



BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday 21st of July 2022

Annual General Meeting – 5.30pm

Derek Fletcher Training Room, Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade / State Emergency Service,
20 Raymond Road, Walliston

1. OPENING OF MEETING

Chairperson – Cr. John Giardina welcomed attendees,

2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Attending Members:

Cr. John Giardina – City of Kalamunda, Councillor – South East Ward
Mike Ward – CESM, Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Steve Lake – Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Tony Moiler AFSM – Captain, Kalamunda Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service
Sean Winter – Captain, Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

City Staff:

James Wickens - Manager Environmental Health and Community Safety
Michael Hall – City of Kalamunda Senior Fire Mitigation Officer

Ex- Officio Members:

Natalie Smailes – First Lieutenant, Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade.
David Carroll – Fire Control Officer, Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade,
Jayden Flint – Second Lieutenant, Kalamunda Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service.

Visitors: Nil

Apologies:

Cr. Andrew Osenton – City of Kalamunda, Councillor – North Ward
Paul Southam – DFES District Officer South East
Brian McGinley – Foreman, Kalamunda Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service
Peter Varelis – City of Kalamunda, Director, Development Services
Warwick Martindale – Local Manager State Emergency Service
Michael Pasotti – DBCA – Fire Coordinator

Minutes:

Andrew Haselden – Senior Firefighter, Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

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3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Moved: Tony Moiler
Seconded: Steve Lake

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

4.1. Nil

5. CORRESPONDENCE IN/OUT

5.1. Correspondence In/Out – Nil,

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1. Update on the 22/23 Fire Hazard Assessment Program – James Wickens presents the Private Property Fire Hazard Plan Update-2022/23.

- 3779 assessments were conducted from 1 November 2021 to 31 March 2022.
- 893 work orders were issued.
- 2777 (73.5%) of properties were deemed compliant on the first inspection.
- 81 infringements issued against the Fire Hazard Reduction Notice.
- 153 variations to the Fire Hazard Reduction Notice were approved.
- 123 permits were issued to private property owners during the restricted burning periods.
- 53 illegal burns were reported and attended to by City Fire Control Officers.
- 23 total fire bans declared throughout the fire season.

The full presentation is attached to these minutes as **Appendix 1**.

Tony Moiler queried whether the Kalamunda Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service and Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade were included on the approved contractor list discussed in the presentation. Mike Ward notes that they are not as this list is intended for residents seeking mechanical hazard reduction works. Mike Ward confirms that City staff will refer residents to the volunteer fire services if they are seeking hazard reduction burns in their respective areas.

6.2. Pickering Brook Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade BFAC update presentation – Mike Ward presents the Pickering Brook Bush Fire Brigade Update and Discusses the Formation of the Pickering Brook Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade – The full presentation is attached to these minutes as **Appendix 2**.

Sean Winter advises that in his opinion there is a need for a new Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade in Pickering Brook. He is however cautions that the formation process, co-located within the existing Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, needs to be carefully handled. The proposal to split out the future Pickering Brook Volunteers as a separate team should be actioned towards the completion of the new station to endure that no splinter groups are created. Sean Winter proposes that once created, the Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade is dual registered with the Pickering Brook Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade until the two split permanently.

Sean Winter further notes that there is anxiety within the Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade's

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membership, due to the proposal to permanently relocate two of the existing Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade fire appliances to the new Pickering Brook station. Sean Winter adds that with climate change, there should be a push for additional appliances to be added to the City of Kalamunda's firefighting fleet rather than separating the existing allocation.

Mike Ward advises that there are currently Four "high season" heavy fire appliances in the metro area which are allocated to stations throughout summer. His recommendation is to ask for one of these appliances to be assigned to the City in the short term to assist with the transition.

CR Giardina asks Sean Winter for more information about the Brigade's anxiety around the split. Sean Winter advises that the Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade is unique as it is centralised in the City, with a large membership and all appliances located in one fire station. Most LGA's have a higher number of decentralised bush fire stations, with a smaller membership and fleet of vehicles per station. The proposed restructure is a significant change to the response and current structure of the Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade.

Steve Lake advises that in response to Sean Winters comments around the transition period, a working group is proposed within the Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, to assist with a smooth transition. Mike Ward comments that the City has been open and honest with the Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade as the Pickering Brook project has developed and that this transparency will ultimately assist with the transition process.

David Carroll advises that he has concern around the low take-up of new members from the Pickering Brook community and this station will require that the locals are engaged to provide this emergency service to the local community. Mike Ward notes that while the station is located in Pickering Brook, the request for members will also be pushed out the local surrounding areas. Mike Ward also advises that he believes that the station will need to be built, the Brigade registered and new members trained to get the ball rolling.

Tony Moiler asks whether any consideration has been made to locating an appliance at a local Pickering Brook residence as an "outpost" vehicle. Mike Ward advises that this was discussed early on, however it was felt that garnering membership and having them trained should precede the appliance.

CR. Giardina asks Mike Ward whether he has discussed the proposed funding model through the Council. Mike Ward advises that an initial non-committal discussion has been had and that further funding opportunities would be explored as the project approvals are progressed. Cr Giardina acknowledges that there is no rush to secure funding at this stage.

Tony Moiler notes that the proposal is a great idea but queries whether this station will be a volunteer fire and rescue or volunteer emergency services station as the community in Pickering Brook expands. Mike Ward notes that there is a reasonable expectation of this progression in the future, however at this stage the risk in this area is with the Local Government. Under the Bushfires Act the initial station would be designated as a volunteer bush fire brigade on this basis.

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Following the presentation and questions, Mike Ward raises the following motion, "I raise a motion that this committee recommend to Council to establish the Pickering Brook Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade under section 41 (1) of the Bush Fires Act 1954, and this to be as soon as practicable."

The motion is moved by Steve Lake and seconded by Sean Winter. The Bush Fire Advisory Committee unanimously agreed to support this motion and the motion was passed.

ACTION ITEM – Recommendation to be presented to Council at the next general council meeting.

6.3. Arrangements for Managing of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades – Mike Ward, Proposed Advocacy Position – WALGA – BFAC discussion and comments for reporting to Council.

Mike Ward seeks comments from the Bush Fire Advisory Committee regarding the WALGA request for comment documents issued for review. This discussion paid specific attention to the WALGA advocacy position detailed below.

Management of Bush Fire Brigades

1. The Association advocates that the State Government must provide for:

- a) A clear pathway for Local Governments to transfer responsibility for the management of Bush Fire Brigades to the State Government when ongoing management is beyond the capacity, capability and resources of the Local Government;
- b) The co-design of a suite of relevant guidelines and materials to assist those Local Governments that manage Bush Fire Brigades;
- c) Mandatory and minimum training requirements for Bush Fire Brigade volunteers supported by a universally accessible training program managed by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES); and
- d) The recognition of prior learning, experience and competency of Bush Fire Brigade volunteers.

2. That a Working Group comprising representatives of WALGA and DFES be established to develop a process and timeline for the transfer of responsibility for Bush Fire Brigades in accordance with 1(a).

3. Where management of Bush Fire Brigades is transferred to DFES in accordance with 1(a), DFES should be resourced to undertake the additional responsibility.

It was noted to the Bush Fire Advisory Committee that the discussion would be summarised and relayed to the City of Kalamunda Ordinary Council Meeting in August. The reference documents are attached to these minutes as Appendix 3 & 4.

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As requested by WALGA, the following dot points were discussed, with the Bush Fire Advisory Committee's agreed responses noted alongside.

