

Bush Fire Advisory Committee

MINUTES

Section 67 of the Bush Fires Act 1954

Tuesday 7 November 2017

Committee Brief:

To provide advice to the local government on matters pertaining to obligations contained within the Bush Fires Act, organising, managing, resourcing and training volunteer bush fire brigades.

Members as per Council Resolution No. 171/10/17

- Councillor Welburn, Council Member
- Councillor Rayner, Council Member
- Councillor Twine, Council Member
- Councillor Dow, Council Deputy Member
- Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
- Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer (DBFCO) 1
- Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer (DBFCO) 2
- Bejoording Brigade Representative
- Morangup Brigade Representative
- Coondle-Nunile Representative
- Julimar Brigade Representative
- Toodyay Central Bush Fire Brigade Representative
- Toodyay Volunteer Fire & Rescue Representative
- Fire Control Officer Representative
- Chief Executive Officer Shire of Toodyay
- Community Emergency Services Manager
- Department of Parks & Wildlife Representative
- Department of Fire & Emergency Services (DFES) Representative

Distribution

These minutes of meeting were approved for distribution on 13 November 2017.



Stan Scott
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

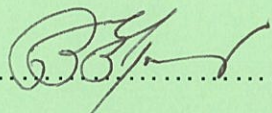
Please Note: These Minutes will remain "Unconfirmed" until the next Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting, where the Minutes will be tabled and confirmed subject to any amendments made by the Committee.

The "Confirmed" Minutes are then signed off by the Chairperson.

Attachments that formed part of the Agenda, in addition to those tabled at the Meeting are incorporated into a separate attachment to these Minutes.

Confirmation

These minutes of meeting were confirmed at a meeting held on 20th February 2018.....

Signed: .....

Note: The Presiding Member at the meeting at which the minutes were confirmed is the person who signs above.

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ATTACHMENT *with separate index follows Item 8*

Shire of Toodyay

MINUTES

1. OPENING PROCEDURES

The meeting was declared open at 6.03pm by the Community Emergency Services Manager.

1.1 Announcement of Visitors

J Hansen Bushfire Risk Management Program Coordinator

1.2 Record of Attendance and Apologies

Members

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Cr B Rayner | Shire President/Council Member (*Elected Chair at mtg.) |
| * Cr R Welburn | Council Member - apology |
| Cr E Twine | Council Member |
| Mr C Stewart | Chief Bush Fire Control Officer |
| Mr R Hunter | Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer (DBFCO) 1 |
| Mr R Koch | CESM/Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer (DBFCO) 2 |
| Mr B Grey | Bejoording Brigade Representative |
| Mr S Gamble | Morangup Brigade Representative |
| Mr C Stevens | Coondle-Nunile Representative |
| Mr S Holding | Julimar Brigade Representative |
| Mr M McKeown | Toodyay Central Bush Fire Brigade Representative |
| Mr C Wroth | Fire Control Officer Representative |
| Mr T Bendtsen | Department of Fire & Emergency Services (DFES) |

Staff


G Warburton Reserves Management Officer

Apologies

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Mr M Pasotti | Department of Parks & Wildlife Representative |
| Mr I McGregor | Toodyay Volunteer Fire & Rescue Representative |
| Mr S Scott | Chief Executive Officer Shire of Toodyay |
| Mr T McMahon | BRMP Officer, DFES |

Visitors

Nil

Signed: 
Presiding Member
Date: 20-02-18

2. ELECTION OF PRESIDING MEMBER

2.1 Election of Presiding Member - BFAC

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Date of Report: | 2 November 2017 |
| File Reference: | FIR3 |
| Author: | S Scott – CEO |
| Responsible Officer: | S Scott – CEO |
| Attachments: | Nil |

PURPOSE

To elect the position of Presiding Member of the Committee and if the Committee so chooses, a Deputy Presiding Member.

BACKGROUND

At a Special Council Meeting held on 23 October 2017, Council appointed the following members to the Bush Fire Advisory Committee:

- Councillor Welburn, Council Member
- Councillor Rayner, Council Member
- Councillor Twine, Council Member
- Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
- Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer (DBFCO) 1
- Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer (DBFCO) 2
- Bejoording Brigade Representative
- Morangup Brigade Representative
- Coondle-Nunile Representative
- Julimar Brigade Representative
- Toodyay Central Bush Fire Brigade Representative
- Toodyay Volunteer Fire & Rescue Representative
- Fire Control Officer Representative
- Chief Executive Officer Shire of Toodyay
- Community Emergency Services Manager
- Department of Parks & Wildlife Representative
- Department of Fire & Emergency Services (DFES) Representative\
- Councillor Dow, Council Deputy Member

OFFICER COMMENT

The CEO or Community Emergency Services Manager will preside over the meeting until the election of the Presiding Member has been completed.

