



MINUTES

**Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting to be held
Monday 2 February 2026**

Commencing at 7.00pm

Unconfirmed Copy

**Nannup State Emergency Service (SES)
319 Sexton Way, Nannup**

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Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes Monday 2 February 2026

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY:

Cheryle Brown (Presiding Member) declared the meeting open at 7.00pm.

Welcome to country acknowledged by presiding member:

I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on, the Wardandi and Bibbulmun people. I acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and their contribution they make to the life of this region.

Presiding Member advised that the meeting is being recorded for minute purposes only.

2. ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES:

Councillors	Staff
Cr Cheryle Brown (Presiding Member)	David Taylor, Chief Executive Officer
Cr Lynette Curtis (Deputy Presiding Member)	Geoff Allam – Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM)
	Lisa Atkinson – Executive Support Officer

Members (Full Voting rights)
John Patman, Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Mark Scott – Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and Balingup Road FCO (DCBFCO)
Robert Marshall – Carlotta FCO
Gerald Brown – Cundinup FCO
Jesse Francis – Darradup FCO
Leigh Fletcher – Nannup Brook FCO
Mike Vasey – Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and North Nannup FCO (DCBFCO)
Andrew McNab – Scott River/Lake Jasper FCO
John Jonker, Peerabeelup Coastal FCO

Other Attendees (Non-Voting rights)
John Thompson – Captain, North Nannup
Peter Grubb, President, Nannup Brook Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Peter Thomas – District Officer - Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)
Hamish Robinson, Captain, Nannup Brook

2.2 APOLOGIES

Members (Full Voting rights)
Vic Lorkiewicz – East Nannup FCO

Other Attendees (Non-Voting rights)
Bryce Edwards – Forest Products Commission
John Fishwick – Department of Biosecurity, Conservation and Attractions
James Scott, Captain. Balingup Road

3. PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS:

Nil.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

4.1 Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting – 1 September 2025

That the Minutes from the Bush Fire Advisory Committee held 1 September 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record (Attachment 4.1).

MOVED: MIKE VASEY	SECONDED: JOHN PATMAN
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Cheryle Brown (Presiding Member) advised that there was not a quorum at the meeting on 3 November so we can't move to approve those minutes we can move to note the minutes rather than formally excepting them

4.2 Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting – 3 November 2025

That the informal meeting notes, due to the lack of a quorum from the meeting held on 3 November 2025 be noted (Attachment 4.2)

MOVED: GERALD BROWN	SECONDED: MIKE VASEY
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5. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:

Nil.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES:

6.1 Actions from previous meeting 3 November 2025

11.1 Geoff Allam (CESM) will investigate if the Standpipe is working.

Geoff Allam (CESM) reported that he inspected the standpipe at the recreation centre and confirmed it is operational. In an emergency, the standpipe can be left open; currently it requires card access. Geoff noted that his access card did not work during testing, indicating a card-related issue. He advised that despite this, the standpipe can be unlocked at any time during an emergency.

7. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

7.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

John Patman (CBFCO) reported that it has been a busy fire season, with incidents at Darradup on Longbottom Road, the prolonged fire at Scott River, and a recent fire on Balingup Road. He noted there may have been a couple of smaller fires he was not involved in. Two crews were deployed to Wellesley, north of Bunbury. A request was received for crews to attend Boddington; however, due to poor weather conditions in Nannup, crews were retained locally. John added that the response to the Scott River fire was excellent, with nearly every brigade attending, many more than once. He thanked all brigades for their efforts across all recent incidents.

7.2 Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (Attachment 7.2)

Mark Scott (DCBFCO South) thanked all those who responded to the recent fires, noting that the incident at Cyrenian House highlighted the need for the organisation to update its emergency plans and procedures.

John Thompson (Captain, North Nannup) asked whether the cause of the fire was known. Mark Scott responded that the cause remains undetermined; however, a transformer fuse on the northern power pole may have been involved, as power had flickered prior to the fire. A small brass piece was found on the ground, but there was not enough evidence to confirm it as the ignition source. Mark also noted there was a rumour regarding smoking in the area, although smoking is prohibited and all personnel were accounted for at the time.

