



# MINUTES

**Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting to be held  
Monday 5 May 2025**

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

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## Contents

<b>1. DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY:</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2. ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES:</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3. PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS:</b>	<b><u>43</u></b>
<b>4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:</b>	<b><u>43</u></b>
<b>4.1 Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting - 3 February 2025</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>5. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:</b>	<b><u>43</u></b>
<b>6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES:</b>	<b><u>43</u></b>
<b>7. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:</b>	<b><u>54</u></b>
<b>7.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer</b>	<b><u>54</u></b>
<b>7.2 Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer</b>	<b><u>54</u></b>
<b>7.3 Bush Fire Control Officer</b>	<b><u>54</u></b>
<b>7.3.1 Balingup Road Bush Fire Control Officer</b>	<b><u>54</u></b>
<b>7.3.2 Carlotta Bush Fire Control Officer</b>	<b><u>54</u></b>
<b>7.3.3 Cundinup Bush Fire Control Officer</b>	<b><u>54</u></b>
<b>7.3.4 Darradup Bush Fire Control Officer</b>	<b><u>65</u></b>
<b>7.3.5 East Nannup Bush Fire Control Officer</b>	<b><u>65</u></b>
<b>7.3.6 Nannup Brook Bush Fire Control Officer</b>	<b><u>65</u></b>
<b>7.3.7 North Nannup Bush Fire Control Officer (Attachment 7.3.7)</b>	<b><u>65</u></b>
<b>7.3.8 Peerabeelup Fire Control Officer</b>	<b><u>65</u></b>
<b>7.3.9 Peerabeelup Coastal Fire Control Officer</b>	<b><u>65</u></b>
<b>7.3.10 Scott River/Lake Jasper Bush Fire Control Officer</b>	<b><u>65</u></b>
<b>8. REPORTS OF OFFICERS:</b>	<b><u>76</u></b>
<b>8.1 Community Emergency Services Manager (Attachment 8.1)</b>	<b><u>76</u></b>
<b>9. REPORTS OF OTHER ATTENDEES:</b>	<b><u>98</u></b>
<b>9.1 Department of Fire and Emergency Services</b>	<b><u>98</u></b>
<b>9.2 Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (Attachment 9.2)</b>	<b><u>98</u></b>
<b>9.3 Forest Products Commission</b>	<b><u>98</u></b>
<b>10. STANDING ITEMS:</b>	<b><u>109</u></b>
<b>10.1 Emergency Services Levy (ESL)</b>	<b><u>109</u></b>
<b>10.2 Action from previous meeting 3 February 2025</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>11. GENERAL BUSINESS:</b>	<b><u>1140</u></b>
<b>12. PROPOSED DATE FOR NEXT MEETING:</b>	<b><u>1312</u></b>
<b>13. CLOSURE OF MEETING:</b>	<b><u>1312</u></b>

## Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes Monday 5 May 2025

### 2. DECLARATION OF OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY:

The Presiding Member, Cr Brown declared the Meeting open at 7.00pm.

Welcome to country was 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.*

Cr Brown advised the attendees that the meeting is being record for minute taking purposes only.

### 2. ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES:

#### 2.1 Attendance

Councillors	Staff
Cr Cheryle Brown (Presiding Member)	Geoff Allam – Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM)
Cr Patricia Fraser (Deputy to Presiding Member)	Lisa Atkinson –Executive Support Officer

**Presiding Memmber, Cr Brown advised at the Meeting on 1 September 2025 tht Gerald Brown was not listed as attending this meeting when he did. Gerald now included as an attendee.**

Members (Full Voting rights)
John Patman – Darradup FCO/Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Mike Vasey, North Nannup FCO/Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Leigh Fletcher, Nannup Brook FCO
Peter Hastie, Carlotta FCO
<u>Gerald Brown , Cundinup FCO</u>
Victor Lorkiewicz – East Nannup FCO
Andrew McNab, Andre McNab – Scott River/Lake Jasper FCO
Geoff Allam - Nannup Townsite FCO/ CESM

Other Attendees (Non-Voting rights)
Greg Hodgson – Forest Products Commission (FPC)
Bryce Edwards – Forest Products Commission (FPC)

#### 2.2 Apologies

Councillors	Staff
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	David Taylor – Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
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<b>Members (Full Voting rights)</b>
Mark Scott– Balingup Road FCO/Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
John Jonker, Peerabeelup Coastal FCO
Brett Fowler – Peerabeelup FCO

<b>Other Attendees (Non-Voting rights)</b>
Ed Hatherley –Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)
Peter Thomas –District Officer – Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)
Helen Holzheuer – Parks and Wildlife, Blackwood District (DBCA)

### 3. PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS:

Nil.

