



Shire of  
**Nannup**  
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**MINUTES**

**Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Monday 5 February 2024**

**Nannup SES, Sexton Way, Nannup**

Unconfirmed copy

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**Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
Monday 5 February 2024**

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

Meeting declared 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.*

**2. ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES:**

**2.1 Attendance**

| Councillors                                     | Staff  |
|---|--|
| Cr Cheryle Brown (Presiding Member)             | David Taylor –Chief Executive Officer (CEO)                  |
| Cr Patricia Fraser (Deputy to Presiding Member) | Nathan Manning – Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) |
|   | Andrea Jenkins – Communications Officer (CO)                 |

| Members (Full Voting rights)  |
|---|
| Mark Scott – Balingup Road FCO/Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer |
| Glen Delbridge – Darradup Captain                                     |
| Mike Vasey – North Nannup FCO   |
| Peter Hastie – Carlotta FCO   |
| Victor Lorkiewicz – East Nannup FCO                                   |
| John Jonker – Peerabeelup Coastal FCO                                 |
| Gerald Brown – Cundinup FCO   |
| Carey Curtis – Nannup Brook FCO                                       |
| Andrew McNab – Scott River/Lake Jasper FCO                            |

| Other Attendees (Non-Voting rights)   |
|---|
| Mike Piper – Darradup Lieutenant  |
| Bryce Edwards – Fire Protection Officer - Forest Products Commission (FPC)                |
| Andy Thompson – Area Officer Geographe - Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) |
| Greg Hodgson – Fire Manager - Forest Products Commission (FPC)                            |

|  |
|--|
| Ed Hatherley – District Park Coordinator, Blackwood District - Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) |
|--|

## 2.2 Apologies

| Councillors | Staff |
|-------------|-------|
|             |       |

| Members (Full Voting rights)                                     |
|--|
| Robin Mellema – Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (CBFCO)          |
| John Patman –Darradup FCO/Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer |
| Brett Fowler – Peerabeelup FCO                                   |

| Other Attendees (Non-Voting rights) |
|-------------------------------------|
|                                     |

## 3 PETITIONS/DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS:

Nil.

## 4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES:

### 4.1 Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting – 6 November 2023

#### *Motion*

*That the Minutes from the Bush Fire Advisory Committee held 6 November 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record (Attachment 4.1).*

|                           |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>MOVED</b> Gerald Brown | <b>SECONDED</b> Mark Scott |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|

**CARRIED**

## 5 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST:

Nil.

## 6 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES:

**7.3.4** Shire of Nannup to follow up giving John Patman Jalbarragup/Darradup resident number information as discussed in previous meeting.

- 10.2** Nathan Manning spoke said the Mitigation Activity Fund (MAF) application has been submitted but he has not heard from DFES yet as to whether it has been approved. Nathan Manning stated that he hopes to hear back in the next month.
- 7.3.9** The Shire of Nannup to fund another defibrillator for Peerabeelup Coastal.
- 8.1** The Shire of Nannup to review the Fitness for Work Policy.
- 9.2** Helen Holzheuer will organise an inspection of the Carlotta Tower including access and the clearing around it.
- 11.4** Shire of Nannup to confirm that fast fill trailers will be located at Darradup, Cundinup and Nannup Brook.
- 11.5** Nathan Manning to be in touch with brigades to distribute new Vehicle Response Identifier stickers.

Business arising from previous minutes taken as read.

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

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

NIL

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

#### **7.2.1 John Patman**

NIL

#### **7.2.2 Mark Scott**

Spoke to report as attached in Attachment 7.3.1.

Thanked all crews that helped at Ampersand and Jalbarragup fires as well as those who attended the lightning strike at Baker Road (Millbrook State Forest).

### **7.3 Bush Fire Control Officers (FCO's)**

#### **7.3.1 Balingup Road (Attachment 7.3.1)**

NIL

#### **7.3.2 Carlotta (Attachment 7.3.2)**

As per attachment.

Lack of water at Jalbarragup fire was discussed.

#### **7.3.3 Cundinup**

The unit attended the Baker Road Fire (Millbrook State Forest) and the Family Fun Day on January 16.

#### **7.3.4 Darradup**

Team concurred regarding lack of water for the Jalbarragup fire.

### **7.3.5 East Nannup**

The unit did not go to the Jalbarragup fire. There were lots of lightning strikes to the East that were of concern. 9 members were on standby.

### **7.3.6 Nannup Brook**

The crew attended the Jalbarragup fire. The new TATRA had an issue and was not able to suction. Has been repaired since but was a concern as it is brand new.

### **7.3.7 North Nannup**

Unit went to Ampersand, Baker Road (Millbrook State Forest) and did two shifts at Jalbarragup. Lack of water was also noted for the Jalbarragup fire as well as Baker Road.

### **7.3.8 Peerabeelup**

NIL

### **7.3.9 Peerabeelup Coastal**

Nothing to report.

### **7.3.10 Scott River/Lake Jasper**

Nothing to report.

