



# **Minutes**

**Bush Fire  
Advisory Committee**

**Tuesday 25 May 2017**



**Bush Fire Advisory Committee – 25 May 2017**  
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### Notice of Meeting

The Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting was held at the Shire of Murray Councillors Lounge and Chambers at 1915 Pinjarra Road, Pinjarra on Thursday 25 May 2017 commencing at 6:32pm.

#### Important Notes

It should be noted that decisions of this Committee are only recommendations to and not decisions of Council. Committee recommendations should therefore not be acted on or otherwise relied upon until Council has formally considered and decided on the Committee recommendations.

#### 1. ATTENDANCES

##### Members

Cr. C Thompson (Presiding Member)	Councillor, Shire of Murray
Ms. D Walker	CESC, Shire of Murray
Mr. R Wilson	CBFCO and FCO, West Murray VBFB
Mr. B Armstrong	FCO, Dwellingup VBFB
Mr. M Webster	DCBFCO and FCO, North Dandalup VBFB
Mr. D McLarty	FCO, Coolup VBFB
Mr. D McGuinness (Proxy)	Brigade Captain, South Yunderup/Ravenswood VBFB
Mr. Kevin Jones	FCO, Pinjarra VFRS

##### Ex-Officio

Mr. B Finlay	District Officer – South West Region, Rural, DFES
Mr. S Gunn	Fire Operations Officer – Perth Hills District, P&W
Mr. R Porter	Manager Ranger and Emergency Services, Shire of Murray
Ms. D Biggs	RESSO/Minute Secretary, Shire of Murray

##### Guests

Mr. Ken Jones	Brigade Captain, Pinjarra VFRS
Mr. S Kirkham	Brigade Captain, Coolup VBFB

#### 2. ABSENT

##### Members

Mr. J Camplin	Training Coordinator/FCO, South Yunderup/Ravenswood VBFB
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##### Ex-Officio

Ms. C Goff	RESSO/Minute Secretary, Shire of Murray
Mr. S Hurd	Fire Operations Officer – Swan Coastal District, P&W

**3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING****3.1 Confirmation of Minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting – Tuesday 3 May 2016****COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:****BFAC17/001****Moved: Mr. R Wilson****That the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting held on Tuesday 3 May 2016 be confirmed as a true and correct record.****CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8:0**

*Committee Recommendation BFAC17/001 was carried by the Council at the 22 June 2017 Ordinary Council meeting as per resolution OCM17/118.*

**3.2 Confirmation of Minutes of the Special Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting – Thursday 29 September 2016****COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:****BFAC17/002****Moved: Mr. R Wilson****That the minutes of the Special Bush Fire Advisory Committee meetings held on Thursday 29 September 2016 be confirmed as a true and correct record.****CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8:0**

*Committee Recommendation BFAC17/002 was carried by the Council at the 22 June 2017 Ordinary Council meeting as per resolution OCM17/118.*

**4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Nil

## 5. BUSINESS ARISING

### 5.1 Structure of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee

File Ref: 1804  
Previous Items: Nil  
Author and Title: Donna Walker (Community Emergency Services Coordinator)

#### **Introduction**

To determine the membership and structure of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC) and provide a recommendation to Council on that structure. It was identified that the membership and structure of the BFAC committee was not reviewed at the last BFAC meeting held on Tuesday 3 May 2016.

#### **Background/Proposal**

The existing membership of the Shire of Murray BFAC was determined at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 13 August 2015 (OCM15/189), as follows –

1. *Cr C Thompson JP, Shire of Murray Community Emergency Service Coordinator (CESC), Fire Control Officers from the Coolup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, Dwellingup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, North Dandalup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, South Yunderup/Ravenswood Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and West Murray Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, a representative from the Pinjarra Fire and Rescue Services be appointed to the Bush Fire Advisory Committee expiring on 15 October 2015; and*
2. *the following be appointed Ex-Officio (advisory capacity only) representative from the Department of the Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), two representatives from the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) (one from the Swan Coastal District and one from Perth Hills District) and Shire of Murray Manager Ranger and Emergency Services.*

It is recommended that the existing abovementioned BFAC membership be maintained excepting the following modifications;

1. Change Cr. C Thompson JP to Shire of Murray Councillor; and,
2. Appoint the Shire of Murray Ranger and Emergency Services Support Officer/Minute Secretary onto the BFAC membership as an Ex-Officio member.

