

SHIRE OF KOJONUP

Kojonup



Kojonup Bush Fire Advisory Committee

Minutes

25 February 2021

BUSHFIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Established under *Section 67 of the Bush Fires Act 1954*.

Terms of Reference

The Bush Fire Advisory Committee is established for the purpose of:

- a) Advising the Shire regarding all matters relating to the preventing, controlling and extinguishing of bush fires;
- b) The planning of the layout of firebreaks in the district;
- c) Prosecutions for breaches of this Act;
- d) The formation of bush fire brigades and the grouping thereof under group brigade officers (in accordance with any local laws);
- e) Recommendations on Fire Control Officer positions;
- f) Feedback on the Council's Fire Break Notice;
- g) Specific requirements from each brigade with regard to:
 - Protective Personal Equipment;
 - Equipment and vehicles resources required; and
 - Training Requirements;
- h) The ensuring of cooperation and coordination of Bush Fire Brigades in their efforts and activities; and
- i) Any other matter relating to bush fire control whether of the same kind as, or a different kind from, those specified in this subsection.

Other:

- a) The Bush Fire Advisory Committee shall include an elected member of the Council;
- b) The committee shall elect one of their members to be chairman;
- c) The quorum required for the transaction of business at meetings of the committee is set at 50%

Membership

Voting Members (9 in total)

- Councillors x2 (Currently Cr Radford and Cr Benn);
- The President of the Kojonup Bushfire Association;
- The Chief Bush Fire Control Officer;
- The Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer;
- Senior Fire Control Officer (Zulu)
- Senior Fire control Officer (Zulu)
- Secretary of the Kojonup Bushfire Association
- Captain of the Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service

Observers

- The Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
- Shire Delegates x2
- Muradup Town Fire Control Officer (FCO)

MINUTES FOR THE KOJONUP BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD 25 FEBRUARY 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	DECLARATION OF OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF GUESTS	5
2.	ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES	5
3.	SUMMARY OF RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE	6
4.	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME	6
5.	APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE	6
6.	CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES	6
7.	ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDING MEMBER WITHOUT DISCUSSION	6
8.	PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS & PRESENTATIONS	6
9.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	6
10.	STATUS REPORTS	6
11.	ITEMS (GENERAL BUSINESS)	10
12.	MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN	11
13.	LATE ITEMS	12
14.	NEXT MEETING	12
15.	CLOSURE	12

A G E N D A

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF GUESTS

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 7:32pm and alerted the meeting of the procedures for emergencies including evacuation, designated exits and muster points.

2. ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

MEMBERS

Cr Ned Radford	Councillor (Presiding Member)
Cr John Benn	Shire President
Mr Ross Fryer-Smith	Senior Bush Fire Control Officer
Mr Matthew Crabb	Kojonup Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service
Mr Digby Stretch	President of the Kojonup Bush Fire Association
Mrs Denise Berryman	Secretary of the Kojonup Bush Fire Association

OBSERVERS

Rick Mitchell-Collins	Chief Executive Officer
Mr Robert Cowie	Administration/Regulatory Officer
Mr Bob Francis	Muradup Bushfire Brigade Member
Mr Paul Retallack	Senior Ranger/Building Maintenance Coordinator
Mr Kevin Bransby	Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM)

GUESTS

Mr Wayne Green	DFES District Superintendent – Great Southern
Mr Steve York	DFES Acting Area Manager

APOLOGIES

Mr Myles Reid	Senior Bush Fire Control Officer
Mr Tony Fisher	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Mr Roger House	Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer
Mr Brad Nagtegaal	Kojonup Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service

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

Nil

4. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Nil

5. **APPLICATIONS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

Nil

6. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

COMMITTEE DECISION

1/21 **Moved John Benn, seconded Ross Fryer-Smith that the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Bushfire Advisory Committee held 29 October 2020 be confirmed as a true record.**

CARRIED 6/0

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

Nil

8. **PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

Nil

9. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Nil

10. **STATUS REPORTS**

10.1 2020/2021 Fire Season Update

As at 23 February 2021, there have been the following fires reported within the Shire

Shire of Kojonup – Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting – 25 Feb 2021

Fires for 2020 - 2021 by Brigades													
Brigade	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	Total
Boilup													0
Boscabel													0
Changerup							1						1
Cherry Tree Pool				1			1						2
Jingalup						1	4						5
Kojonup							5						5
Lumeah						1	2						3
Mobrup													0
Muradup				2									2
Orchid Valley							1						1
Qualeup							1	1					2
Ryans Brook							1	1	1				3
Total	0	0	0	3	0	4	16	1	0	0	0	0	24

This compares with the following data for the previous four years.

