



Minutes

Bush Fire Control Officers Committee Meeting Tuesday 26 March 2024

Date	Tuesday 26 March 2024
Time	7.00pm
Location	Shire of Wickepin 77 Wogolin Road, Wickepin WA 6370
Distribution Date	10 April 2024



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 26 March 2024 at the Shire of Wickepin, 77 Wogolin Road, Wickepin WA 6370.

Kellie Bartley
Chief Executive Officer
Friday 22 March 2024

Disclaimer

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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.

Terms of Reference

1. Name

Bush Fire Control Officers Committee

2. Members

Voting Members

- o Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
- o Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
- o All Fire Control Officers

Non-Voting Members

- o Representative(s) from DFES
- o Representative(s) from Wickepin Police
- o Shire of Wickepin CEO and nominated staff

3. Function of the Committee

To provide advice to Council in regard to all matters relating to bush fire control, prevention and management including recommendations on the annual firebreak requirements, capital (equipment) purchase, review of firefighting/prevention practices, firefighting training, etc.

4. Role and Scope of the Committee

To advise the local government regarding all matters relating to the preventing, controlling and extinguishing of bush fires, the planning of the layout of fire-breaks in the district, the formation of bush fire brigades and the grouping thereof under group brigade officers, the ensuring of co-operation and co-ordination of bush fire brigades in their efforts and activities, and any other matter relating to bush fire control whether of the same kind as, or a different kind from, those specified in this subsection.

5. Meeting Frequency

Twice per annum with scope to call additional meeting if need arises (i.e. post-emergency events) – actual dates to be determined by the Presiding Member in consultation with Committee Members and applicable Shire officers.

6. Delegated Powers

The Committee has no delegated powers and is an advisory committee to Council only. Recommendations of Committee meetings are to be presented to Council by Shire officers for noting or consideration as soon as practicable after unconfirmed minutes of Committee meetings are available.

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1 Declaration of Opening

The Chair welcomed all, and the meeting was declared the open at 7.04pm.

2 Attendance

2.1 Present

Members

T Leeson	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
L Lansdell	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
R Butler	Fire Control Officer
T Heffernan	Fire Control Officer
J Hamilton	Fire Control Officer
T Mullan	Fire Control Officer
T Russell	Fire Control Officer
C Sims	Fire Control Officer

Employees

K Bartley	Chief Executive Officer
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3 Apologies and Leave of Absence

3.1 Apologies

P Russell	Fire Control Officer
D White	Fire Control Officer
D Stacey	Fire Control Officer
G McDougall	Fire Control Officer
W Astbury	Fire Control Officer
N Astbury	Fire Control Officer
M Langford	Wickepin Police
D Gaul	Wickepin Police
G Stevens	Department of Fire and Emergency Services
G Hedditch	Manager Works and Services

4 Presentations

4.1 Presentations

Nil

5 Declarations of Members and Officers Interest

A member or officer who has an impartiality, proximity or financial interest in any matter to be discussed at this meeting must disclose the nature of the interest either in a written notice given to the Chief Executive Officer prior to the meeting or at the meeting immediately before the matter is discussed.

A member who makes a disclosure in respect to an interest must not preside at the part of the meeting which deals with the matter, or participate in, or be present during, any discussion or decision-making process relative to the matter, unless the disclosing member is permitted to do so under Section 5.68 or Section 5.69 of the *Local Government Act 1995*.

The following declarations of interest have been disclosed –

Nil

6 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings

6.1 Minutes of the Bush Fire Control Officers Meeting held on 5 September 2023.

Officer Recommendation

That the minutes of the Bush Fire Control Officers Meeting held on 5 September 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Committee Decision

Resolution BFCO-240326-01

Moved C Sims

Seconded T Mullan

That the minutes of the Bush Fire Control Officer's meeting held 5 September 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Carried 7/0

6.2 Business Arising From Minutes

The Chairperson asked from around the room on any business arising from the previous meeting. Noting that there has been some changes with senior management over the past 12 months and therefore making sure that any business may need to be addressed.

6.2.1 Power for emergency fuel

Can it be further investigated on fuel supplies for town during an emergency. With the loss of power increasing, it has been an issue during the major fire and also throughout the summer season this year. How else can the fire trucks and vehicles can be serviced during an emergency if we are unable to use the equipment in town?

Action

CEO to follow up with Great Southern Fuels and find out any further opportunities for grant funding for the opportunity for a generator.

6.2.2 Ongoing Telecommunication Issues

Can there be further investigation with the blackspots in the shire and also when loss of power occurs during the event of a fire and/or emergency?

Action

CEO to follow up with other LG's and any further advice via DFES on increasing the opportunity with this action.

6.2.3 Training

Due to the change over of senior management in the past 12 months, training was to be arranged and has not been. Is there a chance to get more training sorted.

Action

CEO to follow up with Gavin on the training program within the shire and the surrounding local governments.

