

SHIRE OF KOJONUP

Kojonup



Kojonup Bush Fire Advisory Committee

AGENDA

29 October 2020

TO: COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Kojonup Bush Fire Advisory Committee will be held in the Reception Lounge at the Shire of Kojonup, 93-95 Albany Highway, Kojonup on Thursday 29 October 2020 commencing at 7:30pm.

Your attendance is respectfully requested.


RICK MITCHELL-COLLINS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
23 October 2020

AGENDA FOR THE KOJONUP BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
TO BE HELD 29 OCTOBER 2020

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A G E N D A

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF GUESTS

The Presiding Member shall declare the meeting open at pm and alert the meeting of the procedures for emergencies including evacuation, designated exits and muster points.

2. ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

MEMBERS

Mr John Benn	Shire President (Acting Presiding Member)
Mr Tony Fisher	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Mr Roger House	Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer
Mr Ross Fryer-Smith	Senior Bush Fire Control Officer
Mr Myles Reid	Senior Bush Fire Control Officer
Mr Digby Stretch	President Kojonup Bush Fire Association
Mr Rick Mitchell-Collins	Chief Executive Officer
Mr Robert Cowie	Payroll and Emergence Management Officer (Minutes)
Mr Kevin Bransby	Community Emergency Services Manager
Mr Paul Retallack	Senior Ranger/Building Maintenance Coordinator
Mrs Denise Berryman	Secretary of the Kojonup Bush Fire Association
Mr Matthew Crabb	Kojonup Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service
Mr Brad Nagtegaal	Kojonup Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service
Mr Bob Francis	Kojonup Bushfire Brigade Member

GUESTS

Nil

APOLOGIES

Mr Ned Radford Councillor (Presiding Member)

3. **SUMMARY OF RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE**

Nil

4. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Nil

5. **APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

6. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting held on 12 February 2020 were previously circulated under separate cover and are at [Attachment 6.1](#).

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting held 12 February 2020 be confirmed as a true record.

7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** by the Presiding Member without discussion

8. **PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

9. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

10. STATUS REPORTS

10.1 Water Shortages

- Keys to the locked Standpipes (Katanning Rd and Carlecatup Rd) have been handed out to the Zulu's, the Kojonup and Muradup Truck and to the Captain of the Cherry Tree Pool brigade. Mr Cowie also has a key. The key will unlock both padlocks.
- Very dry in the East and Northeast of the Shire. BFB Member to discuss further.
- There are a number of privately owned water tankers around the Shire. We should make contact with owners to see if they are willing to make these available as portable solutions for the season.
- The Shire owned tanker will be available and ready if required.
- Fuel Loads are quite high in the region and it is expected to be a dry season.
- Length of Harvest Season – What is the prognosis this season?
- CEO asked for clarification from Main Roads WA (Great Southern) regarding access to water tanks at Crapella Road, Boscabel as Shire President indicates that Egabva has upgraded standpipes improving fast fill requirements.

Brad Lenton – Network Manager provided the following response 23 October 2020 @ 1.30pm:

“Hi Rick

Thank you for your email regarding the water tanks located on Crapella Road, Boscabel.

In the absence of any official records, my understanding is that the tanks are a shared resource between the Shire and Main Roads and therefore we would have no in principle objection to the water being accessed for firefighting.

I trust that this is satisfactory, however if you wish to discuss this matter further or enter into a more formal arrangement please feel free to contact me directly.”

- Water Corporation (Town South Dam) – No guarantee that water level will get us through summer and \$1M Drought Communities Funding projects are planned to commence over summer in readiness for autumn/winter rains which does not help for this summer.

10.2 Local Government Grants Scheme (LGGS)

DFES Resource Allocation Officer Natasha Dudarz and Grants Officer Peter Raykos are visiting Kojonup to meet with those who are involved or have a vested interest in the Local Government Grants Scheme (LGGS) process.

‘The purpose of the visit is to provide clarification on the LGGS process, inform local governments of any impending changes that may be occurring and provide advice where required on any concerns or confusion that your local government or volunteers may have relating to the LGGS. Our aim is to guide you in simplifying the process with applications

and operating grant acquittals (if required) and to finally meet personally and put a face to the name.'

Who should attend the briefing: Any local government employees that are involved in the LGGs process or wish to seek further information/clarification of the process. Local government CBFCO & DCBFCO, BFB Captains & office bearers, SES Unit Managers & office bearers, volunteers. The intent is for a casual and open meeting which we hope will be constructive and beneficial to all those attending.

Date & Time: Wednesday 4/11/20 at the Kojonup Sports Complex commencing at 9:30am and concluding 11:30am

Listed for information.

10.3 Public Notifications

The new Messaging Trailer Unit will be utilised throughout the Fire Season advising public of restricted burning periods, Harvest Movement Bans and Total Fire Bans, etc.

Signage has been placed outside the Town Fire Brigade and also at the Kodja Place.

Listed for information.

10.4 Phone Towers – Battery Backup

Email from West Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) 2 Oct 2020.