### 4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

#### 4.1 Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting – 3 February 2025

That the Minutes from the Bush Fire Advisory Committee 3February 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record (Attachment 4.1).

**\*Presiding Member, Cr Brown advised of some spelling errors in the locations of fires mentioned in the minutes from the meeting held on February 3, 2025, under agenda items (7.1, 7.2, 8.2) Quaranup should be changed to Yoganup and Quonga changed to Quongup. Cr Brown also noted that 'the Folly' should be corrected to 'Mount Folly' and agenda item 8.2 and 9.3.**

<b><i>MOVED MIKE VASEY</i></b>	<b><i>SECONDED GEOFF ALLAM</i></b>
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***CARRIED***

### 5. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:

Nil.

### 6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES:

#### 11.2 *Shire of Nannup to write a letter of condolence to the family of Malcolm Cole*

Mark Scott (Balingup Road, FCO) advised Geoff Allam (CESM) that the Cole family asked for time to grieve, and he added not to send a letter of condolence to the Cole family.

#### 11.3 *Shire of Nannup to follow up on Gold Gully Road and Stellar Road with DBCA – Road's need graded.*

**Action:** Follow up with Damon Lukins and provide a response at the BFAC August 2025 meeting.

## **7. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

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### **7.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer**

John Patman (CBFCO) reported that the season started quietly but changed quickly. Crews attended a burn at Donnybrook, Yoganup and Cundinup Road, while brigades responded at different times to Donnelly River, Shannon and Chesapeake. There was a major response to an arson fire in Jalbarragup and the quick and coordinated response was crucial in preventing a worse outcome. He thanked Mark Scott (Balingup Road, FCO) for the coordination of crews, he added it was a sensational job.

### **7.2 Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officers**

Mike Vasey (DCBFCO) advised he had nothing to report.

Mark Scott (DCBFCO) was an apology and provide a report that the Presiding Member, Cr Brown read to the Committee.

Mark expressed his gratitude to all crews for their assistance, especially with the Jalbarragup complex of deliberately lit fires and the Chalwell Road lightning strikes. Despite a relatively busy season, there were no major incidents in the Shire. He suggested discussing protocols for handling suspicious persons at fires, as there were two such incidents this year. He added if it were possible that Balingup Road brigade requests a high season light tanker for next season.

### **7.3 Bush Fire Control Officer**

#### **7.3.1 Balingup Road Bush Fire Control Officer**

Mark Scott (DCBFCO) was an apology, and his report is provided at agenda item 7.2.

#### **7.3.2 Carlotta Bush Fire Control Officer**

Peter Hastie (Carlotta FCO) reported since the last Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting in February 2025, Carlotta received five call outs to fires, that most other brigades attended. All fires were routine and nothing out of the ordinary. He added there was slight damage to the vehicle that required to be repaired.

Peter Hastie announced he will step down as Carlotta FCO to spend more time with his family. He advised of a possible replacement who had recently completed the FCO course and agreed to step into the role of FCO. Carlotta's AGM will be held in June 2025, Peter will remain FCO until then.

Presiding Member, Cr Brown thanked Peter Hastie for his service and inquired about his tenure. Peter Hastie responded that he had been a Captain and FCO for 8-10 years and expressed his gratitude for the committee's support and camaraderie. Presiding Member, Cr Brown responded and thanked Peter Hastie again for his contribution in Carlotta and the wider Nannup community.

#### **7.3.3 Cundinup Bush Fire Control Officer**

Gerald Brown (Cundinup FCO) advised he had nothing to report.

### **7.3.4 Darradup Bush Fire Control Officer**

John Patman (Darradup FCO) reported that Darradup was involved in the Donnybrook, Shannon, Chesapeake and Jalbarragup fires. The Jalbarragup fire was confirmed as arson, with the suspect arrested and awaiting trial. He added after the fire a community debrief was held, the arsonists partner bravely spoke and explained that the fires were set to locate where she lived. John Patman thanked all brigaded that attended.

