



Agenda

Bush Fire Control Officers
Tuesday, 21 March 2023

Date	Wednesday 21 March 2023
Time	7.00pm
Location	Shire of Wickepin 77 Wogolin Road, Wickepin WA 6370
Distribution Date	Monday 20 March 2023



Notice of Meeting

Please be informed the Bush Fire Control Officers Committee Meeting of the Shire of Wickepin will be held at 7:00pm on Tuesday 21 March 2023 at the Shire of Wickepin, 77 Wogolin Road, Wickepin WA 6370.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nathan Cain".

Nathan Cain
Chief Executive Officer
Monday 20 March 2023

Disclaimer

No responsibility whatsoever is implied or accepted by the Shire of Wickepin for any act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during council/committee meetings or during formal/informal conversations with staff. The Shire of Wickepin disclaims any liability for any loss whatsoever and howsoever caused arising out of reliance by any person or legal entity on any such act, omission or statement or intimation occurring during council/committee meetings or discussions. Any person or legal entity that acts or fails to act in reliance upon any statement does so at that person's or legal entity's own risk.

In particular and without derogating in any way from the broad disclaimer above, in discussion regarding any planning application or application for a licence, any statement or limitation of approval made by a member or officer of the Shire of Wickepin during the course of any meeting is not intended to be and is not to be taken as notice of approval from the Shire of Wickepin. The Shire of Wickepin warns that anyone who has an application lodged with the Shire of Wickepin must obtain and only should rely on written confirmation of the outcome of the application, and any conditions attaching to the decision made by the Shire of Wickepin in respect of the application.

Contents

1	Attendance, Apologies and Leave of Absence (Previously Approved).....	4
2	Minutes of Previous Meeting	4
2.1	Confirmation of Minutes	4
3	Business Arising From Minutes.....	6
4	Elections 2023/2024 Fire Season	6
4.1	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	6
4.2	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	6
4.3	Fire Control Officers/Bush Fire Radio Operators/Fire Weather Officers	7
4.4	Clover Burning Permits	8
4.5	Dual Fire Control Officers from Wickepin	9
4.6	Dual Fire Control Officers from adjoining Shires	9
4.7	Fire Break Notice 2023/2024	10
5	General Business	13
5.1	Chief Bushfire Control Officer Report.....	13
5.2	General Discussion.....	14
6	Closure	14

Agenda of a Bush Fire Control Officer's Meeting held in Council Chambers, Wickepin Tuesday 21 March 2023, at 7.00pm
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The Chairperson declared the meeting open at am.

1 Attendance, Apologies and Leave of Absence (Previously Approved)

Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	Trevor Leeson
Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	Luke Lansdell
Fire Control Officers	Roger Butler
	Tim Heffernan
	Daniel White
	Dave Stacey
	Gordon McDougall
	Wes Astbury
	Jim Hamilton
	Nathan Astbury
	Todd Mullan
	Toby Russell
	Cal Sims
Chief Executive Officer	Nathan Cain
Manager of Works	Graeme Hedditch
Department of Fire and Emergency Services	Gavin Stevens
Wickepin Police	Mark Langford
	Darryl Gaull

Apologies

Fire Control Officer	Phil Russell
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Leave of Absence (Previously Approved)

2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

2.1 Confirmation of Minutes – 13 September 2022.

Officer Recommendation

That the minutes of the Fire Control Officer's meeting held 13 September 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Committee Decision

Resolution

Moved

Seconded

That the minutes of the Fire Control Officer's meeting held 13 September 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Carried

3 Business Arising From Minutes

4 Elections 2023/2024 Fire Season

4.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Officer Recommendation

That _____ be nominated as the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer of the Shire of Wickepin for the 2023/2024 bush fire season:

_____ accepted the nomination.

There being no further nominations Chief Executive Officer Nathan Cain declared _____ elected to the position of the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer of the Shire of Wickepin for the 2023/2024 fire season.

Committee Decision

Resolution

Moved

Seconded

That _____ be nominated as the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer of the Shire of Wickepin for the 2023/2024 bush fire season:

_____ accepted the nomination.

There being no further nominations Chief Executive Officer Nathan Cain declared _____ elected to the position of the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer of the Shire of Wickepin for the 2023/2024 fire season.

Carried

4.2 Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

Officer Recommendation

That _____ be nominated as the Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer of the Shire of Wickepin for the 2023/2024 bush fire season:

_____ accepted the nomination.

There being no further nominations Chairman declared _____ elected to the position of the Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer of the Shire of Wickepin for the 2023/2024 fire season.

Committee Decision**Resolution****Moved****Seconded**

That _____ be nominated as the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer of the Shire of Wickepin for the 2023/2024 bush fire season:

_____ accepted the nomination.

There being no further nominations Chairman declared _____ elected to the position of the Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer of the Shire of Wickepin for the 2023/2024 fire season.