Leigh Fletcher (Nannup Brook FCO) queried whether Western Power would investigate the transformers. Mark Scott responded that there was very little material on the ground had burnt and highlighted that Gerald Brown's (Cundinup FCO) fire break worked extremely well in preventing the fire from spreading to the road reserve, noting that the incident was a strong reminder of the effectiveness of fire breaks. He added that rapid mobilisation was important given how quickly similar fires had escalated in the past, although on this occasion two pig hunters had managed to contain most of the fire before brigades arrived. John Patman (CBFCO) emphasised that it is always better to be on the side of caution and call crews early, as it is easier to stand resources down than to activate them late. He added that the response was excellent and provided a valuable operational exercise.

Mike Vasey (DCBFCO North) reported that crews had attended several recent fires, including at Stuart Hadley's property at Lake Jasper. He noted that his focus over the past couple of months has been reviewing a development proposal on Blackwood River Drive for permanent tiny houses, with associated fire management plans. A response was provided to the Shire accordingly.

7.3 Bush Fire Control Officer

7.3.1 Balingup Road Bush Fire Control Officer

Nil.

7.3.2 Carlotta Bush Fire Control Officer (Attachment 7.3.2)

Rob Marshall's report was provided nothing further to add.

7.3.3 Cundinup Bush Fire Control Officer

Gerald Brown (Cundinup FCO) reported that his brigade attended the Cyrenian House fire on Balingup Road and noted that, as already mentioned by Mark Scott, the facility clearly needs a fire management plan.

7.3.4 Darradup Bush Fire Control Officer (Attachment 7.3.4)

Jesse Francis (Darradup FCO) reported similar activity with recent fires and noted a strong increase in member attendance, PPE compliance, and training participation, with positive signs for recruitment in Darradup.

7.3.5 East Nannup Bush Fire Control Officer

Nil.

7.3.6 Nannup Brook Bush Fire Control Officer

Leigh Fletcher (Nannup Brook FCO) reported similar activity, noting multiple turnouts to the Lake Jasper fire and Balingup Road, both resulting in good outcomes.

7.3.7 North Nannup Bush Fire Control Officer (Attachment 7.3.7)

Mike Vasey (North Nannup FCO) reported multiple turnouts to recent fires. He noted that new training is underway and that the community brigade has requested an update on land acquisition and shared compliance matters.

7.3.8 Peerabeelup Fire Control Officer

Geoff Allam (CESM) advised he had no formal report but provided an update on the Lake Jasper fire. He noted there are five non-members interested in joining the Peerabeelup brigade and around six former members wishing to become active again, and he is working to progress this. He added that former Captain, Murray Scott had hoped to attend this meeting, and he is optimistic that Peerabeelup will be active again by the AGM.

John Patman (CBFCO) asked Geoff Allam (CESM) about any spare equipment, including slipon units. Geoff responded they have three, though one is not operational, leaving two in working order. He will confirm their location and condition.

7.3.9 Peerabeelup Coastal Fire Control Officer

Nil.

7.3.10 Scott River/Lake Jasper Bush Fire Control Officer (Attachment 7.3.10)

Andrew McNab (Scott River/Lake Jasper FCO) thanked all brigades for their assistance with the Lake Jasper fire, noting the incident ended tidily despite burning more area than expected. In response to questions, he advised their appliance (1.4 Tanker) has been returned and is driving better, although still not performing well, and noted issues with non-compliant tyres. He confirmed there has been no further smoke activity at Lake Jasper, though the fire will not be fully out until it rains, and DBCA had been monitoring it, though landowners had not seen crews recently.

Andrew reported that a significant area of blue gum plantation was lost, with some uncertainty around how it ignited. He noted minimal impact on other private properties, with DPIRD providing effective protection to one residence. He explained the long-term fuel load issues in plantations, caused by harvesting practices that leave slash and debris in place, making firefighting difficult. Several members discussed the lack of cleanup requirements and the operational challenges posed by heavy ground fuel.

Andrew noted only limited plantation company crews attended, and that landowners had mobilised quickly and remained on-site over the Christmas period. Mark Scott (Balingup Road FCO) advised there is a memorandum of understanding between plantation companies, DFES and Shires that outlines standards, including for woodchip rows, though adherence varies. Andrew confirmed external fire breaks are generally maintained to a good standard, and Leigh Fletcher (Nannup Brook FCO) agreed they appeared compliant during the incident. Andrew added that most fire breaks are sprayed, with occasional grading depending on erosion risk.

