



BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday 20th of July 2023

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

Michael Hall – Acting CESM, Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Steve Lake – Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Sean Winter – Captain, Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

Tony Moiler AFSM – Captain, Kalamunda Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service

City Staff:

Nicole O’Neill – City of Kalamunda, Director Community Engagement

Ex- Officio Members:

Natalie Smailes – First Lieutenant, Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade.

David Carroll – Fire Control Officer, Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade,

John Idland – Senior Fire Fighter Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade,

Andrew Haselden – Fire Control Officer, Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade,

Stuart Parks – Deputy Captain, Kalamunda Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service

Visitors: Nil

Apologies:

Mike Ward – CESM, Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Paul Southam – DFES District Officer South-East

Michael Pasotti – DBCA – Fire Coordinator

Warwick Martindale – Local Manager State Emergency Service

Minutes:

Andrew Haselden – Fire Control Officer, Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade,

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3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Moved: Steve Lake

Seconded: Michael Hall

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 4.1. Standard of Firebreaks - J Wickens to table BFAC's recommendation to Council. Nicole O'Neill advises that this has been actioned with the recommendation taken to Council. The Fire Hazard Reduction Notice has now been gazetted.

5. CORRESPONDENCE IN/OUT

- 5.1. In - Invitation from CoK for members to participate in the Community Health & Wellbeing Plan survey and workshops.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

- 6.1. It is advised by Tony Moiler that the United Firefighters Union's (UFU) industrial action, which affects Career Fire Fighters, has had an impact on training of Volunteers. Nicole O'Neill queries whether a letter needs to be sent to DFES. Michael Hall notes that the Bush Fire Brigades are able to run a majority of their own training however the Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services are struggling to complete annual recertifications and training.

David Carroll advises that he will seek information from other Local Governments as to whether they are considering sending letters to DFES.

Steve Lake notes that the completion of basic training has been OK, for the Kalamunda VBFB, however gaining access to leadership courses has been difficult. Natalie Smailes notes that driver training run through DFES trainers has had a high knock back rate for Brigade members.

Tony Moiler advises that this current difficulty in obtaining training has been further frustrated by backlogs post COVID training reductions. Tony Moiler further advises that it is preventing new members from undertaking their basic training.

CR. John Giardina asks whether BFAC wishes for the City to send a letter to DFES seeking clarification on training availability.

Stuart Parks discusses that the UFU and State Government are the main parties involved and that DFES are basically stuck in the middle. Following consultation Cr. John Giardina advises that a letter will be sent by the City to Matthew Hughes MLA and Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Emergency Services.

ACTION ITEM - Cr. John Giardina to arrange for a letter to be sent by the City to Matthew Hughes MLA and Stephen Dawson MLC, regarding the UFU's industrial action and its impact on volunteer training.

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7. AGENCY UPDATE

7.1. Department of Fire and Emergency Services - Paul Southam – Absent
Nothing tabled.

7.2. Department of Parks and Wildlife – Michael Pasotti – Absent

Nothing tabled.

7.3. City of Kalamunda Community Emergency Manager – Mike Ward - Absent

Nicole O'Neill advises that the City of Kalamunda Director of Strategic Projects has taken carriage of the Pickering Brook fire station project and will progress this with Michael Ward and herself.

Funding has been allocated for planning stages and the City will be investigating the costs and extent of site and earthworks associated with the project. These costs are not covered by the LGGS grant application.

Nicole O'Neill advises that the BFAC recommendations surrounding the fire inspection process was tabled to Council and changes have been made,

- A full time Bushfire Community Preparedness Officer has been advertised which will be appointed as a year-round engagement in lieu of the previous sessional appointment.
- Variations will be lifetime with the exception of grazing which will require an annual application. Twenty-Five variation applications have been received with Twenty Three approved. David Carrol asks how many variations had been approved in the previous year, Michael Hall advises that it was in the region of One Hundred and Seventy. Nicole O'Neill advises that this number is expected to increase to around Two Hundred with some orchardists expected to require additional variations.

Steve Lake enquires about the E-Rates process as the Fire Hazard Reduction Notice is not as prominent as it is in paper form. Steve Lake enquires as to whether this may increase noncompliance, Nicole O'Neill notes that the notice is also sent out via letterbox drops and in print. Nicole O'Neill notes that the City provides its residents with notice well beyond what is required by legislation.

David Carroll enquires whether any further information has been provided on the status of the proposed combined emergency services legislation. Nicole O'Neill advises that there is a backlog of legislation and that that while there are no current updated, it is anticipated to be delayed further.

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8. NEXT MEETING

8.1. Next meeting, agreed that the next General Meeting will be bought forward by one week to Thursday the 12th of October 2023. The meeting will be held at 1730hrs in the Derek Fletcher Training Room, Kalamunda Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade / State Emergency Service, 20 Raymond Road, Walliston.

Future Meetings for 2024, To be agreed in October.

9. CLOSURE

9.1. Meeting closed at 1800hrs.

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