STATE GOVERNMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Attachments: 9.1.1 – Government Response to Ferguson Report
9.1.2 – Cr Sexton's Response to Ferguson Report

The Government has released their response to the Ferguson Report. For the Committee's information, the Government media statement is as follows:

"State Government to Establish Rural Fire Service

Thursday, 29 September 2016

- ***Rural Fire Service to be established***
- ***A new Office of Emergency Management to be established***

The Liberal National Government will support all 17 recommendations of the Special Inquiry into the January 2016 Waroona Fire by Euan Ferguson AFSM, including the implementation of a Rural Fire Service, Premier Colin Barnett said today.

"Mr Ferguson has recommended the establishment of a Rural Fire Service and emphasises the importance of local knowledge and experience in fighting bushfires in his report," Mr Barnett said.

"The State's volunteer firefighters do a magnificent job and their expertise in fighting bush fires needs to be better utilised.

"The State Government will establish a Rural Fire Service as either a separate agency or sub-department of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES).

"Consultation will take place with relevant agencies such as the Department of Parks and Wildlife, DFES, local government, volunteer firefighters and the United Firefighters Unions of WA to investigate the best model."

Emergency Services Minister Joe Francis said that significantly, the implementation of many of the recommendations had already started ahead of this year's bushfire season.

"Western Australia has suffered terrifying and catastrophic fires in recent years, and we will do everything we can to respond accordingly," Mr Francis said.

"The State Government also supported in principle all 23 agency opportunities for improvement identified by Mr Ferguson."

Regional Development and Lands Minister Terry Redman said work was underway to address bushfire risk on Government-owned land which would be supported with an additional \$15 million over four years from Royalties for Regions.

"The need for a greater emphasis on preventing and mitigating risk on Crown land was identified as a key issue by Mr Ferguson and the Government has reacted swiftly to allocate additional funding to this area ahead of the 2016-17 bushfire season," Mr Redman said.

"The increased funding will be accessible to various State Government agencies responsible for land within and adjacent to regional townsites as part of Government's strong desire to see a more co-ordinated approach to address risks on Crown land."

Many of Mr Ferguson's recommendations were being implemented ahead of the upcoming bushfire season. These included:

- Establishing five pre-formed multi agency incident management teams for level 3 incidents, which include representation from both Government and volunteers*
- Installing Automated Vehicle Location Systems in vehicles and appliances at a cost of \$2.4 million*
- Establishing a \$2.8 million critical messaging system by November 2016 which will issue warnings and provide advice on fire danger ratings and total fire bans. The information will be available on a new Emergency WA website to be promoted through the Are You Ready bushfire campaign*
- Issuing identification cards to DFES volunteers in high-risk regions.*

A new Office of Emergency Management (OEM), comprising the State Emergency Management Committee Secretariat and the Office of Bushfire Risk Management will also be established.

There would also be an independent review into the Emergency Services Levy.

"The new OEM will have a quality assurance role and report directly to the Minister for Emergency Services," Mr Francis said.

"From the public comments received in response to the Ferguson Report, the majority of stakeholders and community members were supportive of his recommendations.

"While the Government is moving as quickly as possible to enact measures ahead of the bushfire season, structural recommendations will be developed in a considered way to ensure that as a community, we are more resilient to emergencies in the future."

Fact File

- Of the 142 public submissions in response to the Ferguson Report, 88% supported a Rural Fire Service*

Premier's office - 6552 5000

Emergency Services Minister's office - 6552 6500

Regional Development and Lands Minister's office - 6552 6700"

Cr Sexton addressed the Committee regarding Attachment 9.1.2. He commented that regarding the Government's response he has submitted his own precis of the report – refer Attachment 9.1.2. As the State Government has not given a lot of detail or timelines as to the implementation of Ferguson's report it will be difficult for the Committee to react positively. Cr Sexton will however, raise and promote that Kojonup should support the idea of a separate Rural Fire Service.

Refer to Item 9.3 regarding the Advisory Committees recommendations to Council.

Attachment 9.1.1

Recommendation / Opportunity	Responsible agency	Government Response	Deliverables ahead of 2016/17 fire season	Work beyond 2016/17 fire season
Recommendation 1: The State Government to explore options for streamlining the functions and the independence of the State Emergency Management Committee Secretariat and the Office of Bushfire Risk Management with a view to including an inspectorate function, and appointing a person who is dedicated to that role. The purpose is to provide assurance and reporting, and to inquire into, monitor and report transparently on emergency management standards, preparedness, capability, service delivery and investment performance outcomes. Within two years of the establishment of this arrangement the State Government to review and assess whether it is meeting the desired outcomes.	State Government	The Government supports this structural reform. The State Emergency Management Committee Secretariat and Office of Bushfire Risk Management will be reconstituted as the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), with a direct line of reporting to the Minister for Emergency Services.	SEMC Secretariat will be rebranded as the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) in recognition of its role in ensuring effective emergency management across the State. This would be accompanied by an internal restructure, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a dedicated assurance structure within the OEM, headed by a Director, Assurance and tasked with developing an emergency management assurance framework; and colocation of OBRM within the OEM. A direct line of reporting be established (via section 74 of the Public Sector Management Act (WA) 1994) between the Executive Director of the OEM and the Minister for Emergency Services.	The OEM will replace DPC as the Chair of the Ferguson Report Working Group, and will take leadership of tracking ongoing implementation. This will enable the OEM to undertake an effective inspectorate function in relation to bushfire.
Recommendation 2: The Department of Parks and Wildlife to plan for the highest priority hazard reduction burning effort around settlements and critical assets in the South West and Perth Hills. The annual objective is to treat a total of 60,000 hectares of priority hazard reduction per annum, comprising 20,000 hectares per annum of Land Management Zone A and 40,000 hectares per year of Land Management Zone B.	P&W	The Government supports this recommendation and it is consistent with work currently underway. Whilst the calculation of the size of each land management zone has been amended since the Report, this does not impact upon the conduct of burns.	To date there has been little progress with the 2016/17 prescribed burning program due to rainfall events preventing fuel drying to the point that it would carry low intensity fire. As soon as conditions allow every available opportunity will be taken to maximise prescribed burning achievement on P&W managed lands, including in utilisation of the additional Royalties for Regions funding (\$20 million over four years allocated in 2015) available for works in the South West Region. As long as drying of fuels is gradual P&W anticipate a solid achievement prior to December in the northern forests, and right up to and beyond Christmas in the southern forests. Additional funding of \$15 million from Royalties for Regions has also been made available to the Department of Lands to treat bushfire risk on State owned land.	Work will continue to address bushfire risk across zones A and B.
Recommendation 3: The Department of Parks and Wildlife to continue emphasis on landscape hazard reduction burning with the annual objective of treating 140,000 hectares per annum in Land Management Zone C. In combination with Recommendation 2 (above) the strategic objective will be that a fuel age of less than six years will be maintained across 45% of the landscape on State Forest, National Parks and other Parks and Wildlife managed lands in the South West and Perth Hills. This will address the current backlog (created from under achievements of the recent two decades of burn programs) by the end of the 20-21 burning season (i.e. within the next 5 years)	P&W	The Government supports this recommendation and it is consistent with work currently underway. Whilst the calculation of the size of each land management zone has been amended since the Report, this does not impact upon the conduct of burns.	As soon as conditions allow every available opportunity will be taken to maximise prescribed burning achievement on P&W managed lands, including in utilisation of the additional Royalties for Regions funding (\$20 million over four years allocated in 2015) available for works in the South West Region. As long as drying of fuels is gradual P&W anticipate a solid achievement prior to December in the northern forests, and right up to and beyond Christmas in the southern forests. Additional funding of \$15 million from Royalties for Regions has also been made available to the Department of Lands to treat bushfire risk on State owned land.	Work will continue to address bushfire risk across zone C
Recommendation 4: The Departments of Parks and Wildlife and Fire and Emergency Services to develop options for the expansion of the 'Bushfire Mitigation Grant Scheme' utilising both State and	DFES	The Government supports this recommendation in principle, and work will continue beyond the 2016/17 bushfire season.	The Federal Minister for Emergency Services is currently considering applications for funding through the Bushfire Mitigation Grants Scheme.	All funded projects will be delivered after the 16/17 fire season.