## **8 REPORTS OF OFFICERS:**

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### **8.1 Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM)**

Spoke to the report tabled.

Thanked everyone that attended the Jalbarragup fire and the standby crews for other deployments. Ampersand provided some lessons to learn from. Nannup Brook were deployed to the Northcliffe fire.

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

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### **9.1 Department of Fire and Emergency Services, Andy Thompson (Attachment 9.1)**

Spoke to the report sent through.

Andrew McNab (Scott River/Lake Jasper FCO) asked whether to ring COM SEND or to DBCA. Andy Thompson (DFES) and Ed Hatherley (DBCA) spoke to the question stating to call COMCEN.

Andrew McNab (Scott River/Lake Jasper FCO) stated that someone called Triple 000 after spotting a fire but because they could not locate fire but Triple 000 could not log it. Andy Thompson (DFES) said that is very unusual.

Victor Lorkiewicz (East Nannup FCO) asked why Triple 000 calls are coming in from Bridgetown and Donnybrook. Mark Scott (Balingup Road FCO) spoke to the question stating it was because of the Blackwood Valley Zone Response. Andy Thompson (DFES) explained that the Blackwood Valley Zone Response is a group call so all resources are mobilised. Once extra information is received, and all resources are not required they can stand down. Ed Hatherley (DBCA) added that the intent is that, with everyone going, there is no loss of time. Andy Thompson (DFES) added that it is an MOU signed by all Local Governments stating these are the resources that we are going to send. Mark Scott (Balingup Road FCO) explained the area that Blackwood Valley Zone Response encompasses.

Victor Lorkiewicz (East Nannup FCO) asked if Western Power had been told about the Blackwood Valley Zone Response, further explaining his interaction with tree loppers in East Nannup stating he was not in an emergency area. Ed Hatherley (DBCA) explained that was probably a different issue with Western Power doing the powerline easement. Greg Hodgson (FPC) explained it was mitigation work not response work.

To complete his report, Andy Thompson (DFES) encouraged teams to prepare for upcoming heat by going to the station and going over crew safety features.

## **9.2 Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, Ed Hatherley**

Tabled the report Summer 2023 and spoke to the maps within it.

Ed Hatherley thanked all Local Government resources for the support at the Jalbarragup fire. The cause of the fire is still inconclusive. Data is still being validated regarding the lightning strike.

Ed Hatherley did concur that water is a real challenge with the dry conditions. He stated there was a 12.2 running out of the Blackwood River at Jalbarragup. There were also two water points at Crouch Road and then there were water carts that can be summoned under emergency provisions.

Ed Hatherley explained there would be ongoing management of the area for the rest of summer.

Mike Piper (Darradup Lieutenant) asked whether DBCA had conducted a debrief on the fire yet. Ed Hatherley (DBCA) stated they had not and that it would occur in the next week or two. Ed Hatherley questioned the representation wanting to be there and then suggested internal feedback can occur within the Nannup Local Government and then a representative can attend the debrief.



**ACTION:** Ed Hatherley (DBCA) to communicate with Nathan Manning (CESM) regarding debrief details.

Peter Hastie (Carlotta FCO) questioned if water is a problem if it will change. Ed Hatherley (DBCA) explained why digging more water holes is not viable and explained the contractors with water carts that can help.

In conclusion, Ed Hatherley briefly discussed the Autumn 2024 burn options as detailed in the last map of the report. DBCA will be busy on Stewart Road. Mosaic burning is being focused on as DBCA moves towards an environmentally sustainable way of delivering fire across large areas of the landscape.

Victor Lorkiewicz (East Nannup FCO) asked why an excavator can not be utilised to make the dams deeper and bigger. Ed Hatherley (DBCA) answered that there is potential for that with some funding from roading, but employee numbers are down.

Andrew McNab (Scott River/Lake Jasper FCO) said there is a good water source of water, possibly on Fouracres Road with permanent water. Andrew McNab suggested a day of work with an excavator would make it an ideal spot for refilling helitax.

**ACTION:** Andrew McNab (Scott River/Lake Jasper FCO) to send map of potential water source on Fouracres Road to Ed Hatherley (DBCA).

Ed Hatherley (DBCA) added that the Crouch Road bridge is being replaced with a concrete top.

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

Spoke to the report sent through.

Cr Patricia Fraser (Deputy to Presiding Member) questioned how many hectares were left for the cockatoos from Gngangara mount. Greg Hodgson (FPC) confirmed 1800 hectares.

Greg Hodgson welcomed Bryce Edwards to the FPC team and outlined his role and responsibilities within the organisation.

David Taylor (CEO) questioned upcoming harvesting operations. Greg Hodgson (FPC) could not confirm at this stage.