John Patman announced that he was stepping down as Darradup FCO. He advised of a potential replacement FCO that he hopes will be elected at the BFAC AGM in August 2025. John thanked the Committee for their support. Presiding member, Cr Brown thanked John for his role at Darradup and as Chef Bush Fire Control Officer.

### **7.3.5 East Nannup Bush Fire Control Officer**

Victor Lorkiewicz (East Nannup FCO) reported that East Nannup attended two fires nothing much to report and added it was quiet summer.

### **7.3.6 Nannup Brook Bush Fire Control Officer**

Leigh Fletcher (Nannup Brook FCO) thanked Peter Hastie (Carlotta FCO) for his service and for covering some permits that Leigh could not attend to due to work conflicts. Nannup Brook held its AGM on 4 May 2025 that had a good turnout, and all positions filled. The focus at the meeting after the AGM was on new recruitment strategies including social media and PPC procurement for the brigade.

### **7.3.7 North Nannup Bush Fire Control Officer (Attachment 7.3.7)**

Mike Vasey (North Nannup FCO) reported that North Nannup brigade attended most fires that have been mentioned. During the Jalbarragup fires, their vehicle was damaged, compromising the cab and putting it out of commission until a new door was installed. Mike Vasey and Geoff Allam investigated the cause and preventative measures. North Nannup AGM will be held 17 May 2025. North Nannup may lose its Captain, who announced his resignation at the last meeting. Mike added that no one has volunteered to replace him, leading to canvassing and potential recruitment efforts, including doorknocking by members. Mike Vasey thanked Peter Hastie (Carlotta FCO) and John Patman (Darradup FCO) for their support over the past few years.

### **7.3.8 Peerabeelup Fire Control Officer**

Nil.

### **7.3.9 Peerabeelup Coastal Fire Control Officer**

Nil.

### **7.3.10 Scott River/Lake Jasper Bush Fire Control Officer**

Andrew McNab (Scott River/Lake Jasper FCO) reported a very quiet summer and noted that the brigade did not receive a group call to the fires mentioned. He added that the Scott River/Lake Jaser area has received significant rainfall, making the area quite damp.

## 8. REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

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### 8.1 *Community Emergency Services Manager – Geoff Allam (Attachment 8.1)*

Geoff Allam (CESM) reported that North Nannup 4x4 vehicle sustained damage at the Jalbarragup fires. Carlotta 2.4 had a fuel line issue, which is now fixed. The State Operational Support Fleet LT was used at the Donnelly River complex fires in February 2025. An issue was discovered during training when it was realised that the tank and lines had not been flushed after foam use. High season appliances are appreciated, and we must ensure VPOWER checks are done as it would be for the brigade's own appliance. VPOWER checks should continue to be sent to the CESM for records. When driving to an incident, the driver needs to comply to the road rules and speed limit.

Geoff expressed gratitude to all Brigade Group Unit (BGUs) for their efforts this fire season. The BGUs in the Shire of Nannup have shown excellent teamwork and support during incidents. Although the season began calmly for Nannup, the past three months have been busy, with support provided to the Shire of Donnybrook for several fires, including the Yoganup fire, which the Cundinup brigade also attended. Most brigades were involved in the Donnelly, Shannon, and Chesapeake complex fires. Some may have found it uneventful; the support was crucial for Windy Harbour and Northcliffe. The dedication from the Shire of Nannup brigades was highly appreciated.

Geoff advised secondary PPC/PPE items are ongoing. He has conducted a stock list and will continue to work through these items, he will share the list with all brigades to ensure that stocked items are not carried for several years. A safety check of all PPC/PPE and equipment will be conducted around July-August 2025 to ensure it's delivered in time for the next season.

Geoff reminded everyone that COMCEN needs to be contacted when attending an incident, even if it is just to investigate. If the brigade cannot call COMCEN, they should inform the IC or Nannup CESM, who will contact COMCEN on their behalf. This also applies once returned to the Fire Shed.

Geoff advised FIRS forms need to be completed and sent after each incident. He emphasised the importance of this for funding, fire sheds, appliances, etc. He added that can assist, but it should ultimately be completed by those who attended the incident. Geoff has circulated a list of reports missing FIRS forms.