Recommendation / Opportunity	Responsible agency	Government Response	Deliverables ahead of 2016/17 fire season	Work beyond 2016/17 fire season
Commonwealth Government funding to enable the implementation of hazard reduction works identified through the Bushfire Risk Management Planning process. This will target hazard reduction projects on land owned by private landholders in rural-urban interface areas, critical infrastructure protection, local government land, roadsides and land managed by utilities.				
Recommendation 5: The Department of Fire and Emergency Services, utilising the Office of Bushfire Risk Management, to develop a simplified and fast track hazard reduction burn (and other fuel mitigation techniques) planning and approval process to ensure the timely conduct of township and asset protection burns by Bush Fire Brigades and individual property owners. The process is to be agile and adaptable for the range of stakeholders which may participate in low risk, small scale, low complexity burn planning and approvals.	DFES (OBRM)	The Government supports this recommendation and work has been progressed as a priority ahead of the 2016/17 bushfire season.	There will be significant progress made by way of OBRM developing a "model" Prescribed Fire Plan template and establishing recommended criterion (for its use) which proponents could use to determine when this process is utilised if they choose to do so.	This work will be linked to the review of local government "Permits to Burn", and practitioners will be encouraged to adopt to the model template.
Recommendation 6: The State Emergency Management Committee to adopt, across all hazards, the doctrine of: - the primacy of life; - the 'Strategic Control Priorities' (as documented by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services); and - community warnings that are timely, tailored and relevant. Agencies will reinforce amongst emergency management personnel the importance of the doctrine through briefings and intent statements.	SEMC Sec	The Government supports this recommendation and work has been progressed as a priority ahead of the 2016/17 bushfire season.	SEMC to issue a policy bulletin that will reflect the Strategic Control Priorities and indicate that 'primacy of life' is the foremost consideration in bushfire emergency response. Westplan Fire will be annotated accordingly. A communications plan will support the release of the Bulletin.	Working towards release of revised statement of doctrine in 2017. Relevant policies will be revised to take account of 'primacy of life' and the strategic control priorities in an 'all hazards' context.
Recommendation 7: The State Government to establish an arrangement to develop a 'network' of Western Australian State Government agency personnel who can be called upon for bushfire and emergency incident management capability within Western Australia. The arrangement will be led by the State Emergency Management Committee and modelled on systems used by the Department of Parks and Wildlife.	SEMC Sec	The Government supports this recommendation in principle, and work will continue beyond the 2016/17 bushfire season	As agencies are focussed on prioritising work in relation to recommendation 8, this has not been progressed yet.	Project to be scoped following Government decision with respect to the Rural Fire Service.
Recommendation 8: The Departments of Parks and Wildlife and Fire and Emergency Services to adopt the policy that all bushfire Level 3 Incident Management Teams in the Perth Hills and the South West will be integrated and pre-formed from the start of the 2016/17 fire season with substantial involvement of both the Departments of Parks and Wildlife and Fire and Emergency Services personnel on all teams.	DFES & P&W	The Government supports this recommendation and work has been progressed as a priority ahead of the 2016/17 bushfire season.	For the 2016 / 17 Bushfire season there will be 5 x 70 person IMTs, including a Level 3 structure and extended support roles within DFES' Regional/Metropolitan Operations Centres (ROC/MOC). These teams will have roughly equal representation from P&W and DFES, and positions for volunteers. DFES and P&W will continue to liaise with WALGA to agree and implement role allocations (9 identified positions) to Local Government volunteers and staff by 30 September 2016 with identified training requirements completed by 1 December 2016.	Established State Bushfire Level 3 pre-formed team Working Group (DFES/P&W) to convene no later than 5 May 2017 to undertake a stakeholder review of the effectiveness, inclusive of volunteer integration of the PFT implementing lessons identified by 30 July 2017. Develop and implement a State Bushfire Level 3 PFT maintenance training schedule by 30 June 2017. Develop and implement a State Bushfire Level 3 PFT "shadow" policy for succession planning by 30 June 2017. Continue to develop common Doctrine for Incident Management.
Recommendation 9: The State Emergency Management Committee, in consultation with Western Australian Farmers Federation, the Association of Bush Fire Brigades, the Contractors Association of WA, and the Forest Industries Federation of WA, to establish systems for the voluntary registration of:	SEMC Sec	The Government supports this recommendation and work has been progressed as a priority ahead of the 2016/17 bushfire season.	Pilot to be developed for commencement during the 16/17 season that will test measures to improve the uptake of existing arrangements for the use of private assets at bushfires. Aspects of this recommendation are also addressed through responses to Recommendation 13	Consolidation and more extensive roll-out pending results of pilot.

Recommendation / Opportunity	Responsible agency	Government Response	Deliverables ahead of 2016/17 fire season	Work beyond 2016/17 fire season
<p>- farmer firefighting units; - contractor firefighting resources; and - forestry industry brigades.</p> <p>The purpose of this arrangement is to facilitate the safe, efficient and effective recognition, organisation, deployment, management and coordination of farmer, contractor and forestry firefighter resources. The systems would include a process for enabling access through traffic management points during bushfires. Progress towards establishing these systems is to be reported by State Emergency Management Committee in its annual preparedness report.</p>			(identification cards) and Recommendation 14 (traffic management).	
<p>Recommendation 10: The Departments of Fire and Emergency Services and Parks and Wildlife to investigate and adopt an emergency services resource management system that will enable the registration, tasking, tracking, management and coordination of emergency management personnel, vehicles, plant and aircraft.</p>	DFES & P&W	The Government supports this recommendation and work has been progressed as a priority ahead of the 2016/17 bushfire season.	<p>P&W have been involved in assisting DFES through the procurement process for an Automated Vehicle Location system (AVL), including investigating options for an integrated resource management system.</p> <p>The 1st stage of the AVL project (over 500 vehicles and appliances) will be completed by Dec 2016.</p>	<p>AVL will be fitted in additional vehicles and appliances (approximately 200) following the 16/17 fire season to ensure sufficient coverage.</p> <p>The final phase of the AVL is yet to be finalised and may be submitted during the 2017/18 budget process.</p>
<p>Recommendation 11: The Department of Fire and Emergency Services to investigate and adopt a system that will allow the public to opt in, monitor and receive, through a 'push mechanism', bushfire and other emergency warnings, maps and information using a wide variety of devices including personal hand held smart devices.</p>	DFES	The Government supports this recommendation and work has been progressed as a priority ahead of the 2016/17 bushfire season.	<p>The critical messaging system will provide RSS feeds for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warnings (DFES and DPAW), • Incidents (from the DFES Communications Centre, which includes DFES, DPAW, Local Government incidents and private landowner burns), • Fire Danger Ratings • Total Fire Bans <p>The RSS feeds will be operational later this year and be available on a new Emergency WA website, to be promoted through the <i>Are You Ready</i> bushfire campaign. Whilst the system will produce the data required to deliver push notifications, the intent of Recommendation 11 also requires the development of an app which cannot be delivered this fire season and is a future project.</p> <p>DFES has committed \$2.8 million to ensure the critical messaging system is established by November 2016.</p> <p>DFES is augmenting its digital communications capability to reach more people in an emergency at a cost of \$1.0 million ahead of the 16/17 bushfire season.</p>	<p>The work developed ahead of the 16/17 bushfire season will be the mechanism by which a future DFES app would obtain the information to create 'push' notifications.</p> <p>The app is currently in the process of being scoped and planned, so that suitable funding can then be sought. The estimated timeframe for delivery is 18 to 24 months after funding approval.</p>
<p>Recommendation 12: The Department of Fire and Emergency Services to work with the Department of Planning and Local Governments to adopt a policy which enables Local Governments to identify, register and communicate, 'Places of Bushfire Last Resort' in settlements and town sites where the life risk from bushfire is very high or greater.</p>	DFES	The Government supports this recommendation in principle, and work will continue beyond the 2016/17 bushfire season		<p>DFES will be considering recommendations which have arisen from work previously undertaken on this issue.</p> <p>DFES will consult with all relevant stakeholders as the project progresses.</p>
<p>Recommendation 13: The Department of Fire and Emergency Services to issue a photo identification card to DFES members, members of Bush Fire Brigades, volunteer emergency services, Incident Management Teams, forestry industry brigade members and Networked Government Emergency Agency members. DFES to also</p>	DFES	The Government supports this recommendation and work has been progressed as a priority ahead of the 2016/17 bushfire season.	<p>DFES will commence issuing ID cards to its volunteer workforce before the 2016/17 fire season. To meet this timeframe, ID card delivery will occur in two phases:</p> <p>Phase 1 is to be completed as a deliverable ahead of this bush fire season at a cost of \$0.2 million, and involves issuing cards to several hundred volunteers in high priority/high risk</p>	Issuing of ID cards to Incident Management Teams, forestry industry brigade members and Networked Government Emergency Agency members.