Andrew also confirmed plantations in the area are transitioning from blue gums to pines, with approximately 850 hectares approved or recently planted, though viability will depend on future seasonal conditions.

8. REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

8.1 Community Emergency Services Manager (Attachment 8.1)

Geoff Allam (CESM) advised his report is provided at Attachment 8.1,

Geoff advised that the Department of Fire and Emergency Services recently shared an operational and PPE report highlighting concerns from several incidents and noted it is a very worthwhile presentation to watch.

Geoff Allam played two videos to the committee that were provided at Attachments 8.11 and 8.12.

Geoff noted that the videos shown were very impactful and served as a strong reminder to allow extra time to ensure crews are fully equipped with their PPC and PPE. John Patman (CBFCO) advised that Darradup Brigade had recently shown the videos at training and requested they be made available to other brigades. Geoff responded that the files are large and will likely need to be copied onto USBs, and that he can transfer them on the USBs that have been provided.

8.2 CESM Agenda Items (Attachment 8.2)

Geoff Allam (CESM) advised that the Prohibited Burning Period ends on 27 February 2026. He will discuss with the Chief and Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officers whether an extension is required, depending on conditions.

Geoff reported that grant applications for electronic and standard Bush Fire Notice signs were unsuccessful, and a further application will be submitted.

Geoff noted he has received a firebreak report from the Ranger, who commenced on 6 January 2026 and had been actively issuing firebreak notices. The report can be provided now or after the meeting.

The MAF program for 2026/27 is progressing across the five identified areas. Anyone wishing to propose additional mitigation works should notify Geoff by April.

Leigh Fletcher (FCO Nannup Brook) asked about current mitigation areas. Geoff responded works include a section in East Nannup (initially planned as a pocket burn, now proposed as a larger treatment), a burn around the tip site with weed spraying, and works along Vasse Highway. Not all are burns; Vasse Highway will be chemically treated, and East Nannup may be chemical or mechanical. Mike Vasey asked about mitigation near Vince's property on Vasse Highway. Geoff advised he will follow this up.

8.3 Ranger Report (Simon Millington)

Geoff Allam (CESM) provided an update on the Rangers Report. He advised that 22 properties have been inspected, with 19 issued work orders, noting many were identified by FCOs. His next focus area is Jalbarragup, where 52 properties require inspection. Geoff noted the Ranger is addressing long-standing issues raised by FCOs and recording additional properties for follow-up. He acknowledged that all inspections may not be completed this season, but progress is being made, with residents also beginning to act.

Leigh Fletcher (Nannup Brook FCO) commented that the Ranger has significant work ahead.

Geoff advised committee that the Ranger's role has changed; last year it supported the Works Depot, and this year it will work more closely with him, assisting with mitigation works, fire breaks, emergency services, and coverage during leave.

Leigh Fletcher (Nannup Brook FCO) asked whether the Ranger would also be involved in bushfire mitigation. Geoff confirmed this, noting he retains oversight while the Ranger will work with the Mitigation Coordinator.

David Taylor (CEO) added that the Ranger will also assist during recovery if required.

Cr Brown (Presiding Member) asked Geoff Allam (CESM) whether the Ranger has an RDO on 4 May 2026 and if dates could be swapped so the Ranger can attend the BFAC meeting and meet the FCOs.

9. REPORTS OF OTHER ATTENDEES:

9.1 Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Peter Thomas (DFES) thanked everyone for their support during the recent Kemerton fire, acknowledging they cannot attend every incident. He commended the pre-season training, noting it was the best he has seen in the area and that the videos shown highlighted the importance of PPC and basic skills. He advised it has been a busy period; he had deployments in Boddington over Christmas and recently in Ravensthorpe, with several fires still active. Peter also reported that John Jonker (Peerabeelup FCO) received the Australian Fire Service Medal on Australia Day, and the committee congratulated John on this achievement.

9.2 Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (Attachment 9.2)

Neil Fishwick (DBCA) was an apology but provided a report following the BFAC meeting.

The Donnelly District have completed the DON_164 Netic burn which is just north of the Donnelly River settlement along Sears Road within the Shire of Nannup last Spring.

Only 1 small fire so far within Nannup Shires boundary within the Donnelly District which was around the Black Point area in early October.