If there is more than one nomination for either position, then members are to vote on the matter by secret ballot as if they were electors voting at an election.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

The Bush Fire Advisory Committee:

1. Elects as Presiding Member; and
2. Elects as Deputy Presiding Member.

Nominations were sought in relation to the Presiding Member.

Cr B Rayner nominated himself. As there were no other nominations, Cr Rayner was declared Chairperson of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee.

DECLARATION/BFAC MEETING RESOLUTION NO. 07/11/17

MOVED R Hunter

SECONDED Cr Twine

1. Cr B Rayner is elected as unopposed Chairperson of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

Cr Rayner assumed the Chair.

DECLARATION/BFAC MEETING RESOLUTION NO. 08/11/17

MOVED C Stewart

SECONDED B Grey

A Deputy Chairperson is to be nominated at a meeting where the elected Chairperson is an apology.

MOTION CARRIED

3. TABLING OF MINUTES AND STATUS REPORT

3.1 Minutes of Meeting held on 1 August 2017

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION/BFAC RESOLUTION NO. 09/11/17

MOVED R Koch

SECONDED C Stewart

That the Unconfirmed Minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held on 1 August 2017 be confirmed.

MOTION CARRIED

3.2 Matters arising from previous minutes

3.2.1 Current Status of the Volunteer Fuel Card Scheme

The Scheme is ongoing however at a reduced value (50% reduction).

3.2.2 Current Status of the Watering WA Grant

The Program was provided through funding in the State Budget. The Shire has been notified and is awaiting final signing of the funding agreement.

3.2.3 Current Progress of Brigade Membership Review?

All Brigades have provided membership advice and advice (bar one brigade's advice) has been actioned on the Shire and DFES lists.

3.2.4 Shire Fire Break Order – who's responsibility is it regarding trees overhanging property boundaries?

It is the landholder's responsibility to trim a tree overhanging from a neighbouring tenure if it is causing their property to be in breach of the firebreak order.

3.3 Review of the BFAC Status Report

The report was reviewed.

4. PRESENTATIONS OR EVENTS

4.1 Bushfire Risk Mitigation Project Presentation

J Hansen, Bushfire Risk Management Program Coordinator, provided an overview of his role and project objectives as follows:

- Objective to perform tenure blind bush fire risk assessments compliant with Westplan Fire.
- Working on four Local Government's (Beverly, York, Northam and Toodyay).
- Shire of Toodyay allocation – 2 days per fortnight.
- Supported by Tyron McMahon (Bushfire Risk Management Officer) – DFES Employee.
- No cost to Shire of Toodyay – Fully funded by DFES
- Assessments prioritised by Human Settlement and conducted with assistance of assessment software.

4.2 Compensation for Prescribed Cancers Presentation

R Koch, Community Emergency Services Manager, provided an overview of Compensation for Prescribed Cancers (*Presumptive Legislation*) for bush fire volunteers.

4.3 Report on events that took place perhaps

Nil

5. REPORTS FROM SHIRE OFFICERS

5.1 Report(s) from CESM

- Fire break inspections have commenced via ranger services;
- Recent RUI Exercise well attended;
- Thanks to Julimar Brigade for Catering at exercise;
- A reminder to all Captains to ensure that new members who have recently completed training to request PPE;
- Scott Promask Training Friday 17 Nov 2017;
- Incident Support Vehicle (ICV setup Friday 17 Nov 2017) – Call for members interested in becoming part for the ICV crew to attend; and
- Provided brief overview of recent 400MHz radio upgrades – Business as usual for BFBs.

5.2 Report(s) from CEO

Nil

6. BRIGADE UPDATES AND REPORTS

6.1 Roundtable discussion

6.1.1 Morangup BFB

Christmas Function coming up.

6.1.2 Toodyay Bush Fire Ready

J Hansen (Guest) Reported strong turnout of 57 people at recent Bush Fire Ready event held for Majestic Heights, Majestic Waters, Vernon Hills, Lozanda Heights.