Recommendation / Opportunity	Responsible agency	Government Response	Deliverables ahead of 2016/17 fire season	Work beyond 2016/17 fire season
consider temporary windscreen signage to identify vehicles carrying such personnel.			regions in the South West geographic area including: Great Southern, Lower South West, South West and Goldfields and the State wide operational response division. Phase II – Delivery of a sustainable and fully resourced arrangement for issuing cards across the remaining workforce, facilitated by a 3 rd party provider.	Traffic management and access protocols will be reviewed separately by DFES prior to and following fire season 16/17.
Recommendation 14: The State Emergency Management Committee to review the policy for traffic management at emergency incidents so it reflects national 'best practice'. This includes the production and issuing of an aide-memoire to guide traffic management, emergency and incident management personnel. The policy should provide a practical balance between risk to life and the public value of enabling the timely restoration of livelihoods and the movement of critical resources, (including essential services, critical business and livestock welfare services), through traffic management points. The review will involve a range of stakeholders including the Departments of Fire and Emergency Services, Parks and Wildlife, Agriculture and Food WA, Main Roads WA, WA Police, WA Farmers Federation, WA Local Government Association, Forest Industries Association, and the Transport Industry and ensure that the views of the community are considered.	SEMC Sec	The Government supports this recommendation and work has been progressed as a priority ahead of the 2016/17 bushfire season.	Working group will develop aide-memoire by mid-November to assist Vehicle Control Point personnel to apply existing Traffic Management Policy, Guidelines and Restricted Access Permit system. In addition agencies will pursue, through the Working Group, measures to enable Traffic Management Policy, Guidelines and Restricted Access Permit system to be more widely understood and adopted in emergency management planning, community engagement and incident management. WA Farmers, Forest Industries Association and transport industry will be briefed on these developments prior to 16/17 fire season.	Review of traffic management policy will be undertaken with participation of all relevant agencies and stakeholder interests identified by the Special Inquiry. Review will address issue of overall responsibility for traffic management in emergencies; the linkage of traffic management policy to evacuation policy and the management of farmer, forester and contractor fire-fighting resources and spontaneous volunteers. The review will also address resourcing and occupational safety and health issues surrounding the operation of Vehicle Control Points.
Recommendation 15: The State Government to create a Rural Fire Service to enhance the capability for rural fire management and bushfire risk management at a State, regional and local level. The proposed Rural Fire Service will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be established as a separate entity from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services or, alternatively, be established as a sub-department of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services; Have an independent budget; Be able to employ staff Have a leadership structure which to the greatest degree possible, is regionally based and runs the entity; Be led by a Chief Officer who reports to the responsible Minister on policy and administrative matters; and to the Commissioner for Fire and Emergency Services during operational and emergency response; Have responsibilities and powers relating to bushfire prevention, preparedness and response; and Operate collaboratively with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, the Department of Parks and Wildlife, Local Government and volunteer Bush Fire Brigades. In creating the Rural Fire Service, the State Government to consider whether back office and corporate support services could be effectively provided by an existing Department, such as the Department of Fire and Emergency Services or the Department of Parks and Wildlife.	Government	The Government supports the establishment of an independent Rural Fire Service.	The Government notes that the Rural Fire Service will be either a separate Department or a sub-Department of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. Consultation will now occur with interested parties.	Appointment of leadership role and resolution of administrative, legislative and operational issues.

Recommendation / Opportunity	Responsible agency	Government Response	Deliverables ahead of 2016/17 fire season	Work beyond 2016/17 fire season
The State Government to review the creation of the Rural Fire Service two years after its establishment, to assess whether its structure and operations are achieving the intended outcome.				
Recommendation 16: The State Emergency Management Committee to establish a State Bushfire Coordinating Committee as a sub-committee of SEMC. The State Bushfire Coordinating Committee will be chaired by the Director of the Office of Bushfire Risk Management and will have the primary responsibility to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - develop a State Bushfire Management Policy and set a long term bushfire risk management objectives; - provide a forum for key bushfire risk management stakeholder agencies; - advise the SEMC on matters pertaining to bushfire, in particular, to report against the investment of, and achievement of the bushfire risk management objectives; - provide advice and support to the proposed Chief Officer of the Rural Fire Services on bushfire risk management matters; and - report to SEMC and to the community on bushfire risk management matters on at least an annual basis 	SEMC Sec	The Government supports this recommendation and work has been progressed as a priority ahead of the 2016/17 bushfire season.	Draft terms of reference will be released following finalisation of the Government response to the Ferguson Report	State Bushfire Coordinating Committee will be established from the commencement of calendar year 2017. In the interim, matters referred to in Recommendation 16 will be managed by the Interagency Bushfire Management Committee.
Recommendation 17: The Department of the Premier and Cabinet to conduct an independent review of the current arrangement for the management and distribution of the Emergency Services Levy. The review will have the specific purpose of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeking input from key entities including the Departments of Treasury, Finance, Fire and Emergency Services, Lands, and Parks and Wildlife, WA Local Government Association, and the Office of Bushfire Risk Management. • Ensuring the arrangement has the flexibility and agility to deal with emerging bushfire risk priorities • Establishing a budget process that enables a shift in investment towards prevention, mitigation and building community resilience and capability. 	DPC	The Government supports this recommendation and has developed a Terms of Reference for this review, to be undertaken by the Economic Regulation Authority.	A terms of reference for this Review is being developed, and it is intended that it will be undertaken by the Economic Regulation Authority.	The outcomes of this Review will be considered within the context of the establishment of a Rural Fire Service, in fulfilment of recommendation 15.
Opportunity 1: The Departments of Fire and Emergency Services and Parks and Wildlife (and, when established, the Rural Fire Service) to engage with the Bureau of Meteorology and the Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre to investigate the predication of cloud to ground lightning occurrences.	DFES & P&W	The Government supports this opportunity in principle, and work will continue beyond the 2016/17 bushfire season	BoM and CSIRO have funding from the National Environmental Research Project (NERP) for a project investigating atmospheric conditions and drivers of variability associated with lightning ignition of bushfires in south-west WA. P&W will liaise and share data for the project. This project should develop momentum in the next 6 months. DFES will also be party to this research.	DFES and P&W will continue engage with the Bureau of Meteorology and the Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre to investigate the prediction of cloud to ground lightning occurrences.
Opportunity 2: The Departments of Fire and Emergency Services and Parks and Wildlife (and, when established, the Rural Fire Service) to engage with the Bureau of Meteorology and the Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre to investigate the causes of an effects of pyro-cumulus weather occurrences on bushfire behaviour.	DFES & P&W	The Government supports this opportunity in principle, and work will continue beyond the 2016/17 bushfire season	P&W are working with BoM to develop an expanded case study of the fire weather associated with the three pyro-cumulus weather occurrences during the Waroona bushfire. P&W are working with BoM to develop an expanded case study of the fire weather associated with the three pyro-cumulus weather occurrences during the Waroona bushfire.	

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Opportunity 3: The Department of Parks and Wildlife and the Forest Products Commission to explore policy options for mechanical thinning of forest, including mining rehabilitation forest, for the purpose of bushfire mitigation.	P&W	The Government supports this opportunity in principle, and work will continue beyond the 2016/17 bushfire season	A mechanical fuel reduction trial will be taking place in WA under a Commonwealth funded initiative facilitated by the Department of Primary Industry NSW. The trial will be in Palmer forest block north west of Collie and will cover an area of 120 hectares. The trials will be a time in motion study to assess the economics and efficiency of mechanical operations.	
Opportunity 4: The Department of Fire and Emergency Services, in collaboration with the Departments of Planning, Parks and Wildlife, Environment Regulation and Water, to lead consideration of developing guidance to landholders with respect to bushfire 'fuse breaks' along lineal fuels such as roadsides and irrigation drainage channels.	DFES & P&W	The Government supports this opportunity in principle, and work will continue beyond the 2016/17 bushfire season	This could be discussed at the Roadside Conservation Committee.	The Bushfires Amendment Bill 2016 currently being considered by Parliament proposed to amend the <i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i> to enable the FES Commissioner to publish standards regarding bushfire risk treatments. Should the Bill be passed, consideration will be given to utilising these provisions to achieve the intent of this opportunity.
Opportunity 5: The Department of Fire and Emergency Services and Parks and Wildlife (and, when established the Rural Fire Service) to investigate options for improving aerial and satellite based bushfire intelligence gathering. In particular, to investigate the provision of Infra-Red Linescan capability.	DFES & P&W	The Government supports this opportunity in principle, and work will continue beyond the 2016/17 bushfire season	Agencies continue to explore improved technological capability generally, however this specific area will be a focus following the 2016/17 bushfire season.	By September 2017 DFES will complete a project to develop the functional specifications and use requirements for a future Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) contract. The service will commence operation in 2019.
Opportunity 6: The Departments of Fire and Emergency Services and Parks and Wildlife, in conjunction with the Australasian Fire & Emergency Service Authorities Council, to explore the development of a standardised approach and content for an 'initial (4 hour)' Incident Action Plan.	DFES & P&W	The Government supports this opportunity and work has been progressed as a priority ahead of the 2016/17 bushfire season.	DFES began a review of the current suite of Incident Action Plans (IAP) in April 2016 and consultation undertaken with P&W and volunteers. Final versions were endorsed by both P&W and DFES on 26 August 2016 which include new IAPs. The key changes from previous IAP's are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intent to remove 1 and 4 hr timeframes and provide IC with discretion on IAP development pending operational tempo • Lite version for use during escalation/de-escalation • IAP is for use of IMT downward only The IAP's will be implemented through formal launching by Agency Circular and as agenda items at the Level 3 Incident Controller Pre-season Workshops and training days.	DFES and P&W will undertake a review of the IAP documents by 5 May 2017 and implement lessons identified by 30 June 2017. DFES will embed the IAP documentation into the WebEOC platform for operational use prior to 30 September 2017.
Opportunity 7: The Department of Fire and Emergency Services and Parks and Wildlife to assess the merits and disadvantages of Incident Controller and Incident Management Team work cycle extending over a 24 hour period (but still allowing for individual rest times in line with fatigue policy).	DFES & P&W	The Government supports this opportunity in principle, and work will continue beyond the 2016/17 bushfire season	This will be considered further in the context of the pre-formed teams in fulfilment of recommendation 8	There is a shared view that this Opportunity should be deferred to the 2017/18 southern bushfire season. In consultation with P&W it was determined that the ability to develop this capability and manage it with the current number of Incident Controllers will require further work and cannot be achieved before the 2016/17 bushfire season.
Opportunity 8: The Department of Fire and Emergency Services to review the policy of dispatching task force resources from Perth metropolitan and regional urban locations to bushfires to ensure that only vehicles that are fit for purpose and appropriate to the task are deployed.	DFES	The Government supports this opportunity in principle, and work will continue beyond the 2016/17 bushfire season	The DFES Future Fleet project will consider the performance requirements of urban fleet and future functional specifications will reflect those considerations.	The Future Fleet project is a 3 year project which will initially involve prototyping and trials resulting in final fleet determinations. It is anticipated that final contracts will be awarded in 2019.