Fires for 2019-2020 by Brigades													
Brigade	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	Total
Boilup													0
Boscabel						3	1						4
Changerup							1						1
Cherry Tree Pool							1						1
Jingalup								1		2			3
Kojonup										2			2
Lumeah						1	1	1	3				6
Mobrup								1		1			2
Muradup				1			1	1					3
Orchid Valley										1			1
Qualeup									1				1
Ryans Brook							1						1
Total	0	0	0	1	3	6	6	1	4	4	6	0	25

Fires for 2018 - 2019 by Brigades													
Brigade	July	August	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	Total
Boilup													0
Boscabel													0
Changerup					1	1			2				4
Cherry Tree Pool						1	1		1				3
Jingalup						1	4		3		1		9
Kojonup						1	2		1	1	3	1	9
Lumeah						3	1		1	1	2		8
Mobrup							1				1		2
Muradup									2				2
Orchid Valley									1				1
Qualeup						1					2	1	4
Ryans Brook								1					1
Total	0	0	0	0	1	8	10	0	11	2	9	2	43

Shire of Kojonup – Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting – 25 Feb 2021

Fires for 2017 - 2018 by brigade													
Brigade	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	Total
Boilup										1			1
Boscabel													0
Changerup												1	1
Cherry Tree Pool										1			1
Jingalup						1				1		1	3
Kojonup					6	1				4		2	13
Lumeah					1				2	1		3	7
Mobrup												1	1
Muradup						1							1
Orchid Valley						1							1
Qualeup												1	1
Ryans Brook					1								1
Total	0	0	0	0	8	4	0	0	0	3	7	9	31

Fires for 2016 - 2017 by brigades													
Brigade	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	Total
Boilup												1	1
Boscabel													0
Changerup							1						1
Cherry Tree Pool					1	1							2
Jingalup									1			2	3
Kojonup							1						1
Lumeah													0
Mobrup													0
Muradup											2	1	3
Orchid Valley										1			1
Qualeup													0
Ryans Brook									1			1	2
Total	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	2	1	2	5	0	14

These reported fires provide a vital argument when the Shire requires extra funding or there is a need for extra resources to be allocated to this area.

All fires need to be reported to DFES Comcen. This allows there to be a record of incidents which can be utilised for resource allocation.

It was discussed that there seems to be a trend for there to be more fires in April and May. This is because of the increased storm activity and wind conditions experienced in these months. The Zulu's are aware of these conditions and are confident that the volunteers are prepared.

Wayne Green suggested that DFES can produce reports which detail causes of reported fires. This can be arranged though the CESM. The CESM has the ability to create an incident report on a fire after the fact or add further details into a closed report if required. All Brigade FCO's should be continuing to report fires, but Denise Berryman or Rob Cowie can contact Kevin to report any incidents that are missed through this process.

10.2 State Government's WA Recovery Plan

Through the State Government's WA Recovery Plan, DFES was provided \$2.0 million over two years (2020/21 & 2021/22) for the provision of water tanks at existing bush fire facilities (not funded through Emergency Services Levy (ESL) collections). The additional funding is intended for bush fire brigades (BFB's) located in high bushfire risk areas that do not already have a water tank.

Applications for Round Two are now open and builds on the success of the previous round, which committed grant support for 61 applications totalling \$829,437.

Strategically located water tanks, for firefighting purposes only, will also be considered in Round Two. The criteria to be applied to these requests is that the tanks must be located on Local Government owned or managed land, nominated at the time of the request.

Mr Cowie to follow up with relevant organisations as to locations within Kojonup that water tanks could meet the funding criteria.

Listed for information.

Wayne Green suggested that Kojonup should try to capitalise on these grants while they are available. As round two is closing on 10 March 2021, there is insufficient time to produce a complete grant application the Shire should look at all other funding opportunities that are available, including the Community Water Supply Program from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. Mr Cowie to make enquiries and progress this as a priority.

10.3 Drought Communities Programme

The Shire is currently working on projects approved under the \$1m grant funding from the Federal Government for Drought Communities Programme.

These include:

- A realignment of the creek at the Kojonup Park, installation of larger non-potable water tank to irrigate park area over summer and improve hydrology and reduce potential flooding from a future major storm event.
- Construct a new dam on part of the land presently leased to the Kojonup Football Club for cropping opposite the Saleyards to capture and store stormwater runoff from the Industrial Estate and surrounding catchment which in turn can be pumped to the storage dam at the Showgrounds or to Turkey Nest which irrigates the Sports Oval.
- Install a new pipeline from the South Dam (Stock Road) to the Turkey Nest with a new pipeline that allows irrigation of Benn Parade and District High School areas.
- Construct new retarding basins/water storage dams at Quin Quin Reserve and Old Drive-in area to slow stormwater during storm events as well as supplement supply for irrigation of public open space.
- New tank near new roof over Netball Courts to allow run off to be captured and stored for irrigation purposes.

