




MINUTES

BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

14 MARCH 2025

The Chief Executive Officer recommends the endorsement of these minutes at the next Meeting of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee.

Signed: 

Date 19/03/2025

These minutes were confirmed at the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held

Signed:

(Presiding Member at the meeting at which minutes were confirmed)

Acknowledgement of Noongar People

The Shire of Narrogin acknowledges the Noongar people as traditional custodians of this land and their continuing connection to land and community. We pay our respect to them, to their culture and to their Elders past and present.

Naatj ngiyan Birdiya Gnarojin kep unna nidja Noongar Moort ngaala maya nidja boodjera baarlap djoowak karlerl koolark. Ngalak niny ngullang karnan balang Bibolman baalap borong koora wer boorda.

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Please note that meetings may be recorded for minute taking purposes.

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BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

14 MARCH 2025

1. OFFICIAL OPENING/ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Presiding Member, President Ballard, declared the meeting open at 3:05 pm.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES/APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Elected Members Present

Mr Leigh Ballard – Shire President (Presiding Member)

CBFCO

Mr Pip Porter

DCBFCO

Mr Vern Gibson

Mr Stuart Moyses

FCO's

Mr Jon Rick

Mr Nathan Walker

Mr Daryl Kilpatrick

Mr Troy Smith

Mr Braden Lange

Mr John Eckersley

Staff

Mr Azhar Awang – Executive Manager Development and Regulatory Services

Mr Guy Maley – Senior Ranger

Mr Beau Smith – Relief Ranger

Ms Siobhán Gallagher – Executive Support Officer (Minutes)

Other

Mr Gavin Stevens – DFES

Snr Sgt Ryan Devine – Narrogin Police

Apologies

Mr Dale Stewart – Chief Executive Officer

Mr Noel White – Ranger

Mr Paul Leiper – DFES

Mr Keiran Quartermaine

Mr Murray Saunders

Mr Russell Ashley

Mr Lewis Hardie

Mr Clayton Hardie

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION AND COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Mr Stuart Moyses

Seconded: Mr Guy Maley

That the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held on 24 September 2024 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

CARRIED 10/0

For: Mr L Ballard, Mr P Porter, Mr V Gibson, Mr S Moyses, Mr D Kilpatrick, Mr N Walker, Mr B Lange, Mr T Smith, Mr J Rick, Mr J Eckersley.

Against: Nil

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PERSON PRESIDING WITHOUT DISCUSSION

Nil

5. MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE DECISIONS

5.1 ANNUAL APPOINTMENT OF FIRE OFFICERS

Attachment 1– List of current appointees

A list of the current CBFCO, DCBFCO, Weather Committee, FCO's, Brigade Captains and Dual FCO's is required to be endorsed by Council annually prior to the fire season.

Dual FCO's are required to be endorsed by Council annually prior to the fire season.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Mr Nathan Walker

Seconded: Mr Troy Smith

There be a recommendation to Council to appoint the following with all previous appointments being rescinded.

Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	Pip Porter
First Deputy CBFCO	Vern Gibson
Second Deputy CBFCO	Stuart Moyses
Base Radio Operator	Stuart Moyses
Senior Ranger/Shire FCO	Guy Maley
Ranger/Shire FCO	Noel White Beau Smith

Bush Fire Brigade Fire Control Officer's:

Highbury	Captain	Pip Porter
	1st Lieutenant	Stuart Moyses
	2nd Lieutenant	Murray Saunders
Minigin	Captain	Clayton Hardie
	1st Lieutenant	Lewis Hardie
	2nd Lieutenant	Russell Ashley
Narrogin	Captain	Vern Gibson
	1st Lieutenant	Jon Rick
	2nd Lieutenant	Leigh Ballard
Nomans	Lake Captain	Nathan Walker
	1st Lieutenant	Daryl Kilpatrick
	2nd Lieutenant	

Ockley	Captain	Troy Smith
	1st Lieutenant	Keiran Quartermaine
	2nd Lieutenant	Braden Lange

Fire Weather Officers

Pip Porter
 Vern Gibson
 Stuart Moyses

Weather Committee

		Alternative Member
Boundain	Keiran Quartermaine	
Highbury East	Pip Porter	Stuart Moyses
Highbury South	Murray Saunders	
Minigin	Clayton Hardie	Lewis Hardie
Narrogin Central	Vern Gibson	Leigh Ballard
Nomans Lake	Nathan Walker	Daryl Kilpatrick
Ockley	Troy Smith	Braden Lange

Dual Fire Control Officers

Cuballing	Guy Maley	Clayton Hardie	Keiran Quartermaine
Wagin	Stuart Moyses	Nathan Walker	
West Arthur	Murray Saunders		
Wickepin	Troy Smith		
Williams	Clayton Hardie	Murray Saunders	Russell Ashley

CARRIED 10/0

For: Mr L Ballard, Mr P Porter, Mr V Gibson, Mr S Moyses, Mr D Kilpatrick, Mr N Walker, Mr B Lange, Mr T Smith, Mr J Rick, Mr J Eckersley.