Geoff provided an update on training: seven people completed two 2017 AIMS courses. Those seven people and Geoff will work towards Level 1 Incident Controllers, that course will be held in August 2025, tripling the number of Level 1 Controllers in Nannup. The recent FCO course, that includes Geoff, added four more qualified FCOs, aiding succession planning. Advanced Crew Leader and Advanced Fire Fighting courses will be held in June 2025. Mike Vasey (North Nannup FCO) and Geoff will complete Bush Fire Safety Awareness in June 2025 and Fire Fighting Skills in July 2025.

Geoff Allam attended brigade meetings and implemented the Skill Maintenance Assessment Tool. He noted brigades have started using it and will continue to work with them, especially at AGMs. The drill is scheduled for September/October to keep it fresh in everyone's minds and will also be conducted during the fire season.



Geoff advised MAFS mitigation works for the 2023/24 round will conclude at the end of June 2025. Nine treatments have been completed. Two burns will be carried out by the brigades: one on Friday, 9 May 2025, and the other behind East Nannup Fire Shed, with Geoff Allam and the lower South West mitigation team ensuring smooth execution. Geoff has submitted the 2025/26 mitigation applications, which included 12 treatments.

The Bush Fire Risk Management Plan is still pending endorsement. It will go back to OBRM for approval and then through the Shire, with completion expected by June 2025.

The budget for this year was \$172,390, but as of April 15, \$209,648 had been spent. Geoff will review the expenses to ensure proper allocation. Presiding Member, Cr Brown asked how overspending is handled? Geoff Allam responded that it must be justified. If the overspend is rejected, the Shire covers the balance.

Geoff reported a few vehicle incidents and emphasised that drivers need to adhere to road rules, speed limits, and avoid using mobile phones. Drivers should listen to crew advice for safety. Brigades must ensure that drivers are competent and in the right state of mind. The crew can observe everything happening and advise the driver accordingly.

## **8.2 Agenda Items, Community Emergency Services Manager (Attachment 8.2)**

Geoff Allam (CESM) reported Local Laws are still being finalised with David Taylor, CEO. Geoff added he presented everyone's suggestions and amendments. It will hopefully go to Council at the May 2025 meeting.

Geoff accepted the offer of \$175,140 for the 2025/26 LGGS and ESL, he noted that it hasn't increased much from last year. Geoff noted he asked at the last BFAC meeting in February 2025 what items brigades needed but received no feedback. However, after visiting fire sheds, he had identified items such as training TVs, a PC and a printer for Darradup, he has also applied for an extension to the Nannup Brook Fire Shed.

Geoff advised he has received feedback about the bush fire notice signs. The current small signs about prohibited areas are not effective. He added that the Shire required signs that can be changed to restricted, prohibited and total fire ban. Geoff also noted that he has looked at electronic notice boards for fire danger ratings, he added there expensive but could be funded through a grant. He will keep investigating costings, and approvals for new signage.

The Shire has submitted a Disaster Resilience Application after the Shire's main communications were cut a few years ago. This includes an emergency response integrated trailer (ERIC) with four Starlinks, covering up to 4,000 people within a 400-meter range. The application also proposes installing fibre optic cabling and antennas at the recreation centre, our evacuation point. We expect to hear about the grant, valued at \$300,000-\$400,000, in August.

Peter Hastie (Carlotta FCO) advised Geoff Allam (CESM) that during the March music festival, Carlotta, lost internet with Telstra for four days because the system couldn't cope. He added that he is concerned about the UCI cycle event in 2026. He added if there are incidents during that event, there is potential to have severe trouble. Geoff Allam (CESM) responded to Peter Hastie (Carlotta FCO) that the application was for Disaster Resilience not events but part of it could be used for large events. Peter Hastie (Carlotta FCO) responded there's evidence that may or may not show us that it doesn't work.

Currently he is unsure of the threshold when the system goes down, especially outside the central area. Geoff Allam (CESM) responded to Peter Hastie (Carlotta FCO) that the ERIC will help alleviate that. Presiding Member, Cr Brown asked Peter Hastie (Carlotta FCO) if Carlotta fire shed had internet access. Peter Hastie (Carlotta FCO) responded to Presiding member, Cr Brown, no it does not.

Geoff Allam (CESM) reported an end-of-season debrief will be held at North Nannup Fire Shed He requested brigades bring their appliances and trailers to compare fittings and ensure uniformity. Currently, the trailers have three different setups, and Geoff aims to standardise them. Additionally, there will be a 15-minute virtual reality session on bushfire preparedness provided by DFES. Geoff would like brigades to set up sessions in their communities.