Elections of volunteer officer positions are undertaken annually however this does not affect the BFAC membership structure. A Fire Control Officer (FCO) automatically becomes a member of BFAC because of their brigade appointment. Therefore as the BFAC membership is role based it is recommended that the structure be endorsed until otherwise amended by the BFAC or Council.

#### **Consultation**

- *Bush Fires Act 1954*
- Council Records
- Council Staff
- Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
- Bush Fire Advisory Committee minutes

## Sustainability Implications

*Economic - (Financial Impact to the Community)*

Nil.

*Social- (Quality of life to community and/or affected landowners)*

There is no impact on the quality of life of the community.

*Environment – (Impact on environment's sustainability)*

Not Applicable.

*Governance/Risk Statement – (Policy Implications/Level of Risk)*

There are no policy implications and the level of risk is considered to be low if the recommendation is endorsed. The proposed membership is in accordance with the provisions of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*.

## Strategic Outcomes

*Murray 2025- Strategic Community Plan*

<b>Objective 3</b>	
<i>A connected, safe and inclusive community that provides for, and lobbies for accessible services for all residents.</i>	
<b>Outcome</b> <i>3.4 A safe Shire where our residents feel secure.</i>	<b>Strategies</b> <i>3.4.1 Support the community in emergency and bush fire management planning, response and recovery.</i>

## Statutory Environment

*Section 67 Bush Fires Act 1954*  
*Shire of Murray Standing Orders Local Law 2007*

## Options

The Committee has the option of:

1. Recommending to Council to endorse the recommendation.
2. Rejecting the proposal.

## Financial Implications

There is no financial implication associated with this proposal.



### **Conclusion/Justification of Officer Recommendation**

It is recommended that the existing BFAC membership that was determined at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 13 August 2015, be maintained excepting the following modifications;

1. Change Cr. C Thompson JP to Shire of Murray Councillor; and,
2. Appoint the Shire of Murray Ranger and Emergency Services Support Officer/Minute Secretary onto the BFAC membership as an Ex-Officio member.

It is recommended that the Bush Fire Advisory Committee advise Council that the following structure be endorsed and remain in effect until otherwise amended by the BFAC or Council.

### **Voting Requirements**

Simple Majority

#### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council accepts the following Committee recommendation, that;

1. Shire of Murray Councillor, Shire of Murray Community Emergency Service Coordinator (CESC), Fire Control Officers from the Coolup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, Dwellingup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, North Dandalup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, South Yunderup/Ravenswood Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and West Murray Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, a representative from the Pinjarra Fire and Rescue Services be appointed to the Bush Fire Advisory Committee,
2. the following be appointed Ex-Officio (advisory capacity only) representative from the Department of the Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), two representatives from the Department of Parks and Wildlife (P&W) (one from the Swan Coastal District and one from Perth Hills District), Shire of Murray Manager Ranger and Emergency Services and Shire of Murray Ranger and Emergency Services Support Officer/Minutes Secretary; and,
3. that the abovementioned Bush Fire Advisory Committee structure be included in the Appointment of Committees of Councillors/Employees/Other Persons at the next Council Meeting immediately following the 2017 Local Government Council Elections.

Moved: Mr. D McLarty

That Council accepts the following Committee recommendation, that;

1. Shire of Murray Councillor, Fire Control Officers from the Coolup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, Dwellingup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, North Dandalup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, South Yunderup/Ravenswood Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and West Murray Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, a representative from the Pinjarra Fire and Rescue Services be appointed to the Bush Fire Advisory Committee,
2. the following be appointed Ex-Officio (advisory capacity only) representative from the Department of the Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), two representatives from

the Department of Parks and Wildlife (P&W) (one from the Swan Coastal District and one from Perth Hills District), Shire of Murray Community Emergency Service Coordinator (CESC), Shire of Murray Manager Ranger and Emergency Services and Shire of Murray Ranger and Emergency Services Support Officer/Minutes Secretary; and,

3. that the abovementioned Bush Fire Advisory Committee structure be included in the Appointment of Committees of Councillors/Employees/Other Persons at the next Council Meeting immediately following the 2017 Local Government Council Elections.

**Foreshadowed Motion:**

**Mr. R Wilson** gave verbal notice of his intention to move the following motion, should the substantive motion currently under debate be defeated or withdrawn.