Recommendation / Opportunity	Responsible agency	Government Response	Deliverables ahead of 2016/17 fire season	Work beyond 2016/17 fire season
Opportunity 9: The State Emergency Management Committee to develop policy guidance for local governments regarding the installation of bushfire and emergency community warning sirens in 'at risk' communities.	SEMC Sec	The Government supports this opportunity and work has been progressed as a priority ahead of the 2016/17 bushfire season.	A draft policy, based on the Victorian Community Alert Sirens Policy and Guidelines adapted for local conditions and existing infrastructure, will be available for consultation with local government and emergency management agencies from mid-October 2016. As part of the consultation process the opportunity for a trial program at one or more locations with existing siren facilities in the South West or Great Southern regions will be identified.	Policy guidance will be available for local governments at the conclusion of the policy consultation and trial period following the 16/17 season.
Opportunity 10: The Department of Fire and Emergency Services to lead, in collaboration with the Department of Planning and the Building Commission, the development of a policy and guidance to landholders on a range of bushfire shelter options, including household bushfire refuges and community bushfire refuges.	DFES	The Government supports this opportunity in principle, and work will continue beyond the 2016/17 bushfire season		DFES will engage and work with the key stakeholders identified and WALGA to consider the intent and performance metrics of this opportunity, and investigate safety standards for bushfire shelter options to provide a temporary place of refuge and the associated risks.
Opportunity 11: The Departments of Fire and Emergency Services, Planning, and Environment Regulation to consider policy options with respect to the clearing of vegetation by landholders within a specified distance of an asset or dwelling, for the purposes of bushfire protection.	DFES	The Government supports this opportunity in principle, and work will continue beyond the 2016/17 bushfire season	DFES provides advice through information notes regarding the maintenance of Building Protection Zones, Hazard Separation Zones, landscaping and winter burning to reduce the potential spread and intensity of bushfires near assets.	The <i>Bushfires Amendment Bill 2016</i> currently being considered by Parliament proposed to amend the <i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i> to enable the FES Commissioner to publish standards regarding bushfire risk treatments. Should the Bill be passed, consideration will be given to utilising these provisions to achieve the intent of this opportunity.
Opportunity 12: The Department of Fire and Emergency Services to engage with the WA Local Government Association to explore opportunities for Local Government personnel to be included in the make-up of Rapid Impact Assessment Teams.	DFES	The Government supports this opportunity in principle, and work will continue beyond the 2016/17 bushfire season		DFES and WALGA will cooperate to establish arrangements for the incorporation of Local Government and other parties with recovery responsibilities in RDA arrangements and teams.
Opportunity 13: The State Emergency Management Committee to develop an aide-memoire for Incident Controllers to guide the initial recovery considerations during an incident. The aide-memoire to include: triggers for the initiation of rapid impact assessment and the escalation of the recovery function; and immediate and likely future community health, welfare and safety considerations. These triggers will inform the Incident Controllers when considering the discretionary appointment of 'Deputy Incident Controller, Recovery' during an incident that impacts on the community. The role of the 'Deputy Incident Controller, Recovery' would be (with the Incident Controller) to consider the initiation of the recovery process and to manage the transition from incident response to the recovery phase.	SEMC Sec	The Government supports this opportunity and work has been progressed as a priority ahead of the 2016/17 bushfire season.	SEMC Secretariat-convened working group (DFES, WA Police, DAFWA, Parks and Wildlife, CPFS, Department of Transport, Public Utilities Office, Department of Finance, Department of Health and local government representatives) will develop aide memoire that covers the nominated matters by mid November 2016.	Aide memoire will be supplemented by the outputs of current projects conducted under SEMC leadership including in relation to comprehensive impact assessment; recovery waste management; recovery-focused public communication arrangements; management of public donations.
Opportunity 14: The Department of Fire and Emergency Services training for Fire and Rescue career staff (at LFF and S/O training courses) to include enhanced training in natural hazard incident management; hazard reduction burning; rural and forest fire behaviour and the Department of Parks and Wildlife use of fire as a management tool.	DFES	The Government supports this opportunity in principle, and work will continue beyond the 2016/17 bushfire season		DFES will seek opportunities to extend the various Pathway courses for staff to allow for the improved incorporation of bushfire incident management; hazard reduction burning; rural and forest fire behaviour and the Department of Parks and Wildlife use of fire as a management tool.
Opportunity 15: The Departments of Fire and Emergency Services and Parks and Wildlife (and, when established, the Rural Fire Service) to agree on minimum targets for volunteer participation as Sector Commanders, and in Incident Management Team positions and develop strategies to meet those targets.	DFES & P&W	The Government supports this opportunity in principle, and work will continue beyond the 2016/17 bushfire season	Nine positions for local government and volunteer firefighters have been proposed in the joint agency PFTs in the first instance for the 2016/17 southern bushfire season. This 'mix' can be adjusted (perhaps during and) after the initial season as required.	

Recommendation / Opportunity	Responsible agency	Government Response	Deliverables ahead of 2016/17 fire season	Work beyond 2016/17 fire season
Opportunity 16: The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (and, when established, the Rural Fire Service) and the Volunteer Associations to develop fatigue management guidelines for emergency service volunteers.	DFES	The Government supports this opportunity in principle, and work will continue beyond the 2016/17 bushfire season		The implementation of a Fatigue Management Policy forms part of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services Strategic Plan 2012-2024 (Strategy 4.3). The deliverables of the Fatigue Management Policy Implementation project will affect all DFES employees and volunteer personnel especially those in operational roles including IMTs. Fatigue management guidelines in addition to an education package are being developed as part of this project.
Opportunity 17: The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (and, when established, the Rural Fire Service) to measure and report annually on the volunteer fire and emergency service worker contribution.	DFES	The Government supports this opportunity in principle, and work will continue beyond the 2016/17 bushfire season	DFES has a system that can implement the intent of this opportunity. A reporting system known as IRS is currently in place for volunteer emergency service groups to report incidents that they attend. In order to accurately measure and report annually on the volunteer fire and emergency service worker contribution, due diligence in reporting incidents to DFES would be relied upon.	DFES currently reports all reported volunteer emergency service activity in the Annual Report. All services are represented in the figures published, no single service is singled out.
Opportunity 18: The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (and, when established, the Rural Fire Service) in consultation with the Association of Bush Fire Brigade Volunteers, to review the policy for disposal of 'retired' firefighter vehicles to first make disposed vehicles available to landowners who are sponsored by the local Brigade. Such vehicles to be subject to a limited decommissioning process.	DFES	The Government supports this opportunity in principle, and work will continue beyond the 2016/17 bushfire season		This opportunity will be the subject of further investigation. 'Retired' vehicles are often redeployed or used to supplement the high fire season fleet. DFES is also limited by the State Supply Policy in relation to methods of disposal which states a public authority must dispose of goods in a manner that is ethical, equitable, efficient, and where practical maximises a value outcome for government.
Opportunity 19: The Department of Parks and Wildlife, in consultation with their workforce and the Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU) and the Australian Workers Union (AWU), to carry out a workforce workload analysis of its fire program (covered by both the CPSU and the AWU workforce). The analysis to have a particular emphasis on the management of workload and fatigue in employees involved in the fire program.	P&W	The Government supports this opportunity in principle, and work will continue beyond the 2016/17 bushfire season	The Department of Parks and Wildlife will commence discussions with the Australian Workers' Union in September following the compilation of workforce participation data for the 2015/16 southern bushfire season.	
Opportunity 20: The Department of Fire and Emergency Services to investigate, with the United Firefighters Union, an 'emergency roster' arrangement that enables the temporary adoption of extended firefighter shift arrangements to enable more career firefighters to be made available for duty during significant emergencies.	DFES	The Government supports this opportunity in principle, and work will continue beyond the 2016/17 bushfire season		DFES will consult with the UFU to review current arrangements to determine whether any improvements can be made. DFES has provision for Call Back of staff, have a surge staffing plan, and a crisis plan drafted for extended and significant absences. DFES will continue to explore more use of off-duty staff
Opportunity 21: The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (and, when established, the Rural Fire Service) to implement (and act on) a volunteer emergency service worker consultation framework to promote effective and meaningful ongoing consultation with fire and emergency services volunteers on matters that affect volunteer systems of work, equipment and health, welfare and safety.	DFES	The Government supports this opportunity in principle, and work will continue beyond the 2016/17 bushfire season	The DFES governance arrangements for project management have been amended to require project proponent to specifically consider and address what impact the proposal will have on volunteers and volunteerism. These measures are then visible to the department's executive. In the short term DFES expects this will lead to a	