“As advised Nick Sloan, Cr Stephen Strange and I met with Senator Dean Smith and Mark Thompson, Corporate Affairs Manager and Boyd Brown, WA Regional General Manager representing Telstra on Thursday 24 September, 2020.

The Senator had called the meeting as a follow up to our meeting of 22 July, 2020 when the Association assisted by Cr Stephen Strange, escalated the matter to the Commonwealth level via three fronts, Hon Melissa Price MP, Hon Mark Coulton MP and the Senator.

Telstra acknowledged that issues occur around ‘unplanned’ outages (as experienced in emergency situations) and that energy providers (Western Power and Horizon Power) should also be at the table to address this issue along with future proofing solutions.

Further, Telstra spoke of the Commonwealth’s ‘hardening’ grant funding program (funded via Mobile Black Spot Funding), at which time we were able to outline some of the limitations of the fund.

Acknowledged one of the gaps is between the battery back-up ‘going down’ and the technician arriving. Further, it was acknowledged that Telstra had distributed a ‘Notifications’ Fact Sheet as an outcome to previous advocacy by Zones and WALGA. (Currently notifications of ‘planned’ outages are going directly to the Local MP and the affected Local Governments).

Solutions discussed included but were not limited to:

- *Investigating the actual ‘cost’ and options of a battery backup replacement and maintenance program to ensure longer back –up*
- *Investigating ‘local’ options and training for technicians*
- *Including Western Power and Horizon Power to seek a collaborative approach to both short term solutions and innovative solutions for the long term e.g. Gen Set/Solar/ Battery combination.*

Outcomes of the meeting included:

- *The Senator to write to the Telstra CEO outlining the specific nuances and needs of Western Australia*
- *The Senator will write to the SEMC to encourage this matter as a standing item, suggesting Telstra, Western Power and Horizon Power attendance to seek a collaborative solution*
- *The Telstra WA Regional General Manager, Boyd Brown and WALGA CEO, Nick Sloan to meet in the near future to progress solution seeking options for the short, medium and long term*

It was acknowledged that many of the options were currently prohibitive from a cost perspective, although the discussions did identify some options that could be explored further.

Where cost was seen as an issue, it was agreed that this should not limit investigating what is possible and to explore funding options that could be available now and into the future.

Most importantly, there is a commitment to keep exploring options.

I do hope this assists and we will keep the Zone abreast of progress.

Kind regards

Joanne Burges | Intergovernmental Relations & Risk | WALGA”

Listed for information.

11. ITEMS (General Business)

11.1 Great Southern Regional Operational Advisory Committee (ROAC)

Minutes of the ROAC Meeting held 30 September 2020 and the Great Southern Regional Directory ([Attachment 11.1.1](#) and [Attachment 11.1.2](#)).

- Points to be aware of from the Minutes;
 - Item 4.6.7 – Action item from RAOC to LGGS Grants enabling changes to ESL Purchasing Guidelines
 - Pg. 10 – Bushfire Season Challenges

11.2 Resource Sharing CESM – Position Description (PD)

Council, at its meeting held 28 July 2020 resolved:

Decision 93/20

“That Council:

1. *Notes the concerns raised by the Kojonup Bushfire Association and apologises for the lack of communication regarding the DFES funding and appointment of a Community Emergency Services Manager for the Shires of Cranbrook, Gnowangerup and Kojonup;*
2. *Re-affirms the CEO’s appointment of the CESM as the position directly reports to the CEO;*
3. *Notes the CBFCO and Zulu’s can liaise directly with the CEO should CESM assistance be required on the fire ground;*
4. *Invite the DFES Commissioner to attend a meeting of the Kojonup Volunteer Bush Fire Association to address concerns regarding DFES relationship with Volunteer Brigades;*
5. *The position description of the CESM be tabled at the next Bushfire Advisory Committee meeting to clearly identify the roles and functions required by the CEO and allay concerns raised by the Volunteer Bushfire Association; and*
6. *The Key Performance Indicators of the CESM be reviewed after 12 months.”*

Zulu’s and Digby Stretch met with the CEO and ‘walked through’ the proposed PD and together with Denise met with Kevin Bransby, Monday, 19 October 2020. The revised PD ([Attachment 11.2.1](#)) is now tabled in accordance with Point 5 above.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That the Resource Shared CESM Position Description and Key Performance Indicators be endorsed by the Bushfire Advisory Committee allowing Council via the CEO to review same after 12 months as per Council Decision 93/20.”

12 MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil

13 LATE ITEMS

This section of the meeting is for discussing late items which did not make it into the Agenda and of which a decision is required by the BFAC as to the course of action to be taken for Council consideration.

14 NEXT MEETING

Wednesday Thursday 25 February 2021 at 7:30pm

15 CLOSURE

There being no further business to discuss the Presiding Member thanked the members for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at pm.

16 ATTACHMENTS (SEPARATE)

Attachment 6.1 – Minutes of the Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting held 12 February 2020

Attachment 11.1.1 - GS_ROAC_MINUTES_Sept2020

Attachment 11.1.2 - 2020_21_GreatSouthernDirectory

Attachment 11.2.1 - Position Description CESM