- I. Does your Local Government manage BFBs? **Yes,**
 - II. Does your Local Government support the proposed Advocacy Position on arrangements for the management of Bush Fire Brigades? Why or why not? **Mike Ward proposed that the committee support this based on Local Governments which cannot support their existing Brigades. In principle, the committee supports this stance, noting that it does not reflect the situation in the City of Kalamunda.**
 - III. Does your Local Government have any further suggestions or changes to the proposed Advocacy Position?
 - A. **The establishment of a Rural Fire Service in support of Recommendation #15 from the "Report of the Special Inquiry into the January 2016 Waroona Fire" (Ferguson Report).**
 - B. **For the Local Government to maintain bushfire brigades, resourced in a physical and financially appropriate manner equivalent to the risks associated with the area. i.e., Changes to the allocation of funds and the easing of currently restricted purchases under the Emergency Services Levy, which has previously presented difficulties in obtaining funding.**
 - IV. For Local Governments that manage BFBs, is your Local Government's preference to continue to manage BFBs or to transfer responsibility to the State Government? **Sean Winter advises that through consultation with the members of the Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, the majority of the Brigade's membership supports maintaining the status quo**
 - V. Is your response endorsed by Council? If so, please include the Council paper and resolution. **N/A**
 - VI. Do you have any further comments to make?
 - **David Carroll advises that this is an opportunity for Local Governments to drive Ministers and the State Government to determine the future of bush fire management in Western Australia.**
 - **Steve Lake notes that there is not a division currently within the DFES structure that could accommodate the direct transition of many Bush Fire Brigades from Local Governments to DFES. If a Rural Fire Service or a separate division were available, there may be more appetite for local volunteers to move to a State Government managed department.**
 - **Sean Winter advises that the Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade members are categorically in objection to moving to DFES under its current structure. Sean Winter notes that if a Rural Fire Service were established and running, his personal position and that of others may be different.**
 - **Tony Moiler agrees that the current DFES structure is not in his opinion a suitable transition path for bush fire brigades.**
- **ACTION ITEM – Recommendation and comments to be presented to Council at the next general council meeting.**

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6.4. City of Kalamunda Mitigation Works Update – Michael Hall.

Michael Hall advises that the City has taken control of Block 501 on Canning Rd. The City is installing new fire breaks around the block and have upgraded existing fire breaks.

Sean Winter notes that this site is part of the original Mason's Mill Settlement and there are possibly heritage concerns on this site, particularly if the curtilage of heritage sites is increased by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage.

The fire break from John Street in Gooseberry Hill has been extended to join the existing Department of Parks and Wildlife fire break at Oceanview parade. Breaks have also been improved behind the adjacent properties adjoining the national park. This fire break will be maintained by the City on an ongoing basis.

6.5. Acknowledgement of Volunteer Leadership Service – Steve Lake.

Steve Lake advises the committee that following lengthy service to the Brigade, several long-serving Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade Officers are stepping down this year, making way for a new leadership team. While none of these Brigade members commit their time for recognition, it is important to note the service and dedication these people have made to the City of Kalamunda and beyond.

Captain - Mr David STEWART: David was appointed Captain in 2020 and has led the Brigade through the COVID-19 pandemic for two years. David worked closely with the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer to apply appropriate measures to mitigate risks presented by COVID-19, while minimising the impact to service delivery and maintaining training requirements and hazard reduction responsibilities. Concurrently, David recruited more experienced volunteer firefighters into the Bush Fire Ready team. This work resulted in a threefold increase of Brigade volunteers expanding their commitment by providing expert preparedness and prevention advice directly to members of the community.

1st Lieutenant - John IDLAND: John has served as Brigade lieutenant since 2018. John has built a reputation for being a strong fireground leader making vast contributions to the Brigade's operational effectiveness. John worked tirelessly in the background supporting the Captain in his duties while playing a key role in the Brigade's continual improvement, training new volunteer firefighters, and mentoring up and coming leaders.

2nd Lieutenant - Andrew HASELDEN: Andrew has served the Brigade leadership roles since 2014 and has recently stepped down from the position of 2nd Lieutenant. Andrew has provided thousands of hours of behind the scenes work over the years including providing support to the Bush Fire Advisory Committee for the past 9 years. Andrew is highly respected for his intricate knowledge of

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Brigade history and process and his dedication to providing quality advanced training such as structural firefighting.

Equipment Officer - Andrew STUBBS: Andrew is stepping down as the Brigade's Equipment Officer after a total of 15 years in the role. As well as providing and maintaining equipment and protective clothing to the Brigade's 90 volunteers, Andrew has also built a strong relationship with the City of Kalamunda workshop team to ensure our fire appliances are well-maintained and ready for service. Andrew has worked very closely with the incoming Equipment Officer, sharing his intricate knowledge of the equipment the Brigade depends on to serve the community.

Steve Lake raises two motions as follows,

Motion 1: Request the Chief Executive Officer to write to the Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, Kalamunda State Emergency Service and the Kalamunda Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service acknowledging their efforts, service, and commitment to the City of Kalamunda community.

Motion 2: Request that the Chief Executive Officer to write to Mr. David STEWART, Mr. John IDLAND, Mr. Andrew HASELDEN, and Mr. Andrew STUBBS acknowledging their efforts, service, and commitment to the City of Kalamunda and its community.

Moved by Cr. Giardina and Seconded by T Moiler. Motion Passed Unanimously,

- **ACTION ITEM – Mike Ward to request that the Chief Executive Officer action the above motions.**

7. AGENCY UPDATE

7.1. DFES – Nil tabled.

7.2. DPAW – Nil tabled.

7.3. City of Kalamunda CESM – Mike Ward, Nil tabled.

7.4. Kalamunda BFB Statistics

Following the 2022 Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade AGM, the current leadership team are:

- Captain: Sean WINTER
- 1st Lieutenant: Natalie SMAILES
- 2nd Lieutenant: Duncan REYNOLDS
- 3rd Lieutenant: David WINDSOR
- 4th Lieutenant: Anthony CABLE

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- 5th Lieutenant: John TURNER
- Training Officer: Cameron WILKINS
- Secretary: Terese FOSTER
- Equipment Officer: AL McPHAIL
- Treasurer: Eric SWABY
- Hazard Reduction Officer: Chris HANNAH
- Health and Safety: Chris GRUBBA
- Incident Support Officer: Cathy McDONALD

Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade Statistics for Financial Year (2021-2022).

Type	Total Hours
Training	3,718:58
Incidents	3,362:18
Hazard Reduction	1,037:38
Maintenance	578:18
Admin	306:38
Meetings	676:34
Bush Fire Ready	261:02
Community Engagement	165:27
Other	48:23
Total Recorded Volunteer Hours	10,155:16

8. NEXT MEETING

8.1. Next meeting, Thursday 20th of October, 1730hrs, Derek Fletcher Training Room, Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade / State Emergency Service, 20 Raymond Road, Walliston.

Future Meetings for 2023, Proposed dates in keeping with the current meeting schedule are.

- Thursday the 16th of March 2023
- Thursday the 20th of July 2023 (AGM) and
- Thursday the 19th of October 2023.

9. CLOSURE

9.1. Meeting closed at 1916hrs

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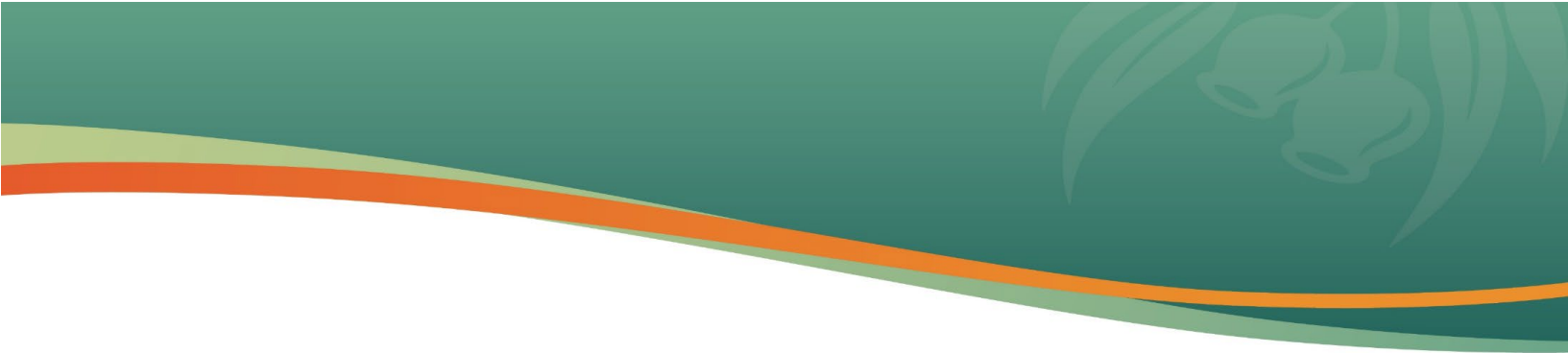
Attachment #1