[Attachment 9.1.2](#)

Special Report and Inquiry by Euan Ferguson into the Waroona Fire 2016.

Precis of the report and the likely impact of recommendations on the Kojonup Bushfire Brigade system.

Kojonup has been fortunate in that we have yet to experience a fire situation that has not been brought under control in less than twenty-four hours, we have not had the loss of life and devastating asset losses of other places. This does not mean that we cannot learn from the report or the mistakes made in other places. It is acknowledged that we have been “fortunate” but that good fortune is no accident, our Bushfire mitigation system works hard to respond in the most effective manner to emergency, the examination of the Fergusson report is part of that process.

The report is very detailed and extensive, it is in two parts Volume one (256 pages) and Volume two (242 pages). Ferguson has looked at past fires, past fire enquiries, government responses, agency performances and the like, it is probably the most extensive and detailed examination of our response to wild fire that has been written. Although the report does not find that individuals were to blame or that individuals did not act in good faith in very difficult circumstances, it does find that there was systemic failure of the Bushfire response system.

We will do well to heed what his findings are.

This paper does not have the scope of examining each recommendation for structural change or the recommendations for improvement, I have arbitrarily addressed the recommendations and statements I consider most likely to affect Kojonup. If our organisation (Shire and Bushfire Brigades) require a more detailed response, then that report can be provided.

Coupled with any reading of Ferguson’s report is the response of the State Government which is published and will be attached to this paper.

The enquiry led by the special appointed inquirer, Euan Ferguson, made seventeen recommendations for structural change and twenty-two recommendations for “opportunities for improvement”.

The State Government supports all of the recommendations.

Not all of those recommendations will impact on Kojonup in an adverse way, however the report has identified weaknesses and failures in the ability of Bushfire Brigades and agencies (DEFS, Parks and Wildlife) to respond to wildfire. We can learn from those lessons, make changes where necessary and reinforce our strengths where appropriate.

Fergusson warns when inquiring into the failure of a firefighting system the danger of;
“Labelling the fire as an “out of scale” event should not be either an excuse or an explanation for any shortcomings that occurred. Is it not part of the role of fire and emergency managers to anticipate, plan and be ready for extreme and “out of scale “events?”

- We should take note of that point and plan appropriately, that plan includes the whole system of management. Fuel reduction, equipment standards, training, administration and funding being some of the issues.

The report after examining the Waroona fire in very great detail and interviewing over 100 individuals and agencies over a period of weeks came to a conclusion that set the scene for the rest of the report.

Euan Ferguson said this at the beginning of his report;

“It is my view that there exists a need to effect fundamental changes to the system of rural fire management in Western Australia. My conclusion, which has been very carefully considered, is that the current system for managing bushfire in Western Australia is failing citizens and the government.”

“Perhaps the most compelling support for fundamental change is the dramatic increase in the number and impact of damaging and costly bushfires over the last six years in Western Australia”.

Ferguson also said in the same context,

“Fuel management is the cornerstone of every issue relating to the Waroona fire”.

Those statements by Euan Ferguson has set the tone for the entire report.

The Recommendations:

Recommendation 1. The two bodies previously that oversaw Emergency management (State Emergency Management Committee secretariat and the Office of Bushfire Management) will be combined into one body that answers only to the Minister. This new body can have inspectorial powers to audit or inquire into; Bushfire preparedness, management standards, capability and the like. Although the government has accepted the recommendation in principle the detail is not yet spelt out. If it means another layer of bureaucracy that will cause more compliance issues for us, then we need to form a view about that possible scenario.

Recommendations 2, 3, 4, 5 are all to do with fuel reduction, although they are highly critical and aimed at the Department of Parks and Wildlife the findings are applicable to all fire mitigation plans. The report says this;

“Fuel reduction targets on public land have not been met in the previous 12 years. A hazard reduction burning policy exists that recognises three Land Management Zones for burning. Land Management Zones A and B target asset protection objectives. Land Management Zone C targets broad scale landscape burns. For a range of reasons, the annual burning targets in every land management zone, in almost every year, have not been met”.

- So we must be ever vigilant that we do not fall into the same trap of complacency or inaction on the issue of fuel reduction on public and private land. Fortunately, the Bushfire Brigades, private landowners and the Shire Council are well aware of the issue and are actively pursuing fuel reduction.

Recommendations 6, 7, 8 are related to incident control and the working together of the various agencies, this is not usually an issue with our area. It needs to be carefully watched if some of the other recommendations are implemented or interpreted by government in a manner that impacts on our wildfire management.

Recommendations 9, 10, 11. These recommendations are all to do with registration and vehicle control. Part of this is the fitting of tracking devices to all vehicles, this may or may not be a good thing and our organisation should form a view here.

Recommendation 9 says: *“The State Emergency Management Committee, in consultation with Western Australian Farmers Federation, the Association of Bush Fire Brigades, the Contractors Association of WA, and the Forest Industries Federation of WA, to establish systems for the voluntary registration of:*

- *farmer firefighting units;*
- *contractor firefighting resources; and*
- *forestry industry brigades”*

For some reason Euan Ferguson has left out local government (Kojonup Shire) from the list of people to consult with. This may be as it is common for government agencies to treat farmer owned vehicles as separate from the Brigades when in fact they are operating within the brigade structure whilst at a fire. Kojonup has lists of equipment at Brigade level and a register of members that goes some way to identifying people and equipment. This area will need some examination and discussion as a person may well be a casual or temporary member of a brigade (as provided by the BF act) but not issued with an ID card, this should not exclude a person offering their services in an emergency (wildfire). Nor should a vehicle from outside the area (neighbouring shire) be excluded if that appliance is from another area not so registered.

- My own view about this is that the time honoured system that Kojonup has employed is that the senior person on the ground should be able to make whatever direction and decisions are necessary to control the fire and make safe people and assets.
- Secondly the recommendation says a vehicle should be “fit for purpose” this is open for interpretation and could exclude many of our fire vehicles that have given good service in putting out fires and keeping the community safe. It is an area that we must watch with vigilance.

Recommendation 12. This recommendation is aimed at places of last resort or a refuge to go to in the event of a major uncontrolled fire. This area of contention that is related to evacuation has not (in the past) been part of our conversation but should be addressed now.

Recommendation 13,14. Is primarily about traffic control, but it is related to 9,10,11. This has not been an issue with us in the past as the incident controller (senior person at the fire front) can make whatever decisions are necessary to contain a wildfire. It is an issue in other areas with the general public and sightseers become mixed with fire fighters, there has also been an issue with different agencies wishing to control checkpoints, that situation has not yet been an issue for us.

The issue of legal entry to the Waroona Fire (and other fires) became quite a problem for those at the fire front. Although that type of situation has not arisen in Kojonup the scenario of road blocks and duty of care for safety will inevitably come to us. Ferguson made recommendations that I believe we should be mindful of and form our response. The central issue was the denial of entry to the fire ground because the person or vehicle could not be identified against certain criteria, this excluded some critical units, nurse water tankers, contractors with machines, food supplies, veterinary workers to name a few. In some instances, the exclusion included firefighting appliances and land owners.

Recommendation 15.

The major change (and one that has received the most press) that Ferguson has recommended to government (and accepted by the Barnett Government) is to create a separate Rural Fire Service.