Carried**4.3 Fire Control Officers/Bush Fire Radio Operators/Fire Weather Officers****Officer Recommendation**

That the following persons be appointed as Fire Control Officers/Bush Fire Radio Operators and Fire Weather Instrument Officers of the Shire of Wickepin for the 2023/2024 bush fire season:

Tim Heffernan

Phil Russell

Daniel White

Gordon McDougall

Wes Astbury

Jim Hamilton

Nathan Astbury

Trevor Leeson

Dave Stacey

Roger Butler

Luke Lansdell

Todd Mullan

Toby Russell

Cal Sims

Committee Decision**Resolution****Moved****Seconded**

That the following persons be appointed as Fire Control Officers/Bush Fire Radio Operators and Fire Weather Instrument Officers of the Shire of Wickpin for the 2023/2024 bush fire season:

**Tim Heffernan
Phil Russell
Daniel White
Gordon McDougall
Wes Astbury
Jim Hamilton
Nathan Astbury
Trevor Leeson
Dave Stacey
Roger Butler
Luke Lansdell
Todd Mullan
Toby Russell
Cal Sims**

Carried**4.4 Clover Burning Permits****Officer Recommendation**

That the following persons be appointed as Clover Permit Issuing Officers for the 2023/2024 fire season:

Wes Astbury

Committee Decision**Resolution****Moved****Seconded**

That the following persons be appointed as Clover Permit Issuing Officers for the 2023/2024 fire season:

Wes Astbury

Carried

4.5 Dual Fire Control Officers from Wickepin

Officer Recommendation

That the following persons be appointed as Dual Fire Control Officers for the 2023/2024 fire season:

David Stacey, Jim Hamilton	Shire of Corrigin
Trevor Leeson, Nathan Astbury and Phillip Russell	Shire of Narrogin
Trevor Leeson, Roger Butler and Luke Lansdell	Shire of Cuballing
Gordon McDougall and Wes Astbury	Shire of Dumbleyung
Nathan Astbury, Dan White	Shire of Wagin
Roger Butler and Jim Hamilton	Shire of Pingelly
Wes Astbury, David Stacey, Tim Heffernan and Todd Mullan	Shire of Kulin

Committee Decision

Resolution

Moved

Seconded

That the following persons be appointed as Dual Fire Control Officers for the 2023/2024 fire season:

David Stacey, Jim Hamilton	Shire of Corrigin
Trevor Leeson, Nathan Astbury and Phillip Russell	Shire of Narrogin
Trevor Leeson, Roger Butler and Luke Lansdell	Shire of Cuballing
Gordon McDougall and Wes Astbury	Shire of Dumbleyung
Nathan Astbury, Dan White	Shire of Wagin
Roger Butler and Jim Hamilton	Shire of Pingelly
Wes Astbury, David Stacey, Tim Heffernan and Todd Mullan	Shire of Kulin

Carried

4.6 Dual Fire Control Officers from adjoining Shires

Nil

4.7 Fire Break Notice 2023/2024

Officer Recommendation

That Council adopt the following 2023/2024 Fire Break Notice:

*Bush Fires Act 1954
Shire of Wickepin
Annual Firebreak Notice 2023/2024*

Action is required by owners and/or occupiers of all land in the Shire of Wickepin. Please read this notice carefully. Any queries should be directed to the Shire of Wickepin Administration Centre or Local Shire Bush Fire Control Officer. Pursuant to the powers contained in Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954, owners and occupiers of property within the Shire of Wickepin are hereby required on or before 1 October 2023 and thereafter to 14 April 2024 to plough, scarify or otherwise provide and maintain firebreaks clear of all inflammable material at least 2.5 metres wide as follows:

Rural Land

Inside the boundary of all land held by each owner or occupier, their firebreaks need not follow the perimeter of any paddock but will be acceptable following land contours in an endeavour to overcome water erosion;

- To subdivide each holding into lots of no greater than 400 hectares; and*
- To surround the homestead, out buildings and fuel storages on any such land.*
- That from the 15th October all harvesting and baling (including cutting and raking) operations, there shall be an operational mobile engine powered firefighting unit or units with a minimum combined capacity of 1,200 litres of available water, located in or immediately adjacent to the paddock being harvested and/or baled. The minimum capacity of any single firefighting unit shall be 600 litres of available water. The responsibility to supply and operate the firefighting unit is that of the landowner/occupier.*

Townsite Land

All lots within the townsites of Harrismith, Tincurrin, Toolibin, Wickepin and Yealering are required to be cleared and maintained free of all debris or inflammable material. Failure to comply with these requirements renders the owner or occupier liable to a penalty of \$5,000.

