

# SHIRE OF WANDERING

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## *Our Vision:*

*Wandering is a community of responsible, resilient and adaptable residents thriving in our scenic, economically diverse environment.*

# BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE GENERAL MEETING

## Minutes 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021

*We wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on today. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the Shire of Wandering, and convey our respects to Elders past and present*

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# BFAC – GENERAL MEETING - MINUTES

## 1. DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

Meeting opened at 7:00pm. Cr Turton took the Chair.

## 2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES

<b>Present:</b>				
Peter Monk, CFCO	Cr Ian Turton, Chairman, Shire	Graeme Parsons Shire	Shaun Brand, Wandering Town	Brendon Hardie, Codjatown
Graham Treasure, DCFCO	Chris Phoebe, Parks & Wildlife	Blake Halford DFES	Richard Bostock Hastings	Tim Treasure Wandering
Dean Warburton Codjatown	Adam Watts Hastings	Stephen Watts Wandering	Anthony Turton Hastings	Melvin Schorer Codjatown
Barry Gibbs, EMTS	Belinda Knight, CEO			
<b>Apologies:</b>				
Nil				

## 3. CHARTER

*The purpose of the Committee is defined by section 67 of the Bush Fires Act which prescribes that the Committee is to advise Council regarding all matters relating to the preventing, controlling and extinguishing of bush fires, the planning of the layout of firebreaks in the district, prosecutions for breaches of the Bush Fires Act, the formation of bush fire brigades, the ensuring of cooperation and co-ordination of bush fire brigades in their efforts and activities and any other matter relating to bush fire control.*

## 4. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHIEF BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICER & DEPUTY CHIEF BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICER

### 4.1. CHIEF FIRE CONTROL OFFICER

Noted that the unrestricted fire season by two weeks.

Expressed concerns regarding fire pits on the market that may be used at camp sites.

### 4.2. DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE CONTROL OFFICER

Concerned regarding the state of wooden bridges in the Shire. EMTS advised that the Shire is hopeful in securing funding to undertaking appropriate clearing.

## 5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

### 5.1. BFAC AGM MEETING HELD – 31/03/2021

#### **DECISION**

Moved Peter Monk

Seconded Shaun Brand

That the Minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Annual General Meeting held 31/03/2021 be confirmed as a true and correct record of proceedings without amendment.

**CARRIED**

## 6. GENERAL BUSINESS

### 6.1. DISCUSSION REGARDING MAJOR PURCHASES FOR 2021/22

- Upgrade to Wandering Fire Station
  - a. EMTS advised that funding for upgrade to the fire station was successful. Works to commence as soon as possible.
- Placement of Emergency Water Tanks (Fire Use only)
  - a. EMTS advised that funding for emergency water tanks at four locations was successful. Discussion on suitable locations.

### 6.2. UPDATE ON ANNUAL GRANT AND EQUIPMENT

- Brigade Priorities
  - a. Noted that any equipment that is needed must be advised to the Shire before February 2022 to enable it to be included in the grant submission.
- Satellite Phones Sleeves
  - a. Appear to be working well.
  - b. Tim Treasure queried if a phone booster could be purchased for the Fire Truck. (Cell Fire)
- Replacement Fridge/Freezer
- Fire Station Stand Pipe Pump
- PPE Equipment replacement and purchase
  - a. Noted that equipment available after the meeting.
- Purchases since April 2021
  - a. Satellite mobile phone sleeves
  - b. Upgraded water tanks for Fire Station
  - c. New helmets for FCO and head torches
  - d. Repaired Fire Station lighting
  - e. Serviced fire trucks - pumps

### 6.3. UPDATE ON ANNUAL GRANT AND EQUIPMENT

- Purchases since April 2021
  - a. Purchase two mobile phones for CFCO & DCFCO
  - b. Road Hazard Signs for Fire Trucks

### 6.4. FAST ATTACK UNIT

- High Season
- Campout weekend
  - a. Regular meetings being attended by CBFCO. Fast Attack coming on loan from Cuballing.

### 6.5. UPDATE ON WAERN RADIOS

- Proposed fortnightly call to Shire bases station so to confirm radios are working;
  - a. Agreed to trial
- Shire requesting notifications of any required servicing prior to 30 October 2021
  - a. Noted – none known at this stage.

### 6.6. FIRE BREAK INSPECTIONS

- WA Ranger Services has completed property inspections for the town area and rural residential properties on the 22 September. Letters have been sent to land owners advising them that their property currently doesn't comply with the Shire of Wandering Bushfire Notice 2021/22. The next inspection will be on or after the 30 October for compliance, an infringement notice will be issued and given 14 days to comply or the Shire will arrange for the work to be completed and invoice the land owner.

- If any FCO's have any rural properties of concern please advise the Shire so the Ranger can inspect.

#### **6.7. WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT 2020**

- Discussion on Bushfire Volunteers and actions required
  - a. Noted that a lot of discussion in this area. It is serious for volunteers who will be classified as "employees" under the new Act. Extensive discussion on the matter.

#### **6.8. BUSH FIRE NOTICE**

- Bush Fire Notice for 2020/21 was sent out with the Rate Notice

#### **6.9. GENERAL BUSINESS**

- Season Outlook
  - a. CBFCO concerned with amount of grass following the wet winter. Summer fuel loads will be higher than average. Diminishing number of volunteers is also a concern.
- Servicing of vehicles and plant
- Incident Reports
- CBFCO – thank you to the Shire for the SMS updates. Thank you to the volunteers as well.
- Cr Turton – noted that the EMTS and he attend the LEMC (Local Emergency Management Committee)
- CBFCO noted that volunteer BFB's cannot fight structural fires.
- Shaun Brand – thanks to EMTS for assisting the brigades.
- Tim Treasure – ROAC meeting – Boddington have fitted out an old ambulance as a mobile command centre. Concerns regarding the old Mission property and the lack of management of the bush land.
- DFES – suggested to utilise the Boddington mobile command centre.
- DFES – talk that Boddington are looking to apply for a CESM (Community Emergency Services Manager).
- DPAW to send through burning program.

#### **6.10. DUAL DEPUTY CHIEF BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICER**

- Shaun Brand advised he will stand down a dual Deputy Chief Fire Control Officer so to focus on the position as Captain of the Wandering Brigade due to Warrick Brand leaving the district.

#### **6.10 – DUAL DEPUTY CHIEF BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICER**

Moved Peter Monk

Seconded Graham Treasure

That the BFAC recommend to Council the appointment of Tim Treasure to replace Shaun Brand as Dual Deputy Chief Fire Control Officer.

**CARRIED**

#### **7. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:37pm