**That Council accepts the following Committee recommendation, that;**

1. **Shire of Murray Councillor, Shire of Murray Community Emergency Service Coordinator (CESC), Fire Control Officers from the Coolup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, Dwellingup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, North Dandalup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, South Yunderup/Ravenswood Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and West Murray Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, a representative from the Pinjarra Fire and Rescue Services be appointed to the Bush Fire Advisory Committee,**
2. **the following be appointed Ex-Officio (advisory capacity only) representative from the Department of the Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), two representatives from the Department of Parks and Wildlife (P&W) (one from the Swan Coastal District and one from Perth Hills District), Shire of Murray Manager Ranger and Emergency Services and Shire of Murray Ranger and Emergency Services Support Officer/Minutes Secretary; and,**
3. **that the abovementioned Bush Fire Advisory Committee structure be included in the Appointment of Committees of Councillors/Employees/Other Persons at the next Council Meeting immediately following the 2017 Local Government Council Elections.**

The motion moved by Mr. D McLarty was PUT and was

LOST 1:7

Following the result of voting, names are recorded as follows:

For: Mr. D McLarty

Against: Cr. C Thompson JP, Mr. B Armstrong, Mr. Kevin Jones, Mr. D McGuinness, Ms. D Walker, Mr. M Webster and Mr. R Wilson

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

**The Motion moved by Mr. R Wilson was PUT and was**

**CARRIED 7:1**

Following the result of voting, names are recorded as follows:

For: Cr. C Thompson JP, Mr. B Armstrong, Mr. Kevin Jones, Mr. D McGuinness,  
Ms. D Walker, Mr. M Webster and Mr. R Wilson

Against: Mr. D McLarty

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

**BFAC17/003**

**That Council accepts the following Committee recommendation, that;**

- 1. Shire of Murray Councillor, Shire of Murray Community Emergency Service Coordinator (CESC), Fire Control Officers from the Coolup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, Dwellingup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, North Dandalup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, South Yunderup/Ravenswood Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and West Murray Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, a representative from the Pinjarra Fire and Rescue Services be appointed to the Bush Fire Advisory Committee,**
- 2. the following be appointed Ex-Officio (advisory capacity only) representative from the Department of the Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), two representatives from the Department of Parks and Wildlife (P&W) (one from the Swan Coastal District and one from Perth Hills District), Shire of Murray Manager Ranger and Emergency Services and Shire of Murray Ranger and Emergency Services Support Officer/Minutes Secretary; and,**
- 3. that the abovementioned Bush Fire Advisory Committee structure be included in the Appointment of Committees of Councillors/Employees/Other Persons at the next Council Meeting immediately following the 2017 Local Government Council Elections.**

*Committee Recommendation BFAC17/003 was carried by the Council at the 22 June 2017 Ordinary Council meeting as per resolution OCM17/115.*

## 5.2 **Election of Presiding Member**

File Ref: 1809  
Previous Items: Nil  
Author and Title: Donna Walker (Community Emergency Services Coordinator)

### **APPENDIX 1**

#### **Introduction**

To elect a Presiding Member for the Shire of Murray Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC).

#### **Background/Proposal**

Council Committees elect their own Presiding Member from the relevant committee membership. A Presiding Member's term of appointment is until the next Council election or the incumbent resigns.

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 26 May 2016 (OCM16/109) council endorsed the following;

*That Cr C Thompson (Chairperson) is elected as the Chairperson of the Shire of Murray Bush Fire Advisory Committee expiring on 21 October 2017.*

A written nomination as detailed at **Appendix 1** has been received from Cr. Christine Thompson JP for the position of BFAC Chairperson.

#### **Consultation**

- *Bush Fires Act 1954*
- Council Records
- Bush Fire Advisory Committee minutes

#### **Sustainability Implications**

*Economic - (Financial Impact to the Community)*

Nil.

*Social- (Quality of life to community and/or affected landowners)*

There is no impact on the quality of life of the community.

*Environment – (Impact on environment's sustainability)*

Not Applicable.

*Governance/Risk Statement – (Policy Implications/Level of Risk)*

There are no policy implications and the level of risk is considered to be low if the recommendation is endorsed.