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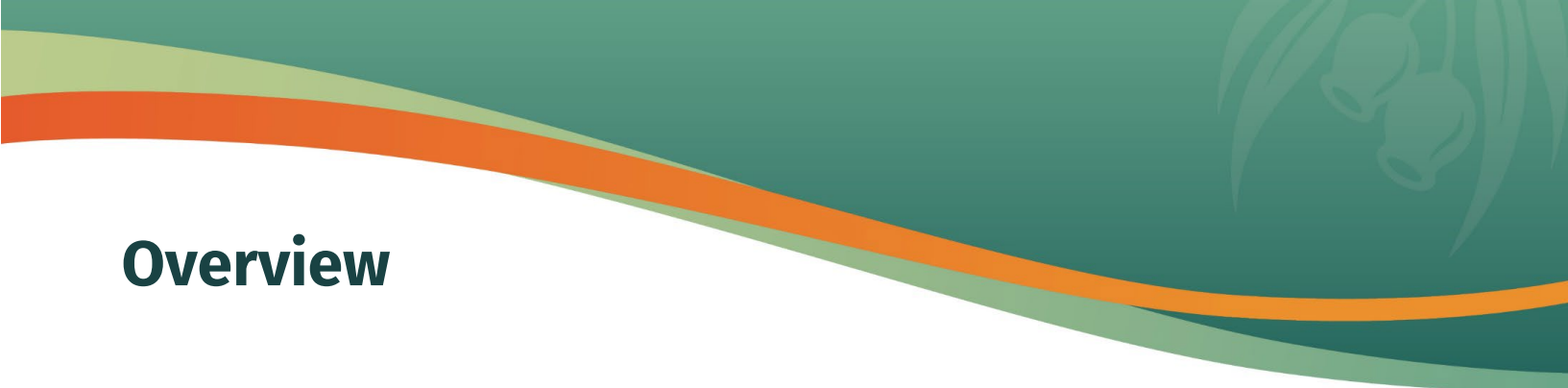
Private Property Fire Hazard Plan Update- 2022/23

Purpose:

Provide BFAC an update on the upcoming Fire Hazard Assessment Plan and Compliance program for 22/23 season.

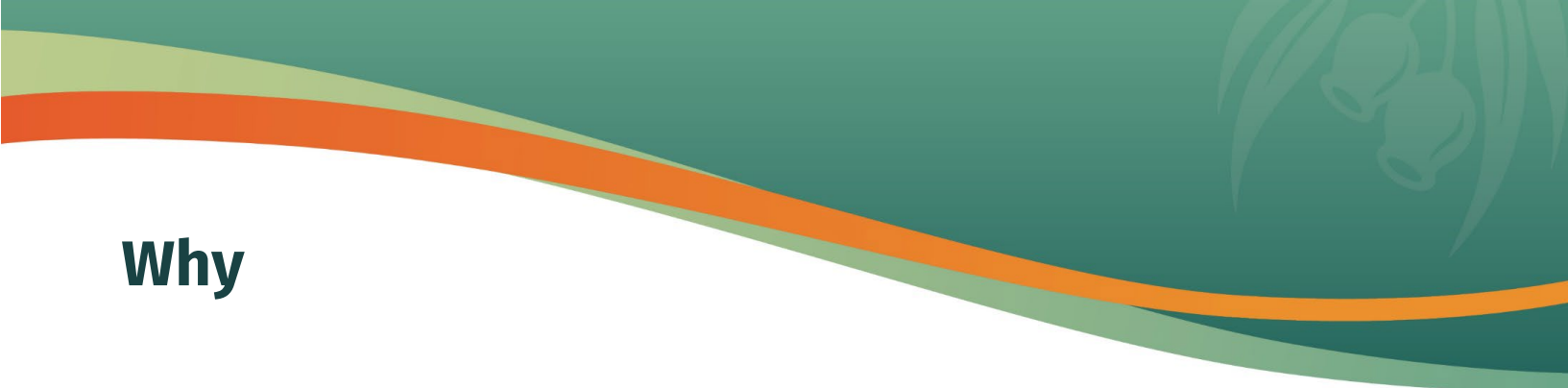
Presented by:

James Wickens, Manager Environmental Health & Community Safety



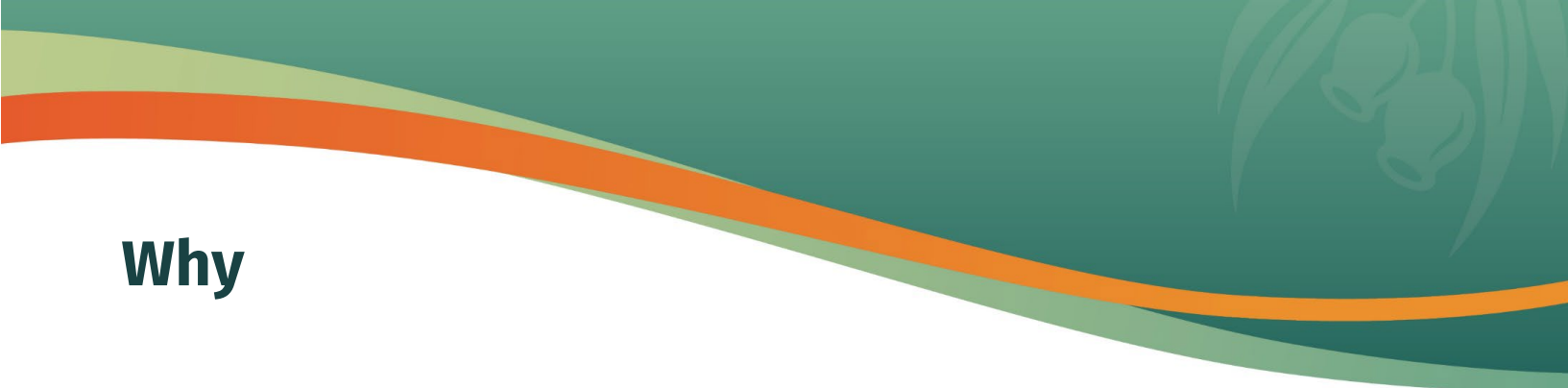
Overview

1. Why we do Fire property compliance
2. Key outcomes from the previous Fire Season 2021/2022
3. Update on the Plan and compliance program for the upcoming Fire season 2022/2023.
4. Key changes and new approach.
5. Community Engagement



Why

1. Obligation to administer the *Bush Fires Act 1954* and issue a notice under Section 33 of the Act to an owner/occupier of land to clear firebreaks and other works to prevent the outbreak, spread or extension of a bushfire.
2. Fire is a prescribed hazard in accordance with the *Emergency Management Act 2005*. Fire has a State Hazard Plan which states in section 2 prevention and mitigation that Local Governments are responsible for issuing an appropriate notice for their area and ensuring compliance within.
3. The Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) Independent Operational Review of the Wooroloo Fire of February 2021 stated;



Why

"Despite local governments having responsibility under the Bush Fires Act 1954 (s33) to provide both guidance and a means to enforce actions on landowners and occupiers to undertake bush fire mitigation activities, their seemed a reluctance to enforce these powers. While it is recognised that local governments provide resources and undertake a level of enforcement, the Review considers that the use of these powers should be more strongly applied following appropriate consultation and negotiation".

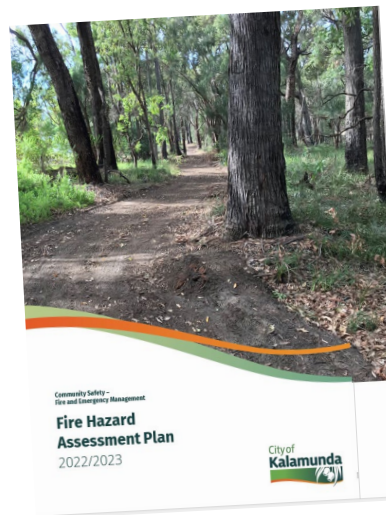
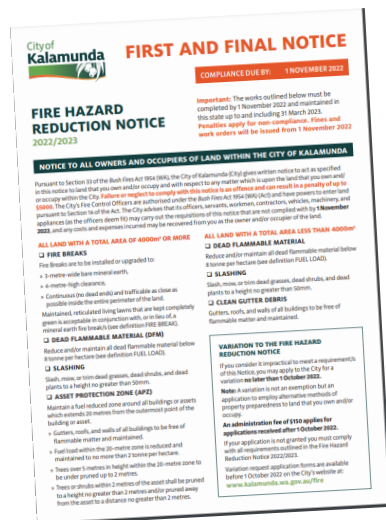


Key Outcomes From Last Season

1. 3779 assessments were conducted from 1 November 2021 to 31 March 2022.
2. 893 work orders were issued.
3. 2777 (73.5%) of properties were deemed compliant on the first inspection.
4. 81 infringements issued against the Fire Hazard Reduction Notice.
5. 153 variations to the Fire Hazard Reduction Notice were approved.
6. 123 permits were issued to private property owners during the restricted burning periods.
7. 53 illegal burns were reported and attended to by City Fire Control Officers.
8. 23 total fire ban declared throughout the fire season.