It is to be noted that the additional storage capacity goal is to also to allow water to be used for firefighting purposes or emergency use for stock watering.

Listed for information.

10.4 Communications Tower

Council officers are liaising with the Department of Lands regarding the section of land contained within the Jingalup/Balgarup Road Reserve to ascertain approvals required to dedicate land specifically for the Communications Tower. This involves a comprehensive survey of the area, creation of a separate lot as distinct from the Road Reserve for the tower footprint, lodgement fees, and subdivision and development approvals. State approval based on tower design as to whether it requires guide wires or is stand alone is also essential to ensure the creation of a separate lot. This process is certainly not quick as the tower will initially accommodate DFES (WAERN) infrastructure, Bushfire Infrastructure and Council's own radio network, so the process is very methodical given it will stand in situ for 40 plus years.

Listed for information.

Wayne Green explained the Emergency Services Radio Network (ESRN). The ESRN will provide a state of the art digital trunked radio network, significantly enhancing the safety of first responders working on the frontline to protect our community. This network will be utilised by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), West Australian Police Force (WAPol), Department of Justice (DoJ) and Department of Health (DoH) - St John Ambulance. It will comprise of a digital trunked radio network and will operate across the extended Metropolitan Area and Albany, Bunbury, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Port Hedland and Karratha.

Mr Green suggested that the initial cost will be over \$400m to complete the Metro and major Region Centres and take about 8 years to complete. The remainder of the state has been estimated to cost over \$1 billion to complete, No timeframe given for this project to be completed.

If the Shire of Kojonup thinks that there is a requirement for a new radio network tower, build it. Don't wait for new technology as the timeframe is too long to wait.

Ned Radford asked if DFES was able to contribute to the new tower. Mr Green replied as per previous report delivered to the Shire, DFES will pay for relocation of WAERN components only if it results in a better network coverage. ESL monies are not able to be utilised for radio networks and therefore cannot be pooled fund the new tower.

11. ITEMS (General Business)

11.1 Community Emergency Services Manager Update

Mr Bransby is to update the Committee on the Volunteer Calender and the Radio Network Circular as per Attachment 11.1.1 and 11.1.2

Kevin Bransby reiterated that part of his position is to liaise with the volunteer base and organise all training requirements. The VBFB is to utilise the CESM and PEMO for all fire related requirements.

Ms Berryman suggested that the FCO training in August would be too late for most of the volunteers in Kojonup and if a course could be organised for March, this would achieve better results. Mr Bransby will organise this if possible.

***NB. – An FCO course has since been organised for Monday 15 March at the Shire Office.*

The first Farmer Response training day was held at Woodanilling. Initial reports are promising and the course will be altered and improved with further dates to be crated and communicated to all Shires.

11.2 Town Site Firebreak Inspection Dates

As discussed at the BFAC Meeting 29 October 2020, the dates for the firebreak inspections within the gazetted town site boundaries of Kojonup and Muradup are to be recommended to Council to be moved forward by four weeks to 2 November. This will allow the Council to ensure that there is sufficient time to enforce any measures that are taken on properties that are not up the required standards as prescribed in the Fire Break notices produced each year. The dates for all land outside of the gazetted town sites are to remain unchanged.

COMMITTEE DECISION

2/21 Moved Digby Stretch, seconded Matt Crabb that the Bushfire Advisory Committee recommend to Council that the date for the firebreak inspections within the gazetted town site boundaries of Kojonup be set at 2 November each year.

Carried 6/0

12 MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

Nil

13 **LATE ITEMS**

- 13.1** Matt Crabb has suggested that the Fire Signage has been a success this season. It was agreed that the signs need to be in a more permanent fixture moving forward. Mr Cowie to progress this in time for the next restricted burning period (October 2021)
- 13.2** Mr Cowie would like to progress the update to the Fire Map Project. He will see if this is able to be funded via the AWARE grant in the 2021/2022 financial year.
- 13.3** Mr Bransby is looking to source funding for the off season burning in Unallocated Crown Land (UCL) and Unallocated Management Reserves (UMR) land within the Shire. And also would like to increase and maintain the fire breaks on land that is vested with the Shire.

14 **NEXT MEETING**

The BFAC Meeting will be held on Thursday 29 April 2021 at 7:30 pm to allow sufficient time for the Volunteer Bushfire AGM to take place after the April School Holidays.

15 **CLOSURE**

There being no further business to discuss the Presiding Member thanked the members for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 8:55pm.