Against: Nil

6. MATTERS WHICH REQUIRE DISCUSSION

6.1 ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE SHIRE FIRE ORDER

Attachment 2 – 24/25 Fire Order The Shire of Narrogin Fire Order is to be reviewed annually.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Moved: Pip Porter

Seconded: Stuart Moyses

That it be a recommendation to the Council that the revised 25/26 Fire Order be amended to include the following edit:

Section 2.1 subheading Harvesting point (b) be removed and replaced with:

“an operational mobile engine powered firefighting unit or units with a minimum combined capacity of 1200 litres of available water, located in or immediately adjacent to the paddock being harvested and/or baled. The minimum capacity off any single firefighting unit shall be 800 litres of available water. The responsibility to supply and operate the firefighting unit is that of the landowner/occupier.”

CARRIED 10/0

For: Mr L Ballard, Mr P Porter, Mr V Gibson, Mr S Moyses, Mr D Kilpatrick, Mr N Walker, Mr B Lange, Mr T Smith, Mr J Rick, Mr J Eckersley.

Against: Nil

6.2 BUSH FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN (BMP) UPDATE

The Executive Manager of Development & Regulatory Services provided an update regarding the ongoing mitigation works under the Bush Fire Management Plan (BMP). The acquittal process is currently in progress, with the only remaining requirement being the submission of photographic evidence, which is expected to be completed by the set deadline of June 2025.

Additionally, the MAFGP Assurance Program Guidelines from DFES were discussed, including the upcoming scheduled meeting on 8 April.

Another point of discussion involved the potential use of drones for the spraying of long grass. There were concerns raised regarding the possible use of helicopters at the tip site, particularly with respect to the risk of overspray impacting surrounding areas. Further deliberation will be needed to address these concerns and determine the most effective and safe approach for the treatment of long grass.

6.3 UPDATE ON THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT SCHEME (LGGS)

The Executive Manager Development & Regulatory Services provided an update on the progress of the Local Government Grant Scheme (LGGS). Among the key topics discussed was the installation of a weather station and the purchase of a mobile stand for operational use.

Regarding volunteer dress standards, it was suggested that the LGGS funds be applied for the acquisition of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Gavin from DFES recommended submitting an application for these funds, noting that there had been an overspend before the current acquittal phase. Gavin expressed his willingness to support the application to ensure the necessary PPE is procured.

Further discussions touched on the planned expenditure of \$3,000 for technical equipment intended for use with the white trucks, and \$30,000 allocated for PPE. A reminder was given to submit all funding requests by the end of next week to ensure timely processing.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

Pip Porter – CBFCO: Acknowledged and thanked everyone for their contributions. Pip also shared a personal note regarding a family member's involvement with a fire lightning incident. Reflecting on this, Pip mentioned that, in hindsight, more experienced personnel should have been assigned to the situation.

Senior Sergeant Ryan Devine – Narrogin Police: Ryan provided an update on the newly enabled Starlink Wi-Fi in police vehicles, which will enhance communication and support. Additionally, he mentioned that training for new officers is underway to improve their operational capability.

Gavin Stevens – DFES: Gavin gave an update on the contacts list, thanking everyone for their hard work this fire season. He emphasized the importance of maintaining the flow of information and reminded everyone to call in within the first 15 minutes of a response, using the 1800 number for confidential updates. (Details on the number were provided during the meeting.)

Stuart Moyses – DCBFCO: Stuart highlighted the introduction of a QR code for Narrogin, which links to an updated fire map to help locate water points. This map will be accessible statewide, with a paid version available for Fire Control Areas (FCAs). Stuart reminded all personnel to ensure they wear appropriate PPE at all times. He also mentioned that permits issued for fire operations must be sent to Guy for reporting purposes, with the caveat that permits can be revoked at any time.

A concern was raised regarding safety during fire operations, particularly with individuals riding in the back of utes. A photo of a hose being transported in such a manner was referenced, serving as a reminder to all volunteers that no one should be riding in the back of a ute during fire operations.

Guy Maley – Senior Ranger: Guy requested a review of the active and inactive members list to ensure accurate records. This list will be cross-checked with the DFES database for consistency.

Vern Gibson – DCBFCO: Vern discussed upcoming mitigation burns planned for the Highbury townsite, noting that a permit will be required from Guy for these burns. He also mentioned that community notification will be an essential part of the process. Vern concluded by acknowledging the wildflowers in the area and stressed the importance of protecting these during operations.

8. CLOSURE OF MEETING

There being no further business to discuss, the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 5:00pm.