Fire Hazard Assessment Plan 2022/2023 update

1. Fire Hazard Reduction Notice has been prepared and was gazette on the 1 July 2022.
2. Fire Hazard Assessment Plan has been drafted and will be presented to Council at the August ordinary council meeting.





Key Changes and Revised Approach

- ❑ The 2022/23 Fire Hazard Reduction Notice has been reviewed to reflect a stronger enforcement - oriented approach to bushfire safety and preparedness.
- ❑ Properties deemed as noncompliant on the first inspection will receive a workorder and infringement in the first instance.
- ❑ Work orders and Infringement Notices will no longer be posted registered mail however will now be posted through regular Australia post; outward mail is recorded through our mail register.
- ❑ The City of Kalamunda has prepared a Firebreak Contractors list as a general information service for the Community to assist landowners/occupiers in meeting their obligations and requirement of the 2022/2023 Fire Hazard Reduction Notice.
- ❑ Landowners and or occupiers that received a workorder during the 2021/ 2022 season will receive preseason communications (Letter) in late July advising of the upcoming fire season and an offer from the City for pre-season assessments to ensure property preparedness.

Community Engagement

Bush Fire Ready & Community Preparedness Activity Plan 2022

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
17 September	9:30-11:30	1 st Street Meet	Booralie Way Reserve Maida Vale
1 October	9:30-11:30	2 nd Street Meet	Ledger Road Reserve
8 October	10:30-13:30	Burn Smart – Live Demo Meet	Kalamunda-Gooseberry Hill
15 October	9:30-11:30	3 rd Street Meet	Lions Lookout Or Lesmurdie Primary School Carpark, TBC

29 October RUI Exercise (Community Safety Fire team to attend)
Private Property Walkthroughs as requested





Attachment #2

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Proposed Pickering Brook Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade & Fire Station BFAC Update July 2022



Purpose

The purpose of this presentation:

Provide Bush Fire Advisory Committee a summary of the status of the investigations into a fire station at Pickering Brook and matters to consider in the proposed development of the station.

Overview

1. Background
2. Feasibility study investigations
3. Community engagement
4. Feasibility study outcomes
5. Preliminary concept design
6. Estimated cost
7. Funding sources
8. Next steps and recommendations

Background



1. City has pursued expansion of the Pickering Brook townsite for the past 10 years+.
2. DPLH established Working Group and Taskforce to investigate expansion of the townsite.
3. DPLH recommended a modest 14ha expansion of the townsite.
4. DPLH outlined a series of recommendations to diversify economic based of Pickering Brook and surrounds with a key focus on tourism.
5. Detailed bushfire risk planning report was prepared to assist with balancing new development against bushfire risk.

Background



1. The City in considering new tourism opportunities and further expansion of the townsite beyond the initial 14ha expansion has investigated the benefits of building a new fire station and establishing a brigade in Pickering Brook.
2. BFAC/Council Recommendation.

Background



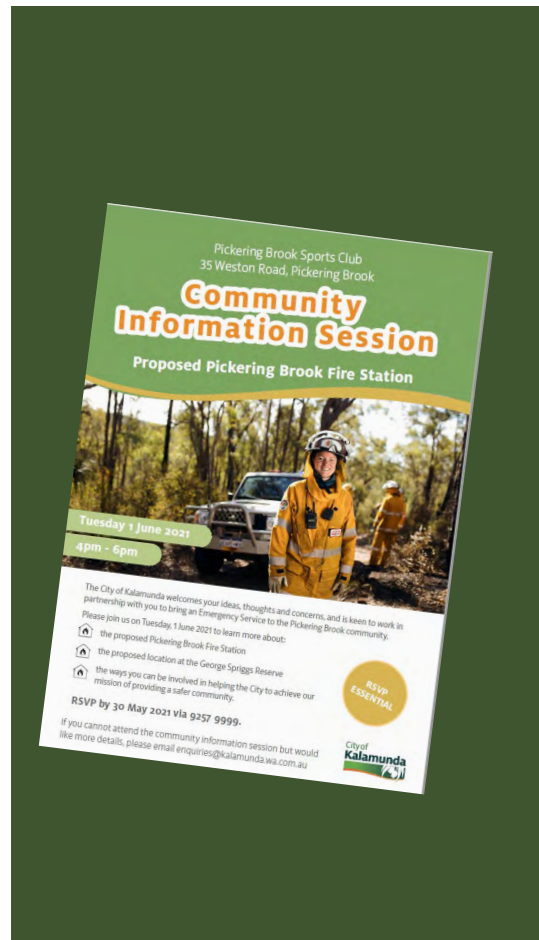
1. Establishing the new fire station and brigade has a number of benefits including but not limited to:
 - a) Increased capability in the City's hinterland areas.
 - b) Close proximity to significant bushfire risk.
 - c) Assist with mitigating the risk of increased development activity in a bushfire prone area.
 - d) Assisting in the establishment of George Spriggs reserve as the community hub of Pickering Brook.

Feasibility Study Outcomes



This Information sessions aims to cont.

- Station capability, design and cultural art work.
- Financial funding contribution from City and the Local Government Grants scheme (DFES).
- Establishing the brigade under the Bush Fire Act.
- Transition from Kalamunda Bush Fire Brigade to stand alone brigade.
- Founding volunteer membership base.
- Volunteer retention and recruiting
- Proposed capability for station fire appliances.
- Where to now.



Community Response

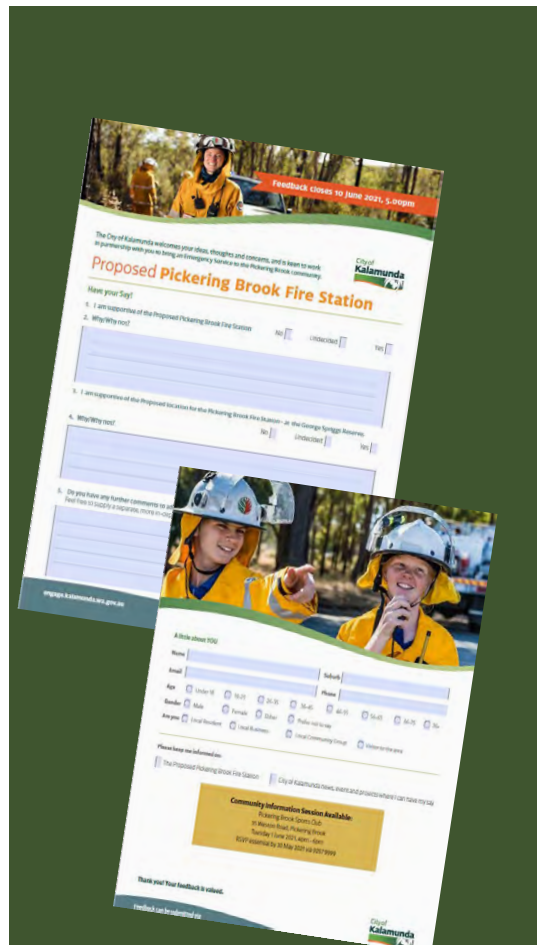
1 June 2021 a Community information session was held at the Pickering Brook Sports Club with the community surveyed after.

- Question 1: Are you supportive of the proposed Pickering Brook Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade Fire Station? and
- Question 2: Are you supportive of the proposed location of the Pickering Brook Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade Fire Station at the George Spriggs Reserve?