## Strategic Outcomes

*Murray 2025- Strategic Community Plan*

<b>Objective 3</b>	
<i>A connected, safe and inclusive community that provides for, and lobbies for accessible services for all residents.</i>	
<b>Outcome</b> <i>3.4 A safe Shire where our residents feel secure.</i>	<b>Outcome</b> <i>3.4 A safe Shire where our residents feel secure.</i>

## Statutory Environment

Section 67 *Bush Fires Act 1954*  
*Shire of Murray Standing Orders Local Law 2007*

## Options

The Committee has the option of:

1. Recommending to Council to endorse the recommendation.
2. Rejecting the proposal.

## Financial Implications

There is no financial implication associated with this proposal.

<p><b>COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:</b> <b>BFAC17/004</b> <b>Moved: Mr. D McLarty</b></p> <p><b>That Council accepts the following Committee recommendation to endorse Cr. C Thompson JP as the Chairperson of the Shire of Murray Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC) expiring on 21 October 2017.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8:0</b></p>
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*Committee Recommendation BFAC17/004 was carried by the Council at the 22 June 2017 Ordinary Council meeting as per resolution OCM17/116.*

### 5.3 Election of Officers for the 2017/2018 Fire Season

File Ref: 1809  
Previous Items: Nil  
Author and Title: Donna Walker (Community Emergency Services Coordinator)

#### APPENDICES 2 & 3

#### **Introduction**

For the Bush Fire Advisory Committee to elect and recommend appointments required under the *Bush Fires Act 1954* and other appointments as deemed necessary.

#### **Background/Proposal**

Brigade Fire Control Officers appointments at brigade level are determined by each brigade at their respective Annual General Meetings (AGM) and this supports the Council BFAC membership structure.

Each year at the BFAC meeting, nominations are received for appointment to the following positions.

- Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
- Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer/s
- Fire Control Officers (Bush Fire Permit issuing only)
- Fire Weather Officer
- Deputy Fire Weather Officer
- Shire Training Coordinator

With the introduction of delegated authority in recent years the endorsement of Fire Control Officers appointments by Council is no longer required as the Chief Executive Officer has the delegated authority under Section 48 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* to appoint Fire Control Officers, inclusive of a Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officers and Fire Weather Officers. The appointment of Fire Weather Officers requires additional DFES endorsement.

Accordingly the proposal presented is for the Committee to support the appointment of the brigade nominated Fire Control Officers from the Coolup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, Dwellingup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, North Dandalup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, South Yunderup/Ravenswood Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and West Murray Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade as Fire Control Officers in the district.

Attached at **Appendix 2** for information purposes are the Shire of Murray Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades AGM minutes that detail the appointments of Brigade Officers in each of the Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades, including Fire Control Officers and Permit Issuing Officers.

Written nominations as detailed at **Appendix 3** have been received from Mr. Robert Wilson and Mr. Michael Webster for the position of Chief Bush Fire Control Officer. Mr. Michael Webster and Mr. Benjamin Armstrong have provided a nomination for the position of Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer. Additionally Mr. James Camplin has forwarded a nomination for the Shire Training Coordinator and Fire Weather Officer positions.

The Committee is also required to identify a suitable member from the Pinjarra Fire and Rescue Services Brigade to be appointed as a Fire Control Officer and any other brigade representative to be appointed as Fire Control Officer/s for permit issuing only.

The Shire Rangers, the Community Emergency Service Coordinator (CESC) and the Manager of Ranger and Emergency Services are appointed as Fire Control Officers and prosecutors, as required, under the provisions of the *Bush Fire Act 1954* at the time of their employment. There is no need to appoint or amend the appointments of these officers.

**Consultation**

- *Bush Fires Act 1954*
- Council Records
- Council Staff
- Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
- Bush Fire Advisory Committee minutes

**Sustainability Implications**

*Economic – (Financial impact to the community)*

There are no economic impacts on the community.

*Social – (Quality of life to community and/or affected landowners)*

The appointments support the community and there is no negative impact on the quality of life.

*Environment – (Impact on environment’s sustainability)*

There is no negative impact on the natural or built environment.

*Governance/Risk Statement – (Policy Implications/level of risk)*

There are no policy implications and the level of risk is considered to be low if the recommendation is endorsed. The proposed appointments under delegated authority are in accordance with the provisions of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*.