This recommendation has the ability to affect the Bushfire Brigades in Kojonup.

Recommendation 15 says this;

“The State Government to create a Rural Fire Service to enhance the capability for rural fire management and bushfire risk management at a State, regional and local level. The proposed Rural Fire Service will:

- *be established as a separate entity from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services or, alternatively, be established as a sub-department of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services;*
- *have an independent budget;*
- *be able to employ staff;*
- *have a leadership structure which, to the greatest degree possible, is regionally based and runs the entity;*
- *be led by a Chief Officer who reports to the responsible Minister on policy and administrative matters; and to the Commissioner for Fire and Emergency Services during operational and emergency response;*
- *have responsibilities and powers relating to bushfire prevention, preparedness and response; and*
- *operate collaboratively with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, the Department of Parks and Wildlife, Local Government and volunteer Bush Fire Brigades”*
- I advocate that it is an imperative that any new structure is a separate entity and not merely a sub-set of DEFS. It is clear from Ferguson’s report that he believed DFES not capable of controlling wildfire and on that point alone we should distance ourselves from any idea of control from that body.
- If a new body comes to pass, then it is unlikely that the creation and management of the Bushfire Brigades will be removed from Local Government (Kojonup Shire). It will be business as usual for the Brigades at the fire front.
- The key to the success of policy is that this entity is be regionally based. This removes the idea that “one hat fits all” it has been glaringly obvious to those on the ground at the fire front that geography, equipment and skills are so different from place to place that they demand a different set of responses.

However, this recommendation although accepted by government is by no means certain to happen, the Minister has not said *how* it will happen and has been reticent to discuss the matter and has said that cabinet may look at the recommendation in months.

DEFS through Commissioner Gregson has said this;

“The FES Commissioner explicitly expressed to the Special Inquiry that he would not support the creation of another Government department or a structure outside of DFES.”

In reply the Euan Fergusson said this;

“The creation of a service sitting wholly within the structure of DFES is also not recommended by the Special Inquiry. As outlined in this Chapter, DFES has not demonstrated a sufficient capability to manage rural fire, and as an agency adopts methodology and approaches which are unsuited to the rural fire context. It is also a unionised environment, and does not sufficiently involve or utilise volunteer bush fire brigades, which are the backbone of rural fire management”.

This is a very powerful and unequivocal statement by Ferguson, it sits exactly with the views expressed by Kojonup in a number of submissions and statements over the recent past. We would have to take heart that any government having commissioned an enquiry and then ignoring the findings will incur the wrath of the people at the next poll. However, there are precedents that we need to be mindful of and Ferguson says this about a previous enquiry (Keelty Report) that made recommendations about fuel reduction (accepted by government) and not achieved. (see comments 2,3,4,5).

Recommendation 17

The issue of the ESL levy and its distribution, the restriction on the use of the monies and the general dissatisfaction of the levy is also addressed in part by Ferguson.

Recommendation 17: *“The Department of the Premier and Cabinet to conduct an independent review of the current arrangement for the management and distribution of the Emergency Services Levy. The review will have the specific purpose of:*

- *seeking input from key entities including the Departments of Treasury, Finance, Fire and Emergency Services, Lands, and Parks and Wildlife, WA Local Government Association, and the Office of Bushfire Risk Management.*
 - *ensuring the arrangement has the flexibility and agility to deal with emerging bushfire risk priorities.*
 - *establishing a budget process that enables a shift in investment towards prevention, mitigation and building community resilience and capability.”*
- Although Ferguson does not make any specific recommendations (one exception) about the levy at least we will now have some input or debate about the use of the levy.
 - The recommendation does say that there should be *flexibility* in the levy and that a shift in emphasis of the use of levy monies to: *“prevention, mitigation and building community resilience and capability”*. This also in line with previous statements from Kojonup and I would expect that that view will prevail. Although from a Local Government point of view that recommendation is saying that WALGA will represent us, I will advocate that Kojonup form its own view and promote that view as vigorously as possible.

At the conclusion of his report Euan Ferguson made this statement that defines his report and its findings.

“Planning for an unknown future may make us – all of us – feel uncomfortable, even uneasy. Fostering a sense of wariness is not necessarily a bad thing. We all need to be driven by a future that is volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous. If everyone feels uncomfortable, then there is less chance of complacency.

At the centre of all this is the community. If individual citizens, families, neighbourhoods and interest groups strive for understanding, self-reliance and empowerment, then they will develop social capacity and cohesion to cope better by themselves. Over time, shared responsibility shifts to shared resilience. The role of agencies shifts away from an overreliance on response to a role that emphasises prevention, empowerment through information and facilitating a community that is ready”

I agree.

Robert Sexton, Kojonup, October 2016

9.2 PERSONNEL IDENTIFICATION CARDS & VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION STICKERS

Attachments 9.2.1 – Operational Circular 60/2016 – Vehicle Identifier Sticker Orders
 9.2.2 – Directive 3.3 – Operational Support – Vehicle Identifiers

As part of one of the Ferguson Report recommendations, DFES are rolling out individual identification cards to all volunteers. Phase 1 has commenced with the Shire of Kojonup collating our volunteer information and passing this onto DFES. The next step will be for a photo to be taken for the ID card. Exact timeframes are not set at this stage.

DFES have also released the current Vehicle ID Stickers for use at Emergency situations. These stickers are principally intended for authorised vehicles to pass through any road block or Police VCP's (Vehicle Control Points) the theory behind this that when, or if, your authorised vehicles attend incidents outside or within your LG, this will allow easier access to fire grounds.

Without these stickers, there may be the chance vehicles will only pass with some difficulty.

Attachment 9.2.1



Government of Western Australia
Department of Fire & Emergency Services
Operations



OPERATIONAL CIRCULAR 60/2016

File: 23760

JULY 2016

VEHICLE IDENTIFIER STICKER ORDERS

DFES encourages Vehicle Identifier stickers to be utilised in regional areas to identify private vehicles owned by persons authorised by Local Governments to assist with emergency response operations.

Current stickers (green) will expire on the 30th September 2016 so orders will need to be placed for new stickers valid from 1st October 2016 to 30th September 2018.

Vehicle Identifier stickers are available via the DFES Operational Printed Items contract. The order form can be found in the Online Operational Store (Consumables) and should be forwarded to the supplier asap.

[Operational Printed Forms](#)

DFES Regional Staff are to ensure the LGs in their area are made aware of their responsibilities in the management of these stickers. Further information is provided in SAP 3.3.C – Vehicle Identifiers.

[SAP 3.3.C – Vehicle Identifiers](#)

LLOYD BAILEY AFSM

DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OPERATIONS

Full links for staff:

[Operational Printed Forms](#)

[SAP 3.3.C – Vehicle Identifiers](#)

Full links for volunteers and extranet users:

<http://extranet.dfes.wa.gov.au/sites/volunteers/members/SharedRepository/Operational%20Printed%20Forms/Operational%20Printed%20Items%20order%20form.docx>

<http://extranet.dfes.wa.gov.au/sites/volunteers/members/SharedRepository/opsresources/Ops%20Resources%20%20Administrative%20Procedures/SAP%203.3.C%20-%20Vehicle%20Identifiers.pdf>

Target Audience: DFES Managers.				
A	B	C	D	Vol
O.I.C. is to communicate content to all relevant personnel under their command, discuss implications, and sign appropriate box above. Once completed Circulars shall be filed on station and forwarded to Information Resources at the end of each financial year.				
OC 60-16	Issue Date:	Removal Date:	Contact:	Operational Readiness & Standards
Page 1 of 1	July 2016	July 2017	Doctrine@dfes.wa.gov.au	Capability Command

Attachment 9.2.2

1

**Directive 3.3 - Operational Support****SAP 3.3.C - Vehicle Identifiers****Introduction**

1. Support to DFES operations is provided by a vast range of people, from those representing external agencies through to members of the public, right across WA. The Incident Controller (IC) has ultimate responsibility for every person and vehicle on the incident ground and therefore requires an effective system for controlling access to the incident to ensure:

- personnel at the incident are appropriately qualified
- personnel at the incident work to agreed safety standards
- personnel at the incident work within the agreed command structure
- vehicles on the incident ground are deemed safe and capable of assigned tasks

2. **Identification.** In regional WA, emergency response is often supplemented by local farmers/land owners with private vehicles who may not be members of local fire brigades. In order to provide timely identification of private vehicles and persons suitable for access and required on the incident ground, DFES recommend the Vehicle Identifier sticker.

Vehicle Identifier stickers are affixed to the lower left corner of the windscreen of a vehicle to identify it as a private vehicle owned by a person who is authorised by Local Government to assist with operations.

Procedures

3. **General.** Local Governments will be responsible to order, keep a register and issue vehicle identifiers to local personnel and bush fire brigade members. The Local Government's knowledge regarding the background and skills of the person applying for a vehicle identifier makes them the most qualified to assess and issue the identifier stickers.