Respondents to each of these questions are depicted below:



Table 2: Respondents Questionnaire

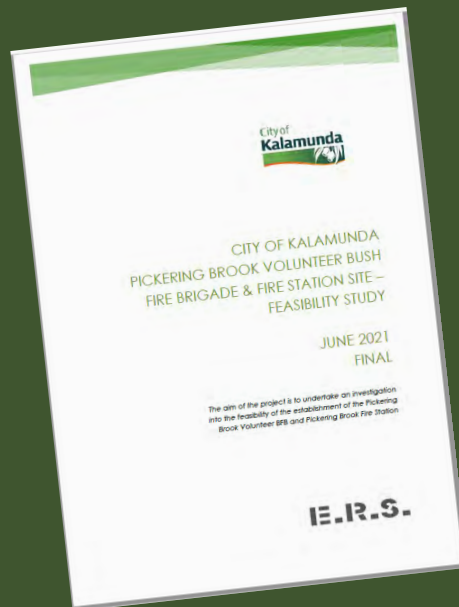


Community Response Cont.

There is community support (94.7%) of those surveyed for the establishment of a Pickering Brook Fire Station.

There is community support (89.4%) of those surveyed for the construction of the Pickering Brook Fire Station on the George Spriggs Reserve.

There is community support for a 2-bay fire station and associated administration building to be constructed on the existing (unutilised) tennis court area of the George Spriggs Reserve.



The City engaged the services of Executive Risk Solutions to provide a feasibility study with the following 4 recommendations stemming from it,

No	Recommendations
R1	A Pickering Brook Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade Fire Station should be established within the local community area.
R2	The Pickering Brook Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade Fire Station should be developed on the George Spriggs Reserve, specifically on the unutilised tennis court area.
R3	The Pickering Brook Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade Fire Station should be a 2-bay DFES Standard Country Facility designed for a Bush Fire Brigade.
R4	The KAL should further consult with stakeholders to ensure that any proposed changes/redevelopment to the Allan Fernie site do not inhibit the viability of the proposed Pickering Brook Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and Fire Station.

DFES A/Chief Superintendent Sutton has advised that there is a benefit to the community in establishing the PBVBFB.



Two Bay Fire Station

11



PICKERING BROOK VOLUNTEER BUSH FIRE BRIGADE

Cultural Inspiration



Yarning Circle

Station Mural



Noongar 6 Season

Cost of Project



DFES Costs (LGGS) V City Costs

Cost estimate from City of Kwinana BFB project dated March 2022

	City Cost	DFES Cost
Earthworks	28,000	
Sitework	3,100	
Civil drainage/Stormwater	included	
Asphalt/kerbing & Civil Works	85,000	
Landscaping & Artwork	40,600	
Linemarking	included	
Fencing & Enclosures	5,500	
Concrete work		87,680
Structure Steelwork		215,616
Metal work		64,644
Brickwork		4,995
Joinery and Cabinet Work		9,319
Loose Furniture		21,000
Hardware		21,033
Roofing		152,961
Plumbing and Drainage & Water Tank/Pump (\$225,978)		
+ ATU \$37580 + Oil Separator \$8143		271,000
Hydraulic Fixtures & Fittings	included	
Aerobic Treatment Unit	38,080	
Electrical Services - upgrade of power supply \$6,936 (no change)	6,936	198,000
Mechanical Services		93,297
Suspended Ceilings		95,000
Wall Tiling		1,086
Resilient Finishes		included
Appliances		1,836
Floor Coverings (carpet)		19,593
Glasswork		50,509
Paintwork		22,000
Telstra Headworks	2,500	
Western Power Headworks	25,000	
	234,716	1,329,569
Total Build		<u>1,564,285</u>

Cost of Project



City contribution could be sourced through state and or federal funding such as;

- Building Better Regions Fund (Federal)
- Preparing Australian Communities – 50% of an infrastructure project of 100K or more (Federal)
- Royalties for Regions – Infrastructure (State)

No contingency funds have been included. With exponential cost increases, the project could be 1.5–2 million.

Quality Survey will need to be engaged for finer details.

Establishing the brigade



Before any formal request for funding of a Bush Fire Brigade Station at Pickering Brook under the Local Government grant scheme (LGGS), the City will have to formally establish a Pickering Brook Bush Fire Brigade.

A local government may establish a bush fire brigade under the Bush Fires Act Section 41.

Establishing the brigade



Section 41 (1) states the local government for the purpose of carrying out normal brigade activities may, in accordance with its local laws made for the purpose, establish and maintain one or more bush fire brigades

and may, in accordance with those local laws, equip each bush fire brigade so established with appliances, equipment and Apparatus.

Membership and capability



Once established the Pickering Brook Bushfire Brigade will operate from the current Kalamunda Bush Fire Brigade station in Walliston and will draw an inaugural membership of 8 volunteer fire fighters from the current kalamunda membership.

Recruiting will occur over the coming years for both the Kalamunda and Pickering Brook brigades increasing volunteer numbers and capacity. Over the next 3 year we would forecast an increase of membership to around 20-25 volunteers.

Once the Pickering Brook station is constructed and opened, the Pickering Brook volunteers will transition over.

Membership and Capability



Capability in the first instance will be 1x light tanker appliance with the addition of a 2.4 fire appliance once the Pickering Brook station is opened. Both appliances will be reallocated from the Kalamunda Brigade.

Tanker 2.4 Broadacre Tanker

Mobility

4x4

Mass Class

MR

2000lt



Tanker Light Tanker – 500lt

Mobility

4x4



Next Steps



Land administration

- Negotiate with Pickering Brook Sports Club to surrender portion the reserve under their lease.
- Application to DPLH to create separate reserve for emergency services (purpose Bush Fire Brigade Station).
- Surveyor costs to create deposited plan (budget item).

Next Steps



What next

- BFAC to endorse and recommendation to Council the establishment of the Pickering Brook Bush Fire Brigade in July 2022.
- Council endorsement of recommendation from BFAC and establish the Pickering Brook Bush Fire Brigade and formally advise DFES of the new brigade.

Next Steps



What next

- A part of change management, implement brigade working groups to address formation, integration and transition to a new brigade/ station.
- Establish brigade membership and reallocation of a light tanker to the Pickering Brook brigade.
- Volunteers and fire appliance to be embedded into the current Kalamunda Bush Fire Brigade until the new station is constructed.

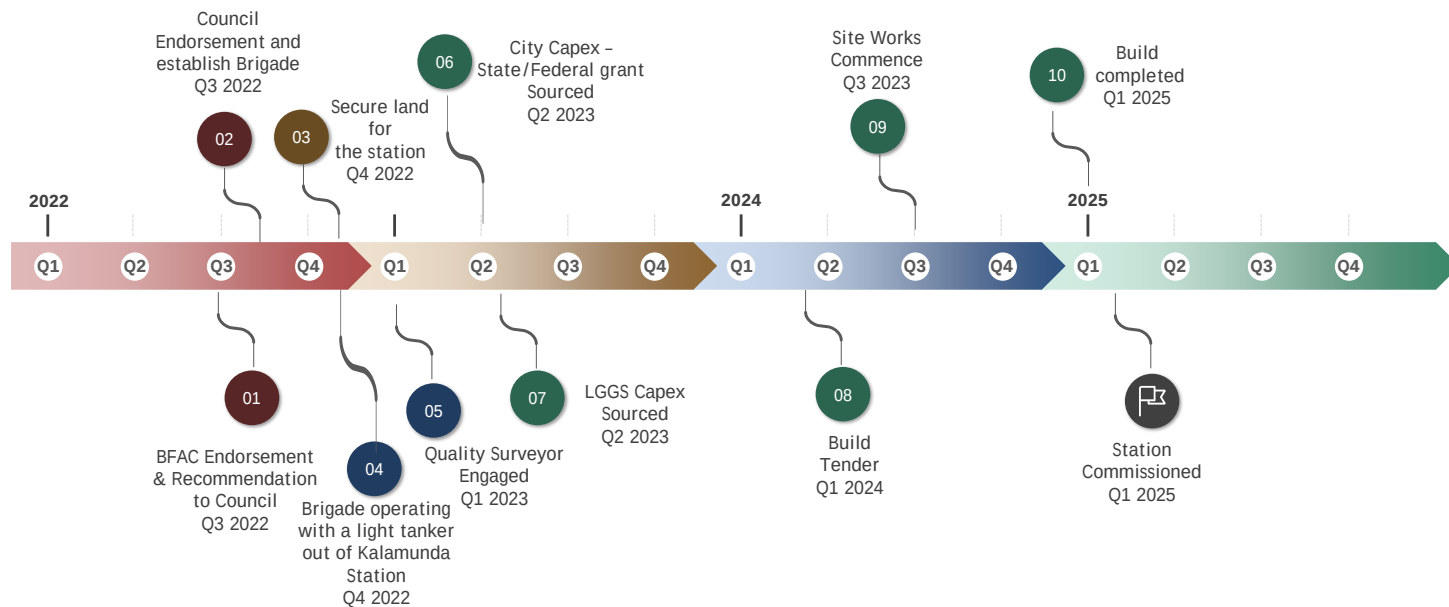
Next Steps



Securing funding source

1. City contribution (in-kind and project management)
2. Grants – LGGS (shed itself)
3. Grants – earthworks and items not funded by LGGS (State or Federal) – Building Better Regions and or Royalties for Regions
4. Feed into CAPEX process as funding is secured