**Strategic Outcomes**

*Murray 2025 – Strategic Community Plan*

<b>Objective 3</b>	
<i>A connected, safe and inclusive community that provides for, and lobbies for accessible services for all residents.</i>	
<b>Outcome</b> <i>3.4 A safe Shire where our residents feel secure.</i>	<b>Outcome</b> <i>3.4 A safe Shire where our residents feel secure.</i>

**Statutory Environment**

Fire Control Officers, Fire Control Officers (Permit Issuing Only) & Chief & Deputy Chief Fire Control Officers.

Section 38 (1) of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* (**'the Act'**) states that a local government may from time to time appoint such persons as it thinks necessary to be its bush fire control officers under and for the purposes of the Act, and of those officers shall subject to section 38A(2) appoint 2 as the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and the Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer who shall be first and second in seniority of those officers, and subject thereto may determine the respective seniority of the other bush fire control officers appointed by it. The appointment of Fire Control Officers may be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer under Section 48 of the Act.

A local government or a person delegated the authority shall cause notice of an appointment made under the provisions of subsection (1) to be published at least once in a newspaper circulating in its district.

#### Fire Weather & Deputy Fire Weather Officers

Section 38 (6) (c) An approved local government may appoint to the office of fire weather officer such number of senior bush fire control officers as it thinks necessary. The appointment of Fire Weather officers may also be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer under Section 48 of the Act.

- (ca) Where more than one fire weather officer is appointed by a local government the local government shall define a part of its district in which each fire weather officer shall have the exclusive right to exercise the power conferred by paragraph (h).
- (cb) An approved local government may appoint one or more persons, as it thinks necessary, to be the deputy or deputies, as the case may be, of a fire weather officer appointed by the local government and where 2 or more deputies are so appointed they shall have seniority in the order determined by the local government.
- (cc) Where the office of a fire weather officer is vacant or whilst the occupant is absent or unable to act in the discharge of the duties of the office, any deputy appointed in respect of that office under paragraph (cb) is, subject to paragraph (cd), entitled to act in the discharge of the duties of that office.
- (cd) A deputy who is one of 2 or more deputies of a fire weather officer is not entitled to act in the discharge of the duties of the office of that fire weather officer if a deputy who has precedence over him in the order of seniority determined under paragraph (cb) is available and able to discharge those duties.
- (d) The local government shall give notice of an appointment made under paragraph (c) or (cb) to the Authority and cause notice of the appointment to be published at least once in a newspaper circulating in its district and the Authority shall cause notice of the appointment to be published once in the *Government Gazette*.
- (h) A fire weather officer of an approved local government, or a deputy of that fire weather officer while acting in the place of that officer, may authorise a person who has received a permit under section 18(6)(a), to burn the bush in the district of the local government notwithstanding that for any day, or any period of a day, specified in the notice the fire danger forecast issued by the Bureau of Meteorology in Perth, in respect to the locality where the bush proposed to be burnt is situated, is "extreme" or "very high", and upon the authority being given the person, if he has otherwise complied with the conditions prescribed for the purposes of section 18, may burn the bush.



- (i) This subsection does not authorise the burning of bush during the prohibited burning times.

Note: Fire Weather Officers must be appointed as Fire Control Officers pursuant to clause (6) (c).

#### **Section 48 Delegation by local governments**

- (1) A local government may, in writing, delegate to its chief executive officer the performance of any of its functions under this Act.
- (2) Performance by the chief executive officer of a local government of a function delegated under subsection (1) —
  - (a) is taken to be in accordance with the terms of a delegation under this section, unless the contrary is shown; and
  - (b) is to be treated as performance by the local government.
- (3) A delegation under this section does not include the power to sub-delegate.
- (4) Nothing in this section is to be read as limiting the ability of a local government to act through its council, members of staff or agents in the normal course of business.

The Shire Training Coordinator position is not an appointment specified within the Act. Council has traditionally recognised this position to assist the Shire in certain functions.

#### **Options**

The Committee has the option of:

1. Recommending to Council to endorse the recommendation.
2. Rejecting the proposal.

#### **Financial Implications**

The cost of advertising the appointments is provided in the annual Shire of Murray budget.