Clearing of Fence Lines

When clearing for new fence lines adjoining road reserves, you must have written approval from the Shire of Wickepin prior to commencement of clearing works. Landholders are asked to consider locating the fence three (3) metres inside their boundary to avoid any clearing on road reserves. Old fences should first be removed. If landholders wish to place their fence on the boundary, they may clear no more than one (1) metre beyond their boundary. This may be varied in special circumstances at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer. Any timber removed from the road reserve is to be pushed onto the owner's property.

Fencing of Road Reserves

Council encourages farmers to fence off road reserves running through their properties to protect trees on these reserves and to allow new growth of vegetation.

Burning on Roadsides

Should property owners wish to carry out burning of the road reserve adjacent to their property, it is necessary to obtain council approval prior to any burning taking place.

Burning Periods

Restricted Burning – 1 October 2023 to 13 November 2023

Prohibited Burning – 14 November 2023 to 7 February 2024

Restricted Burning – 8 February 2024 to 14 April 2024

Harvest and Fire Ban 2023/2024 Season

Harvesting is banned on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Lighting of fires is banned on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Committee Decision**Resolution****Moved****Seconded**

That Council adopt the following 2023/2024 Fire Break Notice:

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Lighting of fires is banned on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

Carried

5 General Business

- FCO honour board

5.1 Chief Bushfire Control Officer Report

Firstly, as I didn't do a CBFCO Report at our previous meeting I missed out on thanking Roger Butler for his great work as CBFCO for 4 years. A very belated thank you to Roger Butler.

Thanks to Ken Martin for his short stint as an FCO. We now welcome aboard Todd Mullan as Ken's replacement.

Thank you to all FCO's for volunteering your time, not just fighting fires but your assistance in harvest and movement of vehicle ban checks and doing the call ups when I'm away. Also, thanks to all FCO's and DBFCO for their support towards me as a first time CBFCO.

This season we had very few harvest and vehicle movement bans during the harvest period. I am very grateful for this, as we had to adopt a new fire behaviour index system with no training. Had it been a year with several boarder line harvest bans I feel it would have created a lot of controversy between FCO's and some farmers.

-06/10/22. Ken, Luke, Tim, and I inspected WA Kaolin mine. We found they had more than adequate water supply. They had 1 permanent fire ute and a 6-wheeler tanker truck not registered though. Earthmoving equipment available if necessary. We advised that all staff to be registered as volunteers to be covered if they attend outside fires. They also had plenty of blackened area to load trucks during a harvest ban. We will maintain communication with Tony Irving especially if catastrophic conditions are forecast. We will continue to do annual inspections.

On that note we are due for another inspection, and I encourage all FCO's to do an inspection or a tour at some point so that we are all on the same page. Let me know if you are interested in the next inspection.

Noted Fires

- 16/11/22 Lightning strikes -
Ben Mutton home farm, 5ha heavy barley crop.
Ben Mutton, Alan Hemley's farm, 5ha heavy barley crop. Due to the late finish to the season the barley was not 100% cured, which helped keep the area burnt minimal.
Bushby road, tree struck on road verge. Minimal area burnt.
- 29/11/22 Header collapsed bearing -
Hills southeast Yealering 3ha barley stubble.
- 30/11/22 Lightning strike -
Rowan Astbury, Harrismith Early morning strike 6.00am, 4ha burnt.
- 21/12/22 Header/Seed destructor -
Clinton Hemely's, North Wickpin 5ha wheat stubble.
- 28/12/22 Header/chaff cart -
Lindsay Ward North Tincurrin, minimal area burnt.
- 10/01/23 Lightning strike -
Mark Fulford, 1ha and a hay bale.

- 22/01/22 Lightning strike - Ben Mutton, 2ha pasture.

A lot of lightning strikes this year. Good to see volunteers were vigilant during these thunderstorms resulting in quick response to fires and minimal area burnt.

All other fires were kept minimal thanks to farmers being well equipped with firefighting equipment in their paddock.

Overall, all fires were well attended. Thank you to all volunteers.

I would also like to thank Acting CEO Noel Mason for his persistent effort in obtaining another bushfire radio (base station). A very welcomed asset and has made my job a lot easier.

I would also like to thank the shire for their continued support in supplying machinery and water trucks when required.

Ernie White memorial

I would like to thank Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner Darren Klemm for his attendance and speech on the day. Also, thanks to all other DFES staff that attended the event. A great opportunity to meet you all personally as well.

I thank the shire for their assistance in preparing and facilitating the memorial for Ernie White. Thanks to all staff and councillors involved.

Also, thank you to those of you in the community that contributed to the event in any way.

Lastly, A huge pat on the back to FCO Tim Heffernan, for all the hard work that you put in to organising the memorial piece and the day's proceedings.

It was deemed a very successful event.

Trevor Leeson

CBFCO

5.2 General Discussion

The next Bush Fire Control Committee Meeting will be held on [time].

6 Closure

There being no further general business Chief Bush Fire Control Officer declared the meeting closed at [time].