Timeline



Forecasted Pickering Brook Brigade Timeline



Attachment #3

kalamunda.wa.gov.au

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INFOPAGE

To: All Local Governments **From:** Susie Moir, Resilient Communities Policy Manager

Date: 20 May 2022

Reference: 05-024-02-0059SM **Priority:** High

Subject: Proposed Advocacy Position on Arrangements for Management of Volunteer Bushfire Brigades



Operational Area:	CEO, Emergency Management
Key Issues:	- The Association is consulting the Local Government sector on a proposed Advocacy Position on the arrangements for management of volunteer Bush Fire Brigades. - Responses to the proposed Advocacy Position Paper are requested by 8 July 2022. - Sector feedback will inform a final position to be considered by WALGA State Council in September 2022.
Action Required:	- Local Governments are encouraged to provide a written response or submit a response through the survey. - A formal Council resolution will assist the Association understand the sentiment of the sector.

Background

Western Australian Local Governments have extensive roles and responsibilities embedded in the State Emergency Management Framework across the emergency management spectrum of prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. Under the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, Local Governments have responsibility for bushfire and the management of volunteer Bush Fire Brigades (BFBs). 111 Local Governments manage 563 BFBs involving approximately 20,000 volunteers.

As part of WALGA's 2021 Emergency Management Survey, Local Governments were asked about their level of satisfaction with current arrangements for managing BFBs. 92 Local Governments (69 of which manage BFBs) provided the following feedback:

- 93% were not wholly satisfied with the current arrangements for the management of BFBs; and
- 51% expressed that their Local Government does not support the requirements for Local Governments to manage BFBs.

The State Government is currently drafting the *Consolidated Emergency Services Act* (CES Act), which consolidates the *Fire Brigades Act 1942*, *Bush Fires Act 1954* and *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998* into a single piece of legislation, anticipated to be released as a Green Bill for consultation in early 2023.

The introduction of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* has also shone a spotlight on Local Government responsibilities for managing volunteer BFBs.

Comment

The development of the CES Act represents a important and timely opportunity for the sector to determine its position on the management of volunteer BFBs. An endorsed advocacy position will guide the Association in its engagement with the State Government on this issue.

WALGA has prepared the attached proposed Advocacy Position for the sector's consideration.

An six week period for sector consultation is designed to enable Local Governments to engage with relevant stakeholders, including volunteers, and for Councils to consider their position. Feedback on the proposed position will be reviewed and inform a final position to be considered by WALGA State Council in September 2022.

Further information

Please contact WALGA's Resilient Communities Policy Manager, Susie Moir smoir@walga.asn.au or 9213 2058.

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Arrangements for Management of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades: Proposed Advocacy Position

May 2022

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Acknowledgement

The WA Local Government Association (WALGA) acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land and pays respects to Elder's past, and present. WALGA acknowledges the continuing knowledge and cultural practices that they bring to the Local Government and Emergency Management sectors to support resilient and sustainable land management on WA landscapes.

Executive Summary

Western Australian Local Governments have extensive roles and responsibilities prescribed in the State Emergency Management Framework (State Framework) across the emergency management activities of prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. Relevantly, pursuant to the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, Local Governments have responsibility for bushfire and the management of volunteer Bush Fire Brigades (BFBs).

This Paper proposes a new Advocacy Position on the management of BFBs to guide the Association's emergency management advocacy on behalf of Local Government, and in particular its engagement with the State Government on the development of the *Consolidated Emergency Services Act* which is expected to be released for stakeholder consultation in early 2023.

How to Comment on This Paper

Local Governments are encouraged to provide a written response to this Paper or to complete the [survey](#). Formal Council resolutions will assist the Association understand the sentiment of the sector on this important issue.

The Paper outlines the proposed Advocacy Position, followed by the background and rationale for the new position.

Questions are provided at the end of the Paper to guide feedback.

For further information please contact WALGA's Resilient Communities Policy Manager, Susie Moir via 9213 2058 or smoir@walga.asn.au

Feedback should be provided in response to the questions via email to em@walga.asn.au by **5pm Friday 8 July 2022**.

Introduction

This Paper seeks Local Government's views on a new WALGA Advocacy Position on the management of volunteer bush fire brigades (BFBs).

WALGA Advocacy Positions guide WALGA's policy, advocacy and capacity building activities and support a consistent and whole-of-sector approach.

The introduction of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020* has shone a spotlight on Local Government responsibilities for managing BFBs. In addition, the State Government is currently drafting the *Consolidated Emergency Services Act*, which consolidates the *Fire Brigades Act 1942*, *Bush Fires Act 1954* and *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998* into a single piece of legislation, anticipated to be released as a Green Bill in early 2023. Therefore consultation on a new Advocacy Position with respect to management of BFBs is timely.

In 2012, 2019 and 2021, WALGA undertook comprehensive consultation with Local Government in relation to emergency management matters.

In 2021 WALGA undertook a comprehensive [Local Government Emergency Management Survey](#) to ascertain the sector's sentiment with respect to their emergency management responsibilities. 104 Local Governments responded to the Survey. Responses were provided by:

- 36 Chief Executive Officers
- 18 Community Emergency Services Managers
- 50 Local Government officers

As part of the survey Local Governments were asked about their level of satisfaction with current arrangements for managing BFBs. 92 Local Governments (69 of which manage BFBs) provided the following feedback:

- 93% were not wholly satisfied with the current arrangements for the management of BFBs; and
- 51% expressed that their Local Government does not support the requirements for Local Governments to manage BFBs.

These Survey responses reinforce that it is timely to engage with the sector on this issue.

WALGA has been undertaking a process to update our Advocacy Positions, and as a result has prepared eight new Advocacy Position Statements relating to Emergency Management, which will be considered at the July 2022 State Council meeting, as listed in Appendix 1. These new Advocacy Positions are based on previous State Council endorsed submissions, recommendations from significant reviews and inquiries, and information and priorities captured in sector-wide consultations.

A comprehensive Advocacy Position regarding the *Consolidated Emergency Services Act*, is outlined in Appendix 1, Advocacy Position 8.4.

Background

FESA (now the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES)) was established in 1999 for the purpose of improving coordination of the State's emergency services, replacing the Fire Brigades and Bush Fires Boards¹. DFES provides strategic leadership for emergency services across WA. DFES manages the career fire and rescue service, as well as a number of volunteer emergency services: Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services (VFES); Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS); State Emergency Services (SES); and Marine Rescue Western Australia.

Around Australia:

- WA is the only State in Australia in which Local Governments manage bushfire volunteers (pursuant to the *Bush Fire Act 1954*).
- In New South Wales, the NSW Rural Fire Service, which makes up the world's largest firefighting volunteer services, is managed by the NSW Government².
- Similarly, the Victorian Government manages the Country Fire Authority which manages regional fire services in Victoria³.
- In South Australia, the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005* (SA) provides for the South Australian Country Fire Service (SACFS) being established as a body corporate, currently managing 14,000 volunteers. The SACFS is responsible to the Minister for Emergency Services⁴.
- In Queensland, the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990* (Qld) provides for the establishment of rural fire brigades, with the Commissioner responsible for the efficiency of rural fire brigades⁵.
- The Tasmanian Fire Service sits under the State Fire Commission, established under the *Fire Service Act 1979*⁶, with more than 200 fire brigades across Tasmania, 350 career firefighters and 5000 volunteers.
- The ACT Rural Fire Service sits under the ACT Emergency Services Agency⁷ and is responsible for all bush and grass fires in rural ACT areas, through 450 volunteers in eight brigades.
- Bushfires NT is a division of the Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security, which is responsible for administration of the *Bushfires Management Act 2016*⁸. The Minister appoints members of the Bushfires Council and regional bushfires committees.