6.1.3 Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)

A reminder to Test AVLs once a month a recent report generated by DFES showed this is not occurring. Call for experienced members who would like to receive IMT training and inclusion in IMT incidents and exercises. Julimar 1.4 expected by the end of the year.

6.1.4 FCO Representative

- St John will be conducting AED Training at Julimar Fire Shed Friday 17th November – offer open for same training to occur at other brigades.
- Julimar Mobile phone tower decision was overturned by council, allowing this to go ahead.
- Raised concern over FCO appointment process – prompted discussion:
 - CESM advised that candidates are put to BFAC to make a recommendation to council. Both BFAC and Council are provided a report

MINUTES OF BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON 1 NOVEMBER 2017

on training history and incident turnout rates for existing FCOs.

- CBFCO proposed that all FCOs new and continuing should be afforded the opportunity to perform in the role appointed. Continuation of any FCO should be measured against performance.

6.1.5 CBFCO

Wundowie RUI exercise a success

- OBRM State Bushfire Committee recently visited Toodyay to recount the 2009 fire and look at works the Shire is undertaking in regards to mitigation and resource planning and infrastructure.
- Commended Toodyay Bushfire Ready Group on a successful event – stressed to the audience that don't wait for a Warning to make the call to leave or take action.
- Passed on ^{appreciation} application received from I. MacGregor Captain FRS for support of BFB and St John in recent exercise.

Signed:


Presiding Member

Date:

20-2-18

Call for members interested in becoming part for the ICV crew to attend upcoming ICV demonstration setup.

6.1.6 Coondle-Nunile BFB

Coondle 2.4 currently in Perth receiving crew protection upgrades. Loan vehicle provide by DFES.

6.1.7 Toodyay Central BFB

Christmas function done and dusted – prior to fire season

6.1.8 RMO

Signage altering residents of fire break inspections yielding good results in compliance.

6.2 Other Reports (if applicable)

Nil

7. CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee is scheduled to be held on Wednesday 7 February 2018 commencing at 6.00pm.

8. CLOSURE OF MEETING

Cr Rayner, Chairperson, declared the meeting closed at 7.25pm.

Attachments to Minutes

Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC)

Tuesday 7 Nov 2017

TABLING OF MINUTES AND STATUS REPORT

3.3 Review of Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC) Status Report 1

PRESENTATIONS OR EVENTS

4.1.2 Compensation for Prescribed Cancers Presentation (Robert Koch CESM) 2





STATUS REPORT Bush Fire Advisory Committee

Including Recommendations made to Council, Action List and Completed items

Recommendations made to Council

| Meeting Date | Item | Title/Description of Item | Resp. Officer | Proposed / Notes / Actions to be taken | Comment |
|--------------|------|---------------------------|---------------|--|---------|
| | | | | | |

Action List

| Meeting Date | Item | Title/Description of Item | Resp. Officer | Proposed / Notes / Actions to be taken | Comment |
|--------------|------|---------------------------|---------------|--|---------|
| | | | | | |

COMPLETED RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HAVE GONE TO COUNCIL (and ACTIONS Completed)

| Meeting Date | Item | Title/Description of Item | Resp. Officer | Status / Action / Notes | RESOLUTION NO. |
|--------------|------|---------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1/8/2017 | 4.1 | Appointment of FCO's | CESM | Recommendation made to Council | Completed – Res # 150/08/17 |

Volunteers > Members > Compensation for Prescribed Cancers

COMPENSATION FOR PRESCRIBED CANCERS



EXPOSURE TO TOXINS



We all know emergency services volunteers are placed in a unique position of risk in the course of their duties. Among other things, this can include ongoing exposure to carcinogens (i.e. cancer-causing toxins) from hazardous fires.

During a structure or vehicle fire, there is often a release of carcinogens due to the combustion of synthetic materials. There is scientific evidence that certain types of cancer are caused by ongoing exposure to these toxins.