Presiding Member, Cr Brown asked Geoff Allam (CESM) about the signage at the town entrance and exit regarding the end of permit season. Geoff Allam (CESM) responded to Presiding Member, Cr Brown that the signage would be removed that week.

## **9. REPORTS OF OTHER ATTENDEES:**

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### **9.1 Department of Fire and Emergency Services -Peter Thomas**

Nil

### **9.2 Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions -Helen Holzheuer**

Nil

### **9.3 Forest Products Commission – Greg Hodgson**

Greg Hodgson (FPC) thanked Peter Hastie (Carlotta FCO) and John Patman (Darradup FCO) for their assistance and community effort and wished them luck for the future.

Greg reported that everyone should have the QR codes for the Fire Operation maps for each plantation this was discussed at the last BFAC meeting in February 2025. FPC will make the QR codes available on its external website for each Local Government and allowing public access. Additionally, FPC will add the QR codes to gate signs for digital device access where coverage is adequate.

The FPC internal Fire roster has expanded with the extra responsibilities associated with the new plantation estate being established on freehold land across several shires. FPC anticipate the internal fire capacity will be increased again as the softwood estate expands.

FPC will look to reduce staff commitment to DBCA structures and to develop and independent fire response capability to support DBCA AND Local Brigades where FPC Plantation estate is threatened.

Greg reported that community fire grants are still ongoing with the Shires where the new estate properties are being acquired. These Shires will be invited to submit applications for funds up to \$10,000 in the coming weeks. Funds will be available to supplement items and equipment that is not available from the DFES/ESL provisions. He added that FPC invite Shires to consider potential ongoing sponsorship opportunities that FPC may also contribute to in the future.

Mike Vasey (North Nannup FCO) asked Greg Hodgson (FPC) if the grant would cover specialised training. Greg Hodgson (FPC) confirmed that it had in the past and suggested including it, he emphasised the focus on volunteer first responder fire use. He encouraged adding any other potential sponsorship items. He added this would be included in the letter to David Taylor, CEO.

Presiding Member, Cr Brown asked Greg Hodgson (FPC) if the grant would cover the \$139 monthly Starlink fee for 12 months. Greg Hodgson (FPC) responded to Presiding Member, Cr Brown that it would cover that cost until there is an alternative to Starlink. Greg added it would be worth it due to ongoing communication issues. Presiding Member Cr Brown asked Greg Hodgson (FPC) is the \$10,000 grant per Shire. Greg Hodgson (FPC) confirmed to the Presiding Member, Cr Brown that the \$10,000 grant is for each Shire.

Greg Hodgson (FPC) advised the DFES Plantation Fire Protection guidelines have been under review for the last four years and are critical to the plantation industry and local governments to support the current expansion in softwood plantations across the southwest. It aligns plantation fire management, mitigation and preparation, response standards and expectations across may local governments to ensure there is a consistent approach to planning and establishing commercial hardwood/ softwood plantations for times. He added that Shires will be approached by DFES in the next couple of months to comment on the most recent draft before its release later in 2025.

Greg Hodgson advised that FPC will be conducting preplant heaps burning at Mt Folly "Nannup 1" property towards the end of May 2025 when the surrounding area is safe.

Greg Hodgson FPC advised Mt Folly has heaps to burn but will wait until later in the year before burning it. The recently purchased Lake Jasper property (Ex Denham) won't be established this year and works will recommence in 2026. DBCA will be burning heaps/windrows for FPC to establish in the plantations Lewana, Maidment, Baudin, Vasse and Milesi

Greg Hodgeson announced that he will be retiring from FPC in July 2025 and thanked the BFAC members who make a valuable contribution to the community. He added his replacement is still to be confirmed but there is still several FPC staff who can provide direction and appropriate support for any fires that may occur in the future. Bryce Edwards will continue to attend BFAC meetings where FPC has plantation interests and will remain liaison with CESM's and FCO's and will introduce the new FPC Fire Manager once appointed.

Presiding Member, Cr Brown thanked Greg Hodgson and for FPC for their commitment to Nannup and asked the committee if anyone had any questions.