¹ <https://www.dfes.wa.gov.au/site/about-us/corporate-information/corporate-history/corporate-history.html>

² <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/about-us/history>

³ <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/about-us/who-we-are>

⁴ [Part B 2015 South Australian Country Fire Service.pdf \(audit.sa.gov.au\)](#)

⁵ [Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990 \(legislation.qld.gov.au\)](#)

⁶ [TFSAnnualReport2021.pdf \(fire.tas.gov.au\)](#)

⁷ [Emergencies Act 2004 | Acts](#)

⁸ [Legislation Database \(nt.gov.au\)](#)

Current Arrangements in WA

In Western Australia 111 Local Governments manage 563 BFBs involving approximately 20,000 volunteers. The Bush Fire Service is the largest volunteer emergency service by a significant margin:

- Bush Fire Service: 19,639 volunteers
- Fire and Rescue Service: 2,486 volunteers
- State Emergency Services: 2001 volunteers
- Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services: 926 volunteers
- Emergency Services Cadet Corps: 2,261 volunteers
- Marine Rescue Service: 1,559 volunteers⁹.

The number of BFBs managed by Local Governments varies from one up to 20. For example, the Shire of Cranbrook, which has a population of 1000 people, annual revenue of \$8 million and 29 employees manages 11 BFBs. The City of Mandurah, population 88,000, annual revenue of \$116 million and 678 employees, manages one BFB.

DFES also manages some BFBs. This includes seven bushfire brigades within the Kimberley and seven bushfire brigades within the Pilbara regions, under Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with relevant Local Governments which make DFES responsible for the day-to-day management of the BFB and all response activities, excluding in relation to land tenure managed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

Under this arrangement, Local Governments maintain responsibility for administering the *Bushfires Act* and carry out activities such as inspecting fire breaks and issuing burning permits.

The Local Government Grants Scheme (LGGS) Manual ([Appendix 1](#)) outlines five different 'profiles' for Bush Fire Brigades, as follows:

- Farmer Response Rural Brigades
- Pastoral Emergency Management
- Rural Brigades
- Settlement Brigades (Rural/Semi Rural)
- Urban Brigades (Defensive/Structural/Breathing Apparatus).

Considerations for Future Bush Fire Brigade Management Arrangements

Local Government Views

As part of WALGA's 2021 Emergency Management Survey, Local Governments were asked about their level of satisfaction with current arrangements for managing BFBs. 92 Local Governments (69 of which manage BFBs) provided the following feedback:

- 93% were not wholly satisfied with the current arrangements for the management of BFBs; and
- 51% expressed that their Local Government does not support the requirements for Local Governments to manage BFBs.

⁹ DFES Volunteering, April 2022

Detailed comments provided in the WALGA survey indicated a strong preference for the State Government to be responsible for all emergency management matters in Western Australia, including the management of BFBs.

Recommendations of Previous Reviews

Over the years there have been many calls for transformational change to the State Emergency Management Framework, in particular rural fire management.

The [Ferguson Report](#) on the 2016 Waroona Bushfire recommended that the State Government establish a rural fire service to address perceived issues in rural fire management, including insufficient capacity and unsuitable governance to deliver rural fire services. In 2017 the State Government hosted a bushfire mitigation summit at which a number of options were considered by stakeholders: a rural fire service operated within DFES; a rural fire service operated within DFES with autonomy; and a dedicated rural fire service that operated independently. Options to transfer the management of all BFBs under one umbrella – DFES or other – were also explored.

The 2017 [Economic Regulation Authority Review of the Emergency Services Levy \(ESL\)](#) considered the extent to which the ESL should be available to fund the administrative and/ or operational costs of a rural fire service, although it was outside the terms of reference for the ERA to examine the merits of a rural fire service or form a view on the best model of a rural fire service¹⁰. A number of Local Governments provided submissions to the ERA Review that supported the creation of a rural fire service¹¹.

Work Health and Safety Act 2020

The requirements of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020*, enacted in March 2022, have heightened concerns in the sector regarding risk and liability in the management of BFBs, resourcing requirements and training and competency.

The shared responsibility for the health and safety of BFB volunteers adds further complexity to the management of BFBs and responsibilities. Local Governments, DFES, and in some cases the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), have a shared duty of care to BFB volunteers due to Controlling Agency activities at incidents, and funding mechanisms (LGGs) for BFB operations and capital equipment.

DFES has a role as the lead fire and emergency services agency in WA for preparing training resources and standard operating procedures. DFES is currently developing additional resources suited to each of the above BFB 'profiles', specifically the management and training of BFBs. These additional resources will be discussed further with the sector in the coming months.

Whether the management structure for BFBs could be aligned to reflect the current operations of different brigade 'profiles', as provided in the LGGs Manual and outlined on Page 5 of this Paper, would require further discussion between DFES and the Local Government sector. This could allow for scalability of BFBs depending on location, resources and capabilities.

¹⁰ [ERA Review of the ESL, 2017, pg 185](#)

¹¹ [ERA ESL Review – summary of submissions to issues paper and draft report](#)

Volunteer Insurance

Local Governments are responsible for providing compensation for injury caused to present and former BFB volunteers as a result of their duties. The commercial insurance market ceased writing injury insurance for volunteers in 2012, therefore a self-insurance mutual scheme was implemented to ensure that Local Governments continue to meet this obligation.

Since 2012, due to the high cost of claims, the aggregate limit of liability has increased from \$250,000 to \$750,000. In addition, the annual cost of insurance has nearly doubled (92%) from \$47.50 to \$91.20 per volunteer, and it is expected that this trend will continue¹².

Sector Capacity, Capability and Resourcing

Local Governments vary in their capability, capacity, and resources to manage BFBs, as well as their other extensive legislative responsibilities and requirements¹³.

By way of overview, Local Governments in Western Australia:

- vary in size from less than 1.5 to over 370,000 square kilometres;
- have populations of just over 100 to more than 220,000 people;
- employ fewer than 10 to over 1000 staff; and
- have revenue (2019-20) ranging from just over \$2 million to just over \$225 million¹⁴.

Bush Fire Service and Volunteerism

The localised culture and history of BFBs in WA has had a large influence on the way that Local Governments engage with and manage BFBs. Many BFBs operate in an independent and self-sufficient way, which Local Governments encourage and support, as this contributes to expansion of the volunteer network in the local community, while also building community networks and resilience.

Communities, and therefore many Local Governments, have a significant interest in volunteering and BFBs, with some Local Governments very involved in the establishment, management and operation of their local BFBs. Therefore it is essential that any future management arrangements, including the transfer of responsibility for management of BFBs to the State Government, should be a voluntary process available to Local Governments that do not have the capacity, capability or resources to manage BFBs. It is also essential that the integrity of the Bush Fire Service is maintained, whatever the arrangements for the management of BFBs.

¹² Data provided by LGIS, 17 May 2022

¹³ 2021 Local Government Emergency Management Capability report - SEMC

¹⁴ [Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries](#)

Options for future management of BFBs

Four options are identified for the future management of BFBs:

1. Status quo - continue with the current arrangements for management of BFBs whereby the majority are managed by Local Government and transfer arrangements are negotiated on an ad hoc basis between DFES and Local Governments (or their BFBs).
2. Improvements - continue with the current arrangements for Local Government management of BFBs with additional support provided by the State Government with respect to increased funding and better access to training resources and other support.
3. Hybrid Model - Local Government continues to manage BFBs where they have the capacity, capability and resources to do so; however where they do not have the capacity, capability and resources, responsibility for management of BFBs is transferred to DFES.
4. Transfer - Responsibility for management of all BFBs is transferred to the State Government, consistent with the arrangements in other States and Territories.

Proposed Position

Based on the feedback received from Local Governments in the WALGA Emergency Management Survey and the other considerations outlined above, it is considered appropriate for the Association to **support a hybrid model** for the management of BFBs.

A hybrid model would enable the continued management of BFBs by those Local Governments with capacity, capability and resources to do so, while providing a framework for the transfer of the management of BFBs to the State Government where a Local Government does not.