For firefighters, their protective equipment does go some way to decreasing the risk of exposure to carcinogens, but it doesn't eliminate that risk. The protective equipment worn by firefighters during a fire must be able to breathe. If clothing did not breathe, firefighters would suffer heat stress and could be placed at risk due to metabolic heat buildup. A firefighter may absorb

Here's what we know:



INCREASED RISK OF CANCER



There have been a number of studies regarding the increased risk of cancer for firefighters. The combined effect of these studies shows that firefighters are at increased risk of certain types of cancer through accumulated exposure to carcinogens. These cancers are:

- primary site brain cancer
- primary site bladder cancer
- primary site kidney cancer
- primary non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- primary leukaemia
- primary site breast cancer
- primary site testicular cancer
- multiple myeloma
- primary site prostate cancer
- primary site ureter cancer
- primary site colorectal cancer
- primary site oesophageal cancer

In the past, emergency services volunteers who developed one of these types of cancer were required to provide proof of the link between the cancer and

heat buildup. A firefighter may absorb toxins through the eyes, skin or wounds because of the breathable nature of their protective equipment.

proof of the link between the cancer and their attendance at hazardous fires in order to submit a claim for compensation. Due to the unique circumstances of firefighting and other forms of volunteer service, proving the circumstances that led to the development of cancer is difficult (i.e. because toxins and chemicals encountered at a hazardous fire are not recorded).



HOW CAN LEGISLATION HELP?

Under the presumptive legislation, an emergency services volunteer who contracts any one of the 12 cancers listed above will no longer have to provide proof of the link between the cancer and their attendance at hazardous fires, as long as they meet certain prerequisites. Instead, it will be presumed that the cancer was caused by their activities as a volunteer unless proven otherwise. This will then assist with access to compensation.

For the presumption to apply, at the date of injury the volunteer must have:

1. been a registered volunteer; and
2. met the qualifying period for the cancer (between 5 and 25 years of volunteer service depending on the cancer); and
3. met the requirements for hazardous firefighting service (5 years of volunteer service where the volunteer attended an average of at least five hazardous fires per year).

Similar legislation for career firefighters commenced on 13 November 2013. So that volunteers won't be disadvantaged, the presumption will commence from the same date, so it applies to volunteers whose cancer diagnosis falls on or after that date.

MEETING THE PREREQUISITES

For the presumption to apply, you will need to be able to show you meet these 3 prerequisites as at



your cancer diagnosis date:

1

VOLUNTEER SERVICE

To meet the first prerequisite, the claimant must have been a registered volunteer for the qualifying period. This doesn't have to be a continuous period.

A registered volunteer is:

- a bush fire control officer appointed under the *Bush Fires Act 1954* section 38; or
- a registered member of a bush fire brigade established under the *Bush Fires Act 1954* section 41; or
- a registered member of a FES Unit established under the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998* section 18M; or
- a registered member of a SES Unit established under the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998* section 18C; or
- a registered member of a VMRS Group established under the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998* section 18H; or
- an officer or member of a volunteer fire brigade as defined in the *Fire Brigades Act 1942* section 4(1) whose election or appointment has been approved by the FES Commissioner under section 30 of that Act.

2

QUALIFYING PERIOD

The qualifying period will depend on the type of cancer which has been contracted. The following table sets out the types of cancer and the corresponding qualifying periods:

| Item | Disease | Qualifying period |
|------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Primary site brain cancer | 5 years |
| 2. | Primary site bladder cancer | 15 years |
| 3. | Primary site kidney cancer | 15 years |
| 4. | Primary non-Hodgkin's lymphoma | 15 years |
| 5. | Primary leukaemia | 5 years |
| 6. | Primary site breast cancer | 10 years |
| 7. | Primary site testicular cancer | 10 years |
| 8. | Multiple myeloma | 15 years |
| 9. | Primary site prostate cancer | 15 years |
| 10. | Primary site ureter cancer | 15 years |
| 11. | Primary site colorectal cancer | 15 years |
| 12. | Primary site oesophageal cancer | 25 years |

3

HAZARDOUS FIREFIGHTING SERVICE

The volunteer must also have attended an average of at least five hazardous fires per year for five years (i.e. 25 over five) as part of their volunteer activities. This doesn't have to be a continuous period.

A hazardous fire is:

- a fire in a building; or
- a vehicle fire; or
- a fire involving non-organic refuse or rubbish created by humans.

THE IMPORTANCE OF REPORTING

Having adequate and accurate records of incident attendance will make an enormous difference to someone seeking to prove they meet the third prerequisite.

If you are exposed to a hazardous fire as part of an incident response, you need to make sure that incident is properly recorded in the DFES Incident Reporting System – either by completing an online IRS report or a DFES Paper Incident Reporting Form. You can order these forms on the DFES Operational Ordering section of the DFES webpage.

If this image is not displaying correctly, download these documents.

[Compensation for Prescribed Cancers](#)

[How Can Legislation Help](#)

[Meeting The Prerequisites](#)

[The Importance Of Reporting](#)