4. **Conditions.** DFES has set minimum conditions as per the application form (Annex A) however Local Governments are encouraged to add additional conditions if required. The person being issued a vehicle identifier sticker must agree to these conditions when they make their application, most importantly agreeing that:

- It is the responsibility of the owner and driver of the vehicle to comply with the *Road Traffic Act 1974*;
- Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment and Clothing will be worn at all times; and
- The driver will ensure that the vehicle's presence at an incident is recorded on both arrival and departure.

The vehicle identifier sticker does not infer that a vehicle is a fire fighting vehicle, but that it may be assisting or supporting an incident, or to enable passage of brigade members through a Vehicle Control Point for the purpose of deployment to the incident (e.g. to travel to a local brigade station or to crew an appliance deployed to the incident).

It is the Incident Controller who determines and manages access to and from the incident ground. There is no automatic right of entry, and the Incident Controller can override access for vehicles with the identifier. Nevertheless, it is anticipated that the presence of an identifier will enable the Incident Controller (or WAPol/traffic management personnel acting on behalf of the IC) to quickly assess the vehicle in the knowledge that the owner has been instructed to have a good understanding of the procedures outlined in the Guidelines for Operating Private Equipment at Fires booklet and has agreed to the conditions on the sticker application form.

5. **Guidelines.** It is important for DFES staff and users of these stickers to be aware of the Guidelines for Operating Private Equipment at Fires, and it is recommended that the guidelines are followed when any private vehicles are offered at an incident. This document is available from the [dfes.wa.gov.au](http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au) website, under Safety Information, Fire, Bushfire, Bushfire Publications, Manuals Guides and Brochures.

[Guidelines for Operating Private Equipment at Fires
http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/safetyinformation/fire/bushfire/Pages/publications.aspx](http://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/safetyinformation/fire/bushfire/Pages/publications.aspx)

6. **Application.** All personnel requiring a vehicle identifier sticker must complete an application and indemnity form. A Word version can be found in Doctrine Resources > Station/Brigade/Group/Unit > All. See [Annex A](#).

[Fire Response Vehicle Identifier Application](#)

7. **Ordering.** The vehicle identifier stickers are colour coded and have a 2 year life span, valid from the 1st of October of each even year, through to the 30th September of each even year.

Colour	Valid from: 1 st October	Valid to: 30 th September
Blue	2012	2014
Green	2014	2016
Purple	2016	2018
Grey	2018	2020
Blue	2020	2022
Green	2022	2024
Purple	2024	2026
Grey	2026	2028

Stickers must be ordered via the Operational Printed Items contract. An order form can be found in the Online Store and should be forwarded to the supplier by early August of each even year. A Circular will be issued as a reminder to DFES and Local Government managers.

The costs associated with the purchase of the stickers can be allocated to line item 7 "Other Goods and Services – Consumables and Sundries" within the Local Government Grant Scheme.

8. **Register.** Local Governments are to maintain records of applications including a vehicle register of stickers issued. An example is provided in [Annex B](#). Alternatively, a Word version can be found in Doctrine Resources > Station/Brigade/Group/Unit > All.

[Vehicle Identifier Sticker Register](#)

9. **Issue.** Local Government managers are responsible for issuing the stickers, and must ensure the owner/driver understands and complies with the criteria listed on the application form. All unused stickers are to be destroyed. All out of date stickers are to be removed from vehicles.

3

SAP 3.3.X Fire Response Vehicle Identifier Application

ANNEX A

FIRE RESPONSE VEHICLE IDENTIFIER APPLICATION**Part A - Application**

Full Name:

Address:

Phone No:

I, _____ hereby apply to the Shire/City of _____
for a Fire Response Vehicle Identifier Sticker for the vehicle listed below.

Vehicle Make and Model: _____

Vehicle Registration: _____

OR where Vehicle Registration does not exist, the VIN or Chassis Number: _____

Name of Applicant:

Signature:

Date:

Part B – Fire Response Vehicle Identifier Release Form

I, _____ acknowledge that:

- 1) the Fire Response Vehicle Identifier received by me is for the purpose of fire response by the vehicle listed above;
- 2) when this vehicle is no longer used as a fire response vehicle (e.g. when sold) the identifier will be removed;
- 3) it is the responsibility of the owner and driver of the vehicle to comply with the Road Traffic Act 1974;
- 4) this identifier could be revoked by an Incident Controller or authorised person at any time;
- 5) appropriate Personal Protective Equipment and Clothing will be worn at all times;
- 6) the driver will ensure that the vehicle's presence at an incident is recorded on both arrival and departure;
- 7) I have received a copy of the "Operating Private Equipment at Bushfires" and will make drivers of the vehicle familiar with this document.

Name of Applicant:

Signature:

Date:

Name of Issuing Officer:

Signature:

Date:

Issuing Officer Title:

Identifier Registration Number:

Valid to 30 September (Year):

5

DOCUMENT HISTORY

VERSION	DATE	DESCRIPTION OF CHANGE
1.0	Feb 16	New procedure.

9.3 SEMC STRATEGIC CONTROL PRIORITIES

Attachments 9.3 – SEMC Bulletin No. 1 – October 2016

SEMC have released the following response to Recommendation 6 from the Ferguson Report:

“Recommendation 6 of the report of the special inquiry conducted into January 2016 Waroona bushfire by Mr Euan Ferguson stipulated that:

The State Emergency Management Committee to adopt, across all hazards, the doctrine of:

- the primacy of life;*
- the strategic control priorities; and*
- community warnings that are timely, tailored and relevant.*

Agencies will reinforce amongst emergency management personnel the importance of the doctrine through briefings and intent statements.

On 4 October 2016, the SEMC approved the Strategic Control Priorities for the hazard of Fire. Additionally, section 4.1 of Westplan Fire has been amended accordingly.

During the 2016/17 southern bushfire season, the Strategic Control Priorities will be reviewed by the SEMC Secretariat, to assess all hazard applicability in consultation with stakeholders.”

Cr Sexton spoke to the meeting regarding the Ferguson Report and some of the essential parts of the report:

- **Recommendation 1** – Admin only*
- **R 2,3,4,5** – Fuel management – this could/will affect the shire. We are doing this already and need to increase more reserve burns, etc.*

The Chief Bushfire Control Officer commented that ensuring that fuel loads are being managed correctly is being completed via fly over, etc. Education is the key. There are only the same handful of non-compliant landowners.

Mr Retallack advised the Committee that in cases of non-compliance, he would prefer to start issuing more fines as in the past, the Shire has generally been too lenient and more strident action is needed.

- **R 6,7,8** – Incident control – not really an issue at the Shire of Kojonup*
- **R 9, 10, 11** – ID Cards and Stickers*

The Chief Bushfire Control Officer commented that he and other Shire’s do not like the ID Cards, etc. and do not believe they are necessary.

Mr Gale conceded that it does not apply to Kojonup but it will be required at other incidents and other big fires, etc.

The Committee agreed that Kojonup and Muradup truck staff will get ID Cards. Mr Cowie in conjunction with the Chief Bushfire Control Officer to look into sourcing the ID Cards.

- **R 12** – not applicable in Kojonup
- **R 13, 14** – Sticker/ID Cards – not applicable in Kojonup so far.
- **R 15** – Rural Fire Service (RFS)

Mr Campbell commented that DFES staff will need to be shifted to staff the RFS and the situation will end up being same in 5 years. He expressed concern that the Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service (VFRS) will disappear in time.

Mr Gale commented that the VFRS is a service which encourages people in the community who have relevant firefighting experience to step up and be counted.

Mr Mitchell-Collins commented that Western Australia is the only state with 1 combined emergency service under the control of the DFES Commissioner and he believes Western Australia needs to model itself on other states. The Commissioner has too much power and the creation of zones (or a similar strategy) needs to be employed. The Office of Bushfire Risk Management has made blanket restrictions regarding bushfire prone areas with minimal regard to topography and fuel load types.

Mr Gibbs commented that he does not believe that the VFRS will continue under DFES and he feels that that the Committee and Council needs to push forward with the RFS.

- **R 17** – ESL Levy – to be used more productively.

COMMITTEE DECISION

That the Bushfire Advisory Committee recommends to Council that the Shire of Kojonup agree and endorse all of the recommendations from the Ferguson report and that the Shire of Kojonup specifies that regarding Recommendation 15, the Rural Fire Service become a reality with the caveat that Kojonup does not lose any of its current services including the Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service

CARRIED

Attachment 9.3



Government of Western Australia
State Emergency Management Committee

SEMC BULLETIN

No. 1
October
2016

THE STRATEGIC CONTROL PRIORITIES FOR THE PRESCRIBED HAZARD OF FIRE ARE:

- **PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF LIFE:** This is the fundamental overarching priority for the State, and includes:
 - Safety of emergency services personnel.
 - Safety of community members including vulnerable community members and visitors/tourists located within the incident area.
- **Community warnings and information**
- **Protection of critical infrastructure and community assets**
- **Protection of residential property**
- **Protection of assets supporting individual livelihood and community financial sustainability**
- **Protection of environmental and heritage values.**

Protection and preservation of life must be taken into account when considering the State strategic control priorities that identify the priority roles and actions for the emergency management response, where there are concurrent risks or competing priorities.