#### **Conclusion/Justification of Officer Recommendation**

The Committee recommendations are to be used by the Chief Executive Officer under delegated authority to formally appoint persons in accordance with the provisions of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* to the following positions;

- Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
- Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
- Fire Control Officers
- Fire Control Officers (Bush Fire Permit issuing only)
- Fire Weather Officer
- Deputy Fire Weather Officer
- Shire Training Coordinator

## Voting Requirements

Simple Majority

### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

**BFAC17/005**

**Moved: Mr. B Armstrong**

**That Council accepts the following Committee recommendation to appoint of the following persons by delegated authority for the 2017/2018 Fire Season;**

<b>Chief Bush Fire Control Officer</b>	<b>Mr. Robert Wilson</b>
<b>Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer</b>	<b>Mr. Benjamin (Ben) Armstrong</b>
<b>Fire Control Officers</b>	<b>Mr. Douglas McLarty – Coolup VBFB Mr. Ben Armstrong – Dwellingup VBFB Mr. Michael Webster – North Dandalup VBFB Mr. James (Jim) Camplin – South Yunderup / Ravenswood VBFB Mr. Robert Wilson – West Murray VBFB Mr. Kevin Jones – Pinjarra VFRS</b>
<b>Fire Control Officers (Permit issuing only)</b>	<b>Mr. Chris Sattler – Coolup VBFB Mr. Lance Pitter – Coolup VBFB Mr. Dave Turner – Dwellingup VBFB Mr. Jamie McBride – South Yunderup / Ravenswood VBFB Cr. Christine Thompson JP – West Murray VBFB</b>
<b>Fire Weather Officer</b>	<b>Mr. Jim Camplin</b>
<b>Deputy Fire Weather Officer</b>	<b>Community Emergency Services Coordinator</b>
<b>Shire Training Coordinator/s</b>	<b>Mr. Jim Camplin Community Emergency Services Coordinator</b>

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 8:0**

*Committee Recommendation BFAC17/005 was carried by the Council at the 22 June 2017 Ordinary Council meeting as per resolution OCM17/117.*

## **6. REPORTS – EXTERNAL AGENCIES**

### **6.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer's Report**

This year would have to have been one of the quietest years we have had in regards to fires for a long time.

Two significant fires we had in the shire was one in Furnissdale that had all crews at plus water bombers and helitacs and the other was one that was on the border of Mandurah and Murray shire on an island. This particular fire lasted just over a week and saw the deployment of the fire boat for three of those days. Thank you to everyone that assisted at these fires.

Training was a success once again with heaps of people doing their catch up training for courses, so thank you all.

Vehicle damage this year was at an all-time low and I'm putting it down to people driving in a more defensive way.

I would like to thank the girls in the rangers department for their assistance and also the rangers. Special thanks must go to Ms. D Walker and Mr. R Porter for all their assistance, also to staff in the shire thank you.

To all the brigades and their officers thank you for your ongoing assistance.

### **6.2 Shire Training Coordinator's Report**

Nil

### **6.3 Community Emergency Services Coordinator's Report**

Since the last BFAC meeting a number of initiatives have been completed including the following;

- Vehicle Servicing and Repairs. We had quite a few insurance claims for damages to appliances and the majority of them have now been completed. However, that there some of these that were postponed until after the fire season.
- Oversee the installation of CPP and AVL systems to the appliances with some still waiting for fitment.
- Completion of the LGGS 2017/2018 submission.
- Development of the Shire of Murray Training Calendar and the attainment of extra TRK holders for volunteers to enhance our training capability.
- Roadshow of the eAcademy and the insertion of the Shire of Murray training calendar on the eAcademy.
- Attendance at the South Yunderup AGM. Thank you for making me feel welcome.

Some of the projects that are currently being worked on include;

- Review of the Bushfire Management Arrangements, Brigade Support Documentation and the Shire of Murray Fire Prevention Plan for 2017/18.

Finally I would like to thank everybody for your support and assistance over the last 12 months and I look forward to continuing our working relationships.

In particular, thank you to Mr. R Porter and Mr. B Finlay for being supportive of me from a professional development and mentoring perspective.

Thanks to Mr. R Wilson and Mr. B Armstrong it's been a challenging year and your continual support to the Shire and our volunteers is appreciated.

Finally, thank you to the FCO's, Cr. C Thompson, Ms. D Biggs and Ms. Goff and the staff at DFES SW RHQ for your ongoing support.

#### **6.4 DFES Representative's Report**

Mr. B Finlay has been filling the role of District Officer (Murray) since the 5th December 2016 still ongoing.

Glad to say it's been a very quiet fire season this year, very unusual season with rain and flooding during the summer in the South West of the state.