6.2.4 Radios

It has been noted during the season that Todd's radio is making noises and not clear. Can these have a preseason check and also that Cal be reviewed with regards to the hand held radio. Is there also a list of the number of radios that the shire has?

Action

CEO to investigate and follow up.

6.2.5 Yealering – Water

How can we increase the opportunity for the water issues that occur in Yealering when the power is out and there is no water to the town but also the use in cases of emergency situations.

Action

Council is currently in talks with Department of Water & Environment and will be seeking further opportunities to investigate this. CEO will also see what grants will be available to source through DFES grants.

6.2.6 86 Standpipes

The standpipe at 86 is still not working. Are we able to get these on an annual review and check?

Action

CEO will follow up with Graeme H and see if the shire has an annual maintenance plan.

6.2.7 Standpipes

Does all FCO's have their own standpipe keys?

Action

CEO to check with Graeme.

7 Status Report

Where a resolution is formal, procedural or lost it has not been recorded (e.g. confirmation of minutes, meeting behind closed doors, lapsed, etc.).

Subject/Action	Officer	Progress	Status	Comment
Additional Fire Radios	CEO	That the Committee recommends to Council to purchase an additional two (2) base station fire radios and four (4) transferable vehicle radios to provide additional radio coverage for Bush Fire Control Officers, some of which are in light radio coverage areas.	✓	Funds allocated in the 2023-2024 Annual Budget. 260324 – CEO to review current status – ACEO resent email for request to DFES.

If not noted, please insert numbers of items once attended to and return sheet to CEO.

○ = in progress ✓ = completed ✕ =superseded

8 Motions of Which Notice Has Been Given

Nil

9 Notices of Motions for the Following Meeting

Nil

10 Reports and Information

10.1 Gavin Stevens - Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Mr Stevens was an apology due to the Waroona Fire and therefore the CEO read out the report.



Government of Western Australia
Department of Fire & Emergency Services

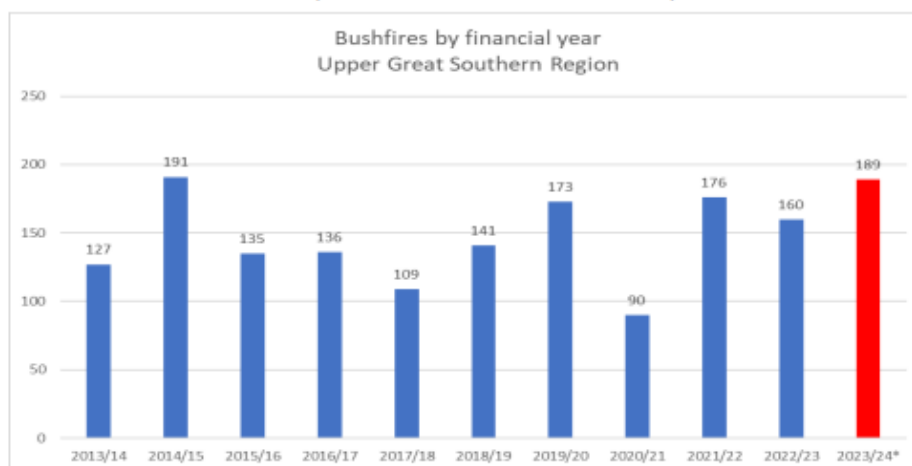


Wickepin BFAC Report

26 March 2024

BUSHFIRE SEASON SUMMARY – to date

- There have been 3757 bushfires across the State since October, an increase of 33 per cent for the same period last season (2816 bushfires between 1 October 2022 – 24 Feb 2023).
- In Our Region we had some early significant fires at Corrigin, Shire of Pingelly and Cuballing including a run of deliberately lit fires commencing early in October 2023.
- Grain Harvest Strategy with forward basing of fixed wing bombers in Geraldton, Cunderdin, Narrogin and Esperance during harvest. These and other water bombers have been deployed to over 30 bushfires across the Upper Great Southern Region.
- Header Fires record through Incident Reporting System this season in Upper great Southern stand at 15 with a further 11 from other machinery. A correlation to a brand or cause is not evident in our data
- The regional staff and volunteers supported many deployments (currently we are at Nanga Brook fire in Waroona) during this season. These were for fire, cyclone and flood events. Especially towards the Metropolitan area, Great Southern, Kimberly's and Midlands/ Goldfields.
- State Operational Support Fleet (SOSF) - This season there has been 15 SOSF appliances out to shires and brigades. This program has meant that shires have additional resources available for fires within their shire. These firefighting appliances are also available to be deployed as per need as they remain state resources. It is important to ensure that they are well used and fire reports are completed to assist the business case for future use. These appliances are sent to the areas with the greatest need and can be moved around the region.
- In Wickepin you have had an active season and some challenge jobs including the Refuse Site. According to the system that gives us the statistics for funding, allocation of additional appliances there were 10 reported fires in the Shire of Wickepin this season. See attached BF report