**ACTION:** Greg Hodgson (FPC) to inform David Taylor (CEO) of upcoming harvesting operations when known.

## **10 STANDING ITEMS:**

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

The next round of applications is due in March. Any brigades wishing to purchase anything \$1,500-\$5,000 then get a list to Nathan Manning (CESM). Nathan Manning can pass on information about what is eligible as required. Roughly \$100,000 has been spent out of \$150,000. There was an adjustment made meaning some money was lost that was unspent from the 2021/2022 ESL round. Nathan Manning is now checking funding to get trucks across the Shire serviced. With regards to capital grants let Nathan know or put through an application.

## 11 GENERAL BUSINESS:

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### 11.1 Mark Scott (Balingup Road FCO/DCBFCO) recommendation one:

*That the shire develop a formal procedure to compel landowners ( or their agents at landowners cost) to attend a fire on their land once the running fire is out. This should include having the appropriate equipment to control and blackout the fire on their property.*

David Taylor (CEO) stated this can be a policy at Shire level that can enforce infringements as outlined in the Bush Fires Act 1954.

**ACTION:** Shire of Nannup to create a policy to compel landowners to attend a fire on their land once the running fire is out.

This recommendation was endorsed without vote.

### 11.2 Mark Scott (Balingup Road FCO/DCBFCO) recommendation two:

That the shire work with DBCA and DFES to develop a common register of approved, fire safety trained earth moving contractors that can be deployed to track fires across all tenure.

**ACTION:** Shire of Nannup to liaise with and utilise the list of contractors that DBCA and FPC are creating and add local contractors to it.

**ACTION:** Shire of Nannup to distribute firebreak contractors list to FCOs.

This recommendation was endorsed without vote.

- 11.3** Mark Scott (Balingup Road FCO/DCBFCO) also questioned the call out policy is for FCO attending campfires without second person as a safety backup as occurred today.

Nathan Manning (CESM) and David Taylor (CEO) states that there is no formal policy and that it is a risk-based approach. Further discussion occurred regarding having a witness/second person. Discussion also occurred around calling the police and walking away if the situation became volatile.

- 11.4** Glen Delbridge (Darradup Captain) shared information on the fast fill trailer located at Darradup. A couple of finishing touches are still required but it is operational and can be set up at the river at the crossing. It required work to get it operational as the suction box did not seal so put a non-return valve on it instead.

**ACTION:** Darradup Bush Fire Brigade to create a document to assist in the set up of the other two trailers.

Nathan Manning (CESM) confirmed there are three trailers in total with the other two to be located at Cundinup and Nannup Brook.

Greg Hodgson (FPC) asked who built them. Peter Hastie (Carlotta FCO) stated Coastmac Trailers. Greg Hodgson went on to say FCOs at West Arthur developed a version of the fast fill trailer units should more trailers be purchased.

Glen Delbridge (Darradup Captain) stated he was happy to assist with setting up the other two trailers.

Victor Lorkiewicz (East Nannup FCO) questioned if the pumpers have lights on them. Glen Delbridge (Darradup Captain) stated they did not and a spare vehicle with side lights or a lighting plant would be required.

- 11.5** Mike Vasey (North Nannup FCO) informed the meeting that he would be away for seven months until November 2024. He has sourced Paul Lamers as acting FCO in his absence.

- 11.6** Mike Piper (Darradup Lieutenant) asked about a debrief on the Jalbarragup fire as the appropriate forum to bring up issues. David Taylor (CEO) stated he had spoken with John Patman (Darradup FCO) who had said a debrief was not required.

**ACTION:** Shire of Nannup to organise a debrief for the Jalbarragup fire as used to occur where all brigades are invited.

Ed Hatherley (DBCA) stated that DBCA could attend the Local Government debrief and then a representative from Local Government could attend the DBCA debrief.

Further discussion occurred regarding the communication shared with the community during the fire, particularly when the smoke was being created through the DBCA ignition.

Andy Thompson (DFES) confirmed that the debrief process for many Local Governments is to take a form to the brigade to collate information on. The form and a representative can then attend the debrief. Carey Curtis (Nannup Brook FCO) confirmed that this is the process that used to occur with Shire led debriefs in the past.

**11.7** Victor Lorkiewicz (East Nannup FCO) asked why WA Plantation Resources (WAPRES) do not attend the BFAC meetings. Greg Hodgson (FPC) stated that they attend a regional meeting, and he is happy to take issues or comments to them there. Discussion occurred around WAPRES falling trees in extreme weather.

**11.8** Nathan Manning (CESM) brought up the Standard Operating Procedure and Local Law documents that were provided at the last meeting. He said all feedback provided has been taken onboard. He requested that all brigades get feedback to him or let him know if they don't have any feedback.

**11.9** Nathan Manning (CESM) stated that training season is approaching, and he will send the calendar out.

**11.10** Mike Piper (Darradup Lieutenant) asked whether carrying chainsaws on fire appliances was allowed. Lots of discussion occurred regarding this question with the general outcome being yes but only if suitable training has been undertaken. Nathan Manning (CESM) said that there is a DFES chainsaw course that is free for brigade members.

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

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Monday 6 May 2024 starting at 7pm at the Nannup SES.

**13 CLOSURE OF MEETING:**

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Meeting closed at 8:30pm.