Gerald Brown (Cundinup FCO) asked FPC about the Slip on Fire Unit that was offered to Cundinup a few months ago. Bryce Edwards (FPC) responded to Gerald Brown (Cundinup FCO) that tracing the asset number delayed the paperwork, its's now complete and waiting to be signed off

## **10. STANDING ITEMS:**

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### **10.1    *Emergency Services Levy (ESL)***

This was discussed at agenda item 8.1.

## 11. GENERAL BUSINESS:

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- 11.1** John Patman (Darradup FCO) raised the issue of fire breaks and emphasised their importance, noting that the Bush Fire Act mandates fire breaks. He expressed disappointment with the lack of support received from the Shire. Mike Vasey (North Nannup FCO) has also dedicated significant effort to fire breaks, assisting people and visiting properties that, due to lack of access, the back and sides of the properties could not be reached. Despite their efforts, no support has been received from the Shire.

Presiding Member, Cr Brown thanked John Patman (Darradup FCO) and advised these issues will be raised when the minutes are presented to Council, and it will be reinforced.

Vic Lorkiewicz (East Nannup FCO) added that fire breaks should be placed strategically, but not on steep ground, it's virtually impossible. He added when a fire break is put alongside a fence, the water erodes the fence, and there is no tractable land to move vehicles along. In certain cases where the ground is steep, it is impossible to put in fire breaks. Vic added some people put in different strategic fire breaks every year, but in East Nannup it's a challenge. Vic Lorkiewicz (East Nannup FCO) asked Peter Hastie (Carlotta FCO) if they have strategic fire breaks or just regular fire breaks. Peter Hastie (East Nannup FCO) responded to Vic Lorkiewicz (East Nannup FCO) that Carlotta has fire breaks. Vic added that any reasonably flat land can have fire breaks but putting them in areas where you can move a truck around the boundary of the property is more important than putting in a fire break because it can cause more problems than it's worth.

John Patman (Darradup FCO) responded it still goes against the Bush Fire Act and Local Government Laws.

Geoff Allam (CESM) responded that the new Ranger has started at the Shire. He added he is very keen. Leading up to next season, there will be a lot more awareness and information available, so the first season might see some positive changes in the Shire.

John Patman (Darradup FCO) responded that history will tell you that ranger probably will not be at the Shire this time next year.

Presiding Member, Cr Brown responded that because this issue has been brought up several times at BFAC it has identified a risk, and the Shire will need to address that risk.

Mike Vasey (North Nannup FCO) reported that variations are no longer handled by FCOs. In North Nannup, variations are issued but not checked yearly by the Shire to ensure compliance with agreements, this had been pointed out to him recently. This indicates the Shire hasn't followed up on variations, and owners are aware. People question why they should spend money when no one is checking. He added that the Shire needs to follow up on all variations.

- 11.2** Mike Vasey (North Nannup FCO) mentioned that the local law is being looked at and it has gone through two or three sessions of brigades reviewing, correcting, amending, and questioning various parts of it. He added that thing that has been noted and brigades have not received an answer from the Shire, is that within the Local Law, the role of the FCO is not defined. It's not even included within the brigades' structure and FCOs need to know where they stand.

Presiding Member, Cr Brown, asked Mike Vasey (East Nannup FCO) if he was proposing a particular question or motion within these minutes. Mike Vasey responded to Cr Brown that

he proposed brigades received an answer from the Shire regarding FCO's actual roles. He added that he is aware some brigades run FCOs as Captains due to manpower issues, North Nannup is heading that way due to the resignation of the captain and when I return from leave, I could have two roles.

Presiding Member, Cr Brown asked Mike Vasey (North Nannup FCO) if he was moving that as a motion with the words used in the recording. Mike Vasey (North Nannup FCO) responded to the Presiding Member, Cr Brown, yes.

***MOTION: MIKE VASEY (NORTH NANNUP FCO) MOVED A MOTION FOR THE SHIRE OF NANNUP TO DEFINE THE ROLES OF FCO'S WITHIN BRIGADES IN THE LOCAL LAW***

<b><i>MOVED MIKE VASEY</i></b>	<b><i>SECONDED JOHN PATMAN</i></b>
<b><i>CARRIED</i></b>	

**Action: Shire of Nannup to define the roles of FCO's within Brigades in the Local Law**

John Patman (Darradup FCO) advised that the Shire's local laws indicate the captain runs the brigade, while most brigades are run by FCOs

Peter Hastie (Carlotta FCO) reported the document had several issues that fall into that category. He added that if this is what FCOs it's incorrect and is not what the documents states, a former CESM advised him to disregard it. Peter advised he is interested in the subsequent draft as previous issues that were raised, the changes were not included from the original draft. He added for instance 90% of brigade's communication, according to that document should be dealt with by the captain, however 99% of communications go to the FCOs.