On behalf of DFES and personally myself thank you for your support and commitment over the past fire season, whilst it has been quiet I was always assured of crews and vehicles ready to respond as required from the Murray Shire brigades.

Crew Protection Systems have been installed to many vehicles in the patch and will continue during the remainder of the year.

Automatic Vehicle location system (AVL's) installed throughout the state with most appliances within the Shire of Murray completed.

#### **6.5 P&W Representative's Report**

P&W has had a quiet 2016/17 fire season. P&W had a very successful burning season burning 238,000 hectares, with 500 hectares burnt within the Shire of Murray district. Burns in the Shire of Murray took place in the hills area, on the border of the Shire of Murray and Shire of Boddington, also along the Shire of Murray and Shire of Waroona border.

Mr. S Gunn thanked Dwellingup VBFB members for their assistance.

#### **6.6 Association of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades Representative's Report**

The association has been working toward improving the business in;

- a) Complying with the new constitutional law changes,
- b) Achieving DGR status,
- c) Working closely with the Labor Government on having an independent RFS,
- d) Working closely with DFES on all matters pertaining to VBFBs,
- e) Attending ROAC, DOAC and RTAC meetings and
- f) Having association meetings in different Regions engaging BFBs in the area during the year.

## 6.7 Volunteer Brigade Reports

### 6.7.1 Coolup VBFB

Mr. D McLarty advised that the Coolup VBFB have maintained a strong membership. It has been identified that a lack of courses is proving to be an issue especially with shift workers.

There has been small office bearing changes within the brigade from the last AGM.

A long burning window was well received by the rural landowners in preparation for the winter months, allowing them to burn paddocks and green waste. The brigade faced some small issues in obtaining approvals on some burns by Government Departments where rare flora was identified.

### 6.7.2 Dwellingup VBFB

We had an interesting start to the fire season with some differences to overcome and I hope that we can move on for the greater of the community.

Very quiet fire season with no complaints for Dwellingup! New COG mapping system utilised twice with success, DWP Brigade have completed their scheduled burns, still some work to do around the local residents deciphering the fire break notice... Our cadets are coming along great and Mr. B Warr is doing an exceptional job in this space.

To all the New/Old officers re-elected congratulations and let's have a safe and quiet 2017/18 fire season.

I would like to thank all of our volunteers with in our Murray Shire group for their efforts this fire season....Job well done and safely.

Mr. R Porter, Ms D Walker, Ms. C Goff and the team...thanks for your support.

### 6.7.3 North Dandalup VBFB

The brigade has had a very quiet year compared to the last few years. The climatic conditions being encountered is "all" or "nothing" when it comes to the planning of mitigation treatments within our area. The 40 year old fuel sitting above the town is of concern and the brigade is endeavoring to reduce the hazards within the town with the help of the community so we don't become another Yarloop.

Training within the brigade continues and we are planning to hold an Intro to Bushfire Fighting and bushfire fighting over the winter months. We have eight new members which need to be trained prior to next season subject to FIFO and other overseas duties.

The cadets fit in with most of our training and enjoyed the Cadet Camp weekend at "Fairbridge".

The sausage sizzle fundraiser at Bunnings was well worth the effort and hopefully will commit when the occasion arises again.

Thanks to all brigades who continue to support us when needed and thanks to the Shire for their continued support.

Disappointing that the amendment to the fire break order was not presented at the BFAC.

#### 6.7.4 South Yunderup/Ravenswood VBFB

Nil

#### 6.7.5 West Murray VBFB

This year was a relatively quiet season as far as calls go for West Murray, up until last Friday night we had had a total of 64 calls. Even though the fire calls were down we manage to keep ourselves busy with block burns and station renovations.

Our LT went away and had all its modifications done with the main one being the in cab air which I hope everyone is familiar with by now. Currently our 2.4 is away getting its modifications done for the crew cab protection system and hopefully we will have it back prior to summer.

It was good to see so many of our people doing their catch up training prior to the fire season.

This year I wrote out 26 permits with only one person needing assistance when there fire got too big for them to handle.

Thank you to the staff in the rangers department for all their assistance over the last twelve months, we look forward to working with you all again in the next year.

### 7. MOTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT MEETING

Nil

### 8. NEXT MEETING

To be advised.

### 9. CLOSE

There being no further business the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed the time being 7:12pm.