

SHIRE OF KOJONUP

Kojonup



Kojonup Bush Fire Advisory Committee

AGENDA

12 February 2018

TO: COMMITTEE MEMBERS

NOTICE is hereby given that a meeting of the Kojonup Bush Fire Advisory Committee will be held in the Reception Lounge at the Shire of Kojonup, 93-95 Albany Highway, Kojonup on Monday, 12 February 2018 commencing at 7:30pm.

Your attendance is respectfully requested.


RICK MITCHELL-COLLINS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
9 February 2018

AGENDA FOR THE KOJONUP BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
TO BE HELD 12 February 2018

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A G E N D A

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF GUESTS

The Presiding Member shall declare the meeting open at pm and alert the meeting of the procedures for emergencies including evacuation, designated exits and muster points.

2. ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

MEMBERS

Mr Ned Radford	Councillor
Mr John Benn	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 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
Mr Digby Stretch	Former Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Mrs Denise Berryman	Secretary of the Kojonup Bush Fire Association
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
Mr Mort Wignall	Manager Regulatory Services

APOLOGIES

3. CALL FOR NOMINATION AND THE ELECTION OF THE PRESIDING MEMBER

The previous Presiding member no longer serves on the Shire Council so therefore a new Presiding Member is required to be elected

The committee calls for nominations to the position and if more than one nomination is received a vote will take place and the Presiding Member will be duly elected

4. SUMMARY OF RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE

Nil

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

6. APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

7. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

ORDINARY MEETING 4 September 2017

COMMITTEE DECISION

/18 Moved , seconded that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Bushfire Advisory Committee held 4 September 2017 be confirmed as a true record.

CARRIED/LOST /

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS by the Presiding Member without discussion

9. PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

11. STATUS REPORTS

This section of the meeting is to be used to relay any updates or information to the rest of the Committee that do not require a motion to go to Council.

12. ITEMS

12.1 ANNUAL FIRE BREAK AERIAL INSPECTION

AUTHOR	Rob Cowie - Administration/Regulatory Officer
DATE	Tuesday, 6 February 2018
FILE NO	Synergy file number
ATTACHMENT(S)	Nil

STRATEGIC/CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS		
Community Strategic Plan 2017 – 2027 “Smart Possibilities – Kojonup 2027+”		Corporate Business Plan 2017 – 2021 “Smart Implementation – Kojonup 2021 +”
Key Pillar	Community Outcomes	Corporate Actions
KP 2 –Connected	2.3 – Be providing for a safe and secure environment by working with State and Federal authorities	2.3.1 – Maximise community safety through safe urban design and advocate for enhanced emergency service provisions.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Nil

SUMMARY

There is a need to discuss the effectiveness and timeliness of the annual Fire Break inspection.

BACKGROUND

Currently, the Shire of Kojonup in conjunction the Volunteer Bushfire Brigades, utilise the services of an outside contractor to conduct an annual aerial inspection of the entire Shire to monitor the state of bushfire preparedness.

Historically, the inspection has been conducted mid-December, after the final inspection dates as gazetted in the Annual Fire Break Order. The Chief Bush Fire Control Officer organises volunteers from the Brigades to participate in the inspection process. Once the inspection is completed, a list of potential properties with need for closer inspections is created and given to the CBFCO and Shire Ranger to be inspected.

Once inspected, the Ranger has the discretion to administer warnings or infringements to the property owner.

COMMENT

There have been numerous issues with the tight timelines for aerial inspections. The current timeline for Firebreak Inspections for the 2017/2018 Fire Season is as follows:

1 December	All firebreaks and fire hazard reduction measures to be completed on land within the gazetted town site
4 December	Council to conduct annual firebreak inspection on land within gazetted town site
11 December	All protective burning and firebreak precautions to be completed on land outside of the gazetted town site
15 December	Council will commence its aerial and ground inspection process of all land outside the gazette town site
1 November to 14 February	<p>Prohibited Burning Period Permits may be issued by FCO's between 1 Nov to 15 Dec for protective burning only. 16 Dec to 14 Feb – No fires may be lit without express permission of CBFCO</p>

Due to the small window between the aerial inspection and the Christmas shut down period for the Shire office in 2017, we have encountered a problem where the volunteer brigade members were unable to provide the list to the CBFCO and Ranger in time to have the ground inspections completed.

I propose for the upcoming 2018/2019 Fire Season, that the aerial inspection be brought forward to the first week in December (Friday 7th December 2018). Even though the land owners still have one week of the permit period available, the Brigade volunteers will be able to clearly see if there are any land holders who are on track with their protective burning and which land holders are not on schedule. The landholders who are behind schedule, will be visited personally by the Ranger and the CBFCO or other Zulu.

CONSULTATION

Paul Retallack - Shire of Kojonup Ranger.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Bush Fires Act 1954 - Sect 33

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Current cost of aerial inspection is \$7000 per annum

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Nil

ASSET MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

SOUTHERN LINK VROC (VOLUNTARY REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS) IMPLICATIONS

Nil

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple Majority

RECOMMENDATION.

That the Bushfire Advisory Committee recommends to Council that it bring forward the date of the Aerial Inspection to the first week in December and that this practice be continued for the 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 Bushfire Seasons.

COMMITTEE DECISION

/18 Moved , seconded

CARRIED/LOST /

12 MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

13 LATE ITEMS

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

14 NEXT MEETING

Monday 9th April 2018.

15 CLOSURE

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

16 ATTACHMENTS (SEPARATE)