The State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC) has confirmed this set of State strategic control priorities to underpin and guide all decisions made during the emergency management (EM) response to fire in Western Australia. These priorities provide clear direction on the factors to be considered during an emergency response.

This bulletin has been issued in relation to the EM response to fire, as defined and prescribed in the EM legislation. In 2017, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, this bulletin will be reviewed to be applicable to all of the State's prescribed hazards under the State's EM legislation and reissued.

Endorsed by the SEMC on 4 October 2016

9.4 PURCHASE OF FIRE BURNOVER BLANKETS

Attachments 9.4.1 – Thermaguard Quote
9.4.2 – Thermaguard Fire Burnover Blanket

The Shire has looked into purchasing a “Fire Burnover Blanket” for each brigade and each of the Kojonup and Muradup Fire Trucks plus a spare. Scott Gooden from Thermaguard has been contacted and he has supplied a quote for said blankets. These are the same specifications that are supplied to DFES.

It is recommended that the Committee should endorse the purchase of 15 blankets for a total cost of \$4,603.50. The purchase of Fire Burnover Blankets is covered under ESL purchase guidelines.

Mr Gibbs suggested that the Committee advertise to the general public the potential availability of blankets for their own private use and protection.

Mr Cowie to contact Thermaguard regarding a bulk order and if there is any discount available as a result of making blankets available for purchase by the public.

Attachment 9.4.1



Quote No. SG111016KQJ

11th October 2016

SHIRE OF KOJONUP
Att: Mr Rob Cowie
Emergency Services Officer
93-95 Albany Highway
KOJONUP WA 6395

Hello Rob,

Re: SUPERTHERM® Personal Protective Fire Blankets 'Burnover Blankets' for your Brigades' safety

Many thanks for your enquiry.

Further to your request, I am pleased to provide our proposal detailed below, as promised:-

15 x THERMAGUARD SUPERTHERM® COMPACT 46CI PERSONAL PROTECTIVE FIRE BLANKETS

World-class 'C46CI' DFES spec, as tested by CSIRO & International independent laboratories. Nominally 2m x 2m, colour Dark Grey. Includes vacuum packaging into silver sleeves (for maximum compactness) with high-grip 'tear to open' tabs, as supplied to DFES & others.....\$242ea + GST

Packaging Option

Fitted into red, Velcro close storage bags (as per DFES) with customised 'Shire of Kojonup' panel, top carry handle and high-vis reflective tabs. Simplifies storage, carrying and further protects blanket.....\$26ea + GST

Delivery to Kojonup, WA (invoiced at cost): \$11.00 per blanket + GST.

Pricing is valid for 30 days and excludes GST.

Once again, thank you for your enquiry and should you have any further questions, please feel free to call me to discuss on 1300 948 241, or via email: scott@thermaguard.com.au.

Yours sincerely,

Scott Gooden
Business Development

We're Passionate about Fire Crew ProtectionE: sales@thermaguard.com.auW: www.thermaguard.com.au

P: 1300 948 241

ABN: 16 157 257 601

F: 08 8723 4077

Attachment 9.4.2



THERMA GUARD
PTY LTD

Supertherm™ Compact 46CI

World-class Personal
Protective Fire Blankets.

Are you covered?

Whether you live or work in a bushfire-prone area, or are one of those who enters the fireground when others are leaving, you deserve the best protection available.

Trusted by thousands of Australian fire-fighters, Thermaguard's Supertherm™ Compact 46CI is the Personal Protective Fire Blanket purpose-designed to protect you in a turnover or entrapment situation.

The innovative new compact design means you can now fit this exceptional protection within your reach in almost any situation!



Truly World-class technology

The Supertherm™ Compact 46CI is the latest evolution in Thermaguard's extensive line of Personal Protective Fire Blankets. With no wool content, this product represents a complete break with tradition - and is the result of our R&D team developing a proprietary new blend of high performance fibres, specifically for protection of persons trapped in a bushfire.

As much as 300% smaller than the competition

By replacing wool and wool blends (which were the benchmark until now) with our new textile, we are able to offer a blanket which requires far less storage space. Wool, whilst naturally fire-retardant, relies significantly on trapped air - which means it is very bulky. The Supertherm™ Compact 46CI allows a whole new range of storage options, and means that more cabin is freed up for occupants - a benefit now appreciated by thousands of Australians.

Up to 300% more protection than the competition

The new textile offers massively improved levels of protection. Extensive independent tests by the world's leading testing laboratories have shown the Supertherm™ Compact 46CI performance in radiant, transmitted and convected heat to be far superior to any other blankets tested. This means the best peace of mind should a deployment be necessary.

Completely universal application

The Supertherm™ Compact 46CI is large enough for most adults, measuring approx. 2m square. Unlike rectangular blankets, this eliminates the requirement to establish correct orientation, which in turn simplifies the deployment process, saving time when time matters most. It is also double sided (i.e. both faces provide equally effective protection), further reducing cognitive load.

Unique packaging options

Thermaguard offers a range of packaging options which have been tailored to the specification of our clients. Methods such as press-rolls, vacuum packaging and durable carry bags are available, and we welcome your input. Our objective is to offer packaging which can be rapidly opened, minimises potential for damage, and minimises cabin interference. It's all about making life easier and safer for your crews.

Custom branding available

Keeping track of equipment is a constant challenge faced by emergency services. Add the involvement of many different organisations and the unpredictable nature of a bushfire, and it's not hard to see why items go missing. Thermaguard offers a variety of ownership branding options, including serial numbers, barcodes and logos; all helping you retain your gear.

View our complete range of fire protection products at: www.thermaguard.com.au

THERMA GUARD
 PTY LTD

Supertherm™ Compact 46CI



"...the best turnover blanket that we can provide to protect our firefighters and SES personnel working on the fireground"

Assistant Commissioner - State Fire Authority

100% Australian owned and operated, Thermaguard is the only company of its kind which is completely focussed on Fire Crew Protection. Protecting personnel from the effects of fire is not an 'add-on' at Thermaguard; it's all we do! Clients who choose to work with us enjoy the assurance of knowing we devote 100% of our resources into developing, improving and implementing solutions which could save their lives and those of their team.

Thermaguard understands the unique conditions and requirements encountered in wildland firefighting. With an extensive library of Australian and International Standards and in-depth practical experience in the testing and application of these Standards, we are proficient in matching your requirements with the relevant solutions.

Thermaguard is recognised by major fire authorities as the leader in Fire Crew Protection.

FAQ

Question: Does the Supertherm™ Compact 46CI comply with the Australian Standards?

Answer: There is not yet an Australian Standard specifically developed for Personal Protective Fire Blankets. Some companies quote 'compliance' to AS4824 and other fire protection clothing Standards, however such Standards are not intended to benchmark Personal Protective Fire Blankets, and some even state "...not intended to provide protection during fire entrapment". Thermaguard tailors test methods to replicate the very high level of heat encountered in an entrapment situation (generally several times higher than used in clothing tests), and this product also exceeds all known performance specifications developed by individual fire authorities.

Question: I have been told we need woollen fire blankets. Are your blankets wool?

Answer: As a naturally fire resistant material, 'woollen' fire blankets were historically specified to distinguish them from nylons and other flammable materials. However, new technology pioneered by Thermaguard means the Supertherm™ Compact 46CI is manufactured without the use of woollen fibre, offers much better protection and stores away much smaller. Traditional woollen fire blankets are now outdated, when assessed in both performance and compactness.

For further Questions & Answers, contact us or visit our website:

www.thermaguard.com.au

Phone: (+61)8 8723 4777

Fax: (+61)8 8723 4077

sales@thermaguard.com.au

View our range of fire safety products at
www.thermaguard.com.au

100% Australian
 Owned & Operated



10 MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Mr Cowie to organise for the purchase of 12 handheld VHF radios for brigades at the Shire's cost

The Chief Bushfire Control Officer enquired regarding the radio back up tower. Mr Retallack will look into sourcing a company to install and service the entire tower.

11 NEW BUSINESS

(Of an urgent nature, introduced by a decision of the meeting).

Nil.

12 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday, 13 February 2017 at 7:30pm in the Reception Lounge at the Shire Office.

13 CLOSURE

There being no further business to discuss, the Presiding Member, thanked the members for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 8:55 pm.

Presiding Member

Date