Whatever the arrangements for future management of BFBs, it is apparent that Local Governments with responsibility for management of BFBs require **additional support and resourcing** which should be provided by the State Government, including:

- development of a suite of guidelines and resources to assist Local Governments in their management of BFBs, particularly with respect to the discharge of obligations under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2021*;
- expansion of the Community Emergency Services Manager Program (CESM) so that every Local Government with responsibility for managing BFBs has access to the Program if they wish to participate;
- universal access to DFES training for BFBs; and
- development of mandatory and minimum training requirements including recognition of competency for volunteers.

Based on the previous commentary, the following Advocacy Position is proposed:

Management of Bush Fire Brigades

1. The Association advocates that the State Government must provide for:

- a) A clear pathway for Local Governments to transfer responsibility for the management of Bush Fire Brigades to the State Government when ongoing management is beyond the capacity, capability and resources of the Local Government;
 - b) The co-design of a suite of relevant guidelines and materials to assist those Local Governments that manage Bush Fire Brigades;
 - c) Mandatory and minimum training requirements for Bush Fire Brigade volunteers supported by a universally accessible training program managed by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES); and
 - d) The recognition of prior learning, experience and competency of Bush Fire Brigade volunteers.
2. That a Working Group comprising representatives of WALGA and DFES be established to develop a process and timeline for the transfer of responsibility for Bush Fire Brigades in accordance with 1(a).
3. Where management of Bush Fire Brigades is transferred to DFES in accordance with 1(a), DFES should be resourced to undertake the additional responsibility.

How to Provide a Response to this Paper and Proposed Position

WALGA strongly encourages all Local Governments, and particularly those with responsibility for managing Bush Fire Brigades to provide a response to this Paper and the proposed Advocacy Position. Council endorsed responses are preferred but not essential.

The following questions are provided for Local Governments to consider:

1. Does your Local Government manage BFBs?
2. Does your Local Government support the proposed Advocacy Position on arrangements for the management of Bush Fire Brigades? Why or why not?
3. Does your Local Government have any further suggestions or changes to the proposed Advocacy Position?
4. For Local Governments that manage BFBs, is your Local Government's preference to continue to manage BFBs or to transfer responsibility to the State Government?
5. Is your response endorsed by Council? If so, please include the Council paper and resolution.
6. Do you have any further comments to make?

Responses can be provided by way of written submission or by completion of the online [survey](#).

Please provide written submissions by **5pm Friday 8 July 2022** to em@walga.asn.au (Subject line: Bush Fire Brigade Advocacy Position).

WALGA will review the feedback received and prepare a report for consideration by WALGA Zones and State Council in September 2022.

APPENDIX ONE - Proposed Emergency Management Advocacy Position Statements

(Positions to be considered at July 2022 State Council Meeting)

8 Emergency Management

Local Governments in Western Australia play a significant role in emergency management. Both Commonwealth and State Government policy identify Local Government as a key player in community disaster resilience, preparedness and response. Local Governments however face a few challenges in addressing their emergency management responsibilities, and these challenges differ greatly across the State.

8.1 Emergency Management Principles

1. The State Government bears fundamental responsibility for emergency management and has the role of providing strategic guidance, support and services for emergency management activities in Western Australia.
2. The State Government should provide financial and resourcing support as necessary to enable Local Governments to adequately deliver their extensive emergency management roles and responsibilities under the State Emergency Management Framework.
3. The Local Government Sector should be engaged as a partner in policy and legislative reviews that impact Local Government emergency management roles and responsibilities.

8.2 State Emergency Management Framework

Local Governments are supported to undertake their emergency management responsibilities by a simple and streamlined State Emergency Management Framework with the primary objectives of:

1. Protecting people, the economy, and the natural environment from disasters;
2. Supporting communities in preventing, preparing for, responding to and recovering from emergencies;
3. Clearly outlining roles, responsibilities and accountabilities for Local Government and other emergency management stakeholders;
4. Scalability and adaptability that supports Local Governments of varied capacity and capability; and
5. Supporting agency interoperability through common systems and approaches to key activities including data management, communications, and hazard management.

8.3 Sustainable Grant Funding Model for Emergency Management

Local Government should be empowered to discharge its emergency management responsibilities through sustainable grant funding models that support a shared responsibility and all hazards approach to prevention, preparedness, response and recovery from natural disasters. A sustainable grant funding model for Local Government emergency management:

1. empowers Local Governments to undertake proactive approaches to preparedness, prevention, response and recovery;

2. supports the resilience of local communities through capacity-building activities and programs;
3. is responsive to the variations in Local Government resourcing and context
4. develops the skills, capacity and capability of the emergency management workforce; and
5. is consistent, flexible, timely, accessible, scalable, strategic and the guidance provided is comprehensive.

8.4 Consolidated Emergency Services Act

1. The Association advocates for the development of a Consolidated Emergency Services Act to provide a comprehensive and contemporary legislative framework to support the effective delivery of emergency services in Western Australia. The Legislation should clearly define the roles and responsibilities of all emergency management stakeholders including Local Government.
2. The Local Government sector seeks ongoing engagement in the scoping and co-design of the Act and associated Regulations and supporting materials such as Guidelines and fact sheets.
3. The Association advocates for DFES to undertake a full costing analysis of the new Act and to provide to Local Government details of the cost implications prior to the release of any Exposure Draft Bill.
4. Any new or increased responsibilities placed on Local Government by the Consolidated Emergency Services Act must be accompanied by funding and resource support to enable Local Governments to adequately discharge those responsibilities.
5. The Association recognises that in addition to the Consolidated Emergency Services Act, the Regulations and other supporting materials that are developed to support it provide a key resource for Local Governments in understanding and discharging their legislative obligations.
6. The Association advocates for the Act to provide clear guidelines for the process for transferring responsibility for bushfire incident response from Local Government to DFES.

8.5 Resource Sharing

Local Governments and the Association support resource sharing across the Local Government Sector for the purpose of emergency management, to support Local Governments to undertake effective and timely response and recovery to emergencies as well as conduct business as usual. The Association will endeavour to facilitate support to the sector in undertaking resource sharing arrangements.

8.6 Lessons Learnt Management

The Association advocates for the implementation of a transparent and contemporary assurance framework for emergency management lessons management overseen by the State Emergency Management Committee. Findings from inquiries and reviews, and progress on implementation of recommendations, should be publicly reported regularly and consistently.

8.7 Emergency Services Levy

Local Government requests the implementation of the recommendations from the 2017 Economic Regulation Authority (ERA) Review of the Emergency Services Levy, which supported increased transparency and accountability in the administration and distribution of the ESL through:

1. Expansion of the ESL to fund Local Government emergency management activities across prevention, preparedness and response.
2. Administration of the ESL by an independent organisation that is funded through consolidated revenue, with regular independent reviews of expenditure and assessment of the effectiveness of ESL funding expenditure to support prevention, preparedness and response activities.
3. The ESL administration fee should recompense Local Governments for the complete cost of administering the ESL.
4. Public disclosure of the allocation and expenditure of the ESL.
5. Public disclosure by the State Government on the progress of implementation of each of the ERA Review recommendations.
6. A review of the role, responsibilities and reporting arrangements of the Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) Program.

8.8 Local Government Grants Scheme (LGGS)

Local Government supports:

1. A full, independent review of the LGGS to investigate and analyse how ESL funds are allocated to Local Government via the LGGS;
2. A redesign of the LGGS to remove the ineligible and eligible list and create a sustainable, modern, equitable grants program that funds Local Government emergency management activities across prevention, preparedness and response
3. An audit of existing buildings, facilities, appliances, vehicles, and major items of equipment for both Local Government Volunteer Bushfire Brigades (BFB) and State Emergency Services (SES) to inform the preparation of a Comprehensive Asset Management Plan and to guide future funding requests;
4. in the interim, an immediately increase in the quantum of State Government funding to enable the provision of funding of operating and capital grant applications in full, to provide all resources necessary for the safe and efficient operation of Local Government Bushfire Brigades, in accordance with obligations of the Work Health and Safety 2020 legislation.

8.9 Expansion of the Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) Program

That the Association advocates for an expansion of the Community Emergency Service Manager (CESM) Program, as follows:

1. All Local Governments should have the option of participating in the CESM Program.
2. The full cost of the CESM Program should be funded through the Emergency Services Levy.

8.10 Management of Bush Fire Brigades

To be developed.