One burn planned in the Shire of Nannup within Donnelly District this Autumn which is out in the Lake Jasper area- coastal heath burn which is likely to be done in May/June if conditions suit.

9.3 Forest Products Commission

Nil.

10. STANDING ITEMS:

10.1 Emergency Services Levy (ESL) (Attachment 10.1)

Geoff Allam (CESM) reported that the current budget of \$175,140 has already been exceeded, with expenditure at \$209,230, mainly due to appliance servicing, tyre replacements, gearbox work, PPC and respirators. He noted 1 set of PPC that includes a full-face masks cost approximately \$1,400 per each volunteer. Additional costs included washing machines and fire shed maintenance. The only outstanding grant is for the Nannup Brook Fire Shed. An offer for 2026/27 was received at \$172,130, a \$3,000 decrease from last year; however, Geoff will request \$185,000 to cover servicing, fire trailers, fast-fill trailer upgrades, training TVs for several brigades, and an air-conditioner for Nannup Brook. North Nannup is being used as a training room, with Darradup also being considered. Geoff is also working on installing clean water tanks at most fire sheds to avoid contamination issues, with proposed 5,000-litre tanks feeding sheds through filtered systems.

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

11.1 Mike Vasey reported that lessons from the Lake Jasper complex fires highlighted the need for improved driver training across brigades. He suggested familiarisation sessions for the Tatra 4.4 and the other heavy appliances, with guidance from Hamish Robinson (Captain, Nannup Brook for the Tatra 4.4) and John Patman (CBFCO) for the Darradup 4.4, to ensure drivers from other brigades can operate vehicles confidently when required.

Geoff Allam agreed, noting the value of brigades supporting each other and becoming familiar with different appliances across the district.

Cr Brown (Presiding Member) asked whether records are kept of volunteers with truck licences. Geoff responded that licence details are noted on the active firefighter list and can be checked as needed.

11.2 Leigh Fletcher (Nannup Brook FCO) asked Geoff Allam (CESM) for an update on the application for a new appliance for Nannup Brook. Geoff responded the application is being prepared and confirmed that justification requirements are like SES processes, with the main rationale being the need for a Light Tanker, subject to space availability.

Leigh Fletcher noted that, after initially pushing for a 1.4 appliance due to diversity and water capacity, he is now comfortable with a Light Tanker, and Hamish Robinson (Captain, Nannup Brook) confirmed the brigade is supportive. Hamish added that the Light Tanker is a capable unit.

Peter Thomas (DFES) asked about off-road performance. Andrew McNab (Scott River/Lake Jasper FCO) advised the Light Tanker is simple, familiar, and efficient to use, whereas the 1.4 appliances are overly complex for casual operators. Hamish noted the 1.4 is beneficial for tree-top work, but Andrew commented that this is less relevant locally.

Leigh Fletcher asked what other 1.4 options are available. Peter Thomas (DFES) advised there are no alternative models currently, although some cab chassis discussions have occurred. He suggested waiting to assess any future capability changes. Andrew added that older 1.4 models, such as the one at East Augusta, were simpler and easier to use than the current versions.

Geoff Allam (CESM) reported that a High Season Light Tanker has been secured as a extra appliance and is currently at Nannup Brook (allocated as a Mitigation appliance).

Leigh Fletcher noted that during a V-Power check on Sunday they identified several missing items and some equipment not functioning.

11.3 Cr Brown (Presiding Member) advised the committee that this was Lisa Atkinson's (Executive Support Officer) last meeting and thanked her for her contribution to BFAC and wished her all the best in her retirement.

12. PROPOSED DATE FOR NEXT MEETING:

Monday, 4 May 2026 starting at 7pm at the Nannup SES.

13. CLOSURE OF MEETING:

Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 7.56pm.

Attachments

Attachments	Title
4.1	Minutes from the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Annual General Meeting held 1 September 2025
4.2	Informal meeting notes from the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Annual General Meeting held 3 November 2025
6.1	Actions from previous meeting 3 November 2025
7.3.2	Carlotta FCO Report
7.3.4	Darradup FCO Report
7.3.7	North Nannup Report
7.3.10	Scott River Jasper FCO Report
8.1	CESM Report
8.1.1	Tim and Sally Haslam Video
8.1.2	Tim Haslam Video
8.2	Agenda Items CESM
10.1	Emergency Services Levy