Geoff Allam (CESM) responded to Peter Hastie (Carlotta FCO) that he learned about this during the FCO course but has not received any different information.

Peter Hastie (Carlotta FCO) responded to Geoff Allam (CESM) it's a challenge to get the captain's cooperation when tasks become difficult. He added historically, the tasks have always been managed, but he believed that created a problem as captains are left without a clear role. He suggested that the CESM communications should go directly to captains, who could then delegate functions if needed. He also noted that the FCO is managing sideways without real authority in the document, making the outcome uncertain.

John Patman (Darradup FCO) responded that the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer role is the same that it required attendance at every brigade meeting and AGM. He noted that FCOs are supposed to report to the Chief that he raised with the Shire but was advised that the Shire used the CESM.

- 11.3** Presiding Member, Cr Brown suggested that the item Mark Scott (Balingup Road, FCO) mentioned in his report about a suspicious person at fires should be noted. She proposed recording it in general business to be discussed at the next BFAC meeting and asked if anyone wanted to put something forward now. Presiding Member, Cr Brown asked Geoff Allam (CESM) he had anything to add to that comment and was there a discussion about protocols for suspicious persons at fires this year. Cr Brown added that Peter Thomas (DFES) provided information on handling suspicions of arson and suggested that Mark Scott (Balingup Road FCO) has asked for further steps.

Geoff Allam (CESM) responded to Presiding Member, Cr Brown that there is no power to detain a person suspected of arson without evidence. He noted that even with proper evidence, 95% of arsonists are not convicted due to lack of direct evidence. Cr Brown suggested installing cameras in vehicles to capture evidence when arriving at a site. Geoff Allam responded to Cr Brown, absolutely.

Leigh Fletcher (Nannup Brook (FCO) reported that DFES were not willing to cover the item. They investigated the cost of GoPro or travel cameras, as they weren't eligible items. However, DFES is considering it due to the justification of gathering evidence and identifying hazards en-route to fires, there might be funds available from other sources.

Presiding Member, Cr Brown noted that this can be a useful conversation at the next meeting.

**Action:** Add suspicious people at fires for further discussion at the next BFAC meeting.

- 11.4** Presiding Member, Cr Brown reported that Saturday, 3 May 2025, was World Fire Fighters Day. Shire Deputy President Cr Hansen attended the event in Busselton. The event, held in Perth and Busselton, honours firefighters and SES members who have lost their lives in the line of duty. It is held on the closest Saturday to 4 May. The Presiding Member requested that the date be added to the Calendar of Events, and that Nannup Shire recognise World Fire Fighters Day next year and in future years, provide a wreath, and inform all Brigades of the event.

**Action: Geoff Allam to mark the event on the Calendar so that the Shire is prepared for it next year and can notify Brigades so that they can attend next year if they wish**

- 11.5** Geoff Allam (CESM) reported that week commencing 28 April 2025 was National Memorial Week in Canberra. His daughter attended with the SES. The event was available online, Geoff added the number of lives lost through the service was significant. Most people lost their lives due to cancer. Geoff will be advocating for wearing PPC and masks as most of that is related and firefighters should be protected.

## **12. PROPOSED DATE FOR NEXT MEETING:**

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Monday 4 August 2025 starting at 7pm at the Nannup SES.

## **13. CLOSURE OF MEETING:**

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Presiding Member, Cr Brown will be an apology for the next BFAC meeting.

Presiding member, Cr Brown closed the meeting at 8.05pm.

### Attachments

Attachments	Title
<b>4.1</b>	Minutes from the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Annual General Meeting held 11 November 2024
<b>7.3.7</b>	North Nannup Bush Fire Control Officer report
<b>8.1</b>	Community Emergency Services Manager report
<b>8.2</b>	Community Emergency Services Manager Agenda Items
<b>9.2</b>	DBCA Report 2025 Summer and Autumn
<b>10.2</b>	Actions from previous meeting 5 August 2024
<b>11.1</b>	Australian Weekly Climate Hazard Outlook for BoM 30 January 2025