.As with the Refuse Fire this season if you want support or just another set of eyes just call our RDC and request someone come out anytime – 1800 865 103 (see attached card)



Government of Western Australia
Department of Fire & Emergency Services



Wickepin BFAC Report

26 March 2024

Key Learnings/ Considerations

Three areas of learning for us as an BFAC to consider post this season

- **Safety** – There was a tragic incident resulting in loss of life in Esperance and in our own region several injuries. The importance of good training, PPE and safe practise to keep all responders safe is continued to be significant.
- **Weather Event – Power disruption** – there was a significant event earlier this year that caused us to consider emergency communications and their importance when power and comms are lost for long period of time and how that plays on service delivery. What are your contingencies on the outbreak of a fire?
- **Fire Risk season continues:** It is probable that April 2024 is hotter than normal, and likely that it is drier than normal based on seasonal outlook even though we have had some patches of rainfall in the UGSR.

Key Reminders

There are some important reminders for the effective operations;

- **Machine costs:** If requesting DFES to meet contractor costs you need to have this confirmed before engaging the contractor. Calling the Regional Duty Co-ordinator 1800 865 103 and confirming the rate and length of time is best way to do this and invoices get emailed to rocgsnar@dfes.wa.gov.au
- **Reporting all fires (as they are happening or as close to):** This is key to activate you under the Bushfires Act and allows coverage for your insurance and for the expenditure of money. 000 is how the community do it but for FCO's and brigade members calling COMCEN. Attached to this is a useful sheet for all FCO's and Captains. This sheet helps you give a sitrep (in the first 15 minutes of arrival) and get public information out or support.
- **Fire Bombing:** Importance of requesting water bombers early (you will need to give a sitrep PAFTAC) and having ground controllers available at the fire to direct water bombers. We strongly encourage shires to have more trained ground controllers and let their firefighters know about clearing the drop zone
- **Training:** Is well underway – make use of the regional calendar and eAcademy to support your shire training.

Thank you to you all for your work this season, your efforts are very appreciated by your communities. Well done to Trevor and team for your proactive approach and the continued development you and your team are doing

Many thanks,

Gavin Stevens - Area Officer Narrogin East

0475 224 640 = AOEastUpperGreatSouthern@dfes.wa.gov.au

All in attendance noted this report presented on behalf of Mr Gavin Stevens.

Gavin provided additional documentation to be distributed to all members. CEO provided hardcopies to all members present at the meeting.

OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS (Checklist for first arriving Firefighters)

The checklist below is a list of operational **considerations** for the first arriving fire crew when giving the first SITREP to COMCEN (first **15 minutes** then every 1 hour afterwards). COMCEN can get you Incident Weather also.

P	POSITION AND PROPERTY THREATENED - Assess the situation – where is it? Nearest cross road? - Exposures at risk/critical infrastructure? House? Shed? Tower?
A	AREA Size of fire (Length x Width) – estimate only
F	FUEL DENSITY AND TYPE What is burning? And estimate how fast it is moving (ROS)
T	TIME TO CONTROL - Establish IMT (Who is IC, what Sectors?) - Decide on strategies to extinguish/ make safe - Delegating key functions – get help from others - How many hours to get it contained? Roughly?
A	ASSISTANCE REQUIRED - Traffic Management & Road closures? - Regional Manager to assist? What do you need help with? - Additional resources (ask early as it takes time to arrive)?
C	COMMUNICATIONS AND CONTROL POINT - Radio frequencies/Communications plan - Location of control point - Media and public advice/warnings – 1800 718 288
S	SURFACE WIND STRENGTH AND DIRECTION - Send SITREP - Safety is first priority

COMCEN: 1800 198 140

UGS RDC 1800 865 103

DFES Communication Centre (ComCen) • 000 to report bushfire • Provide an incident update / situation report (see below) • Request Incident Weather Forecast • Request DFES assistance / to attend. • Contact WA Police, Main Roads, Western Power	1800 198 140 Email: dfescomcen@dfes.wa.gov.au
DFES Regional Duty Coordinator • Request water bombers • Request DFES assistance / to attend. • Request DFES to meet machinery costs before engaging contractors	1800 865 103
DFES Public Information • Issue Community Warning (Advice, Watch & Act, Emergency Warning) • Update or change an existing Community Warning	1800 718 288 Email: statepublicinfo@dfes.wa.gov.au
Telephone Warning System • Sends alerts to home phones & mobiles. • Must be used for Emergency Warnings	1300 566 588

Noting at the meeting, Trevor has been in contact with Gavin after ROAC in relation to training. Hoping to get training here at the shire and even out to the townsites. **August** has been recommended as the best month for training. With the possibility of Steve Rose becoming a trainer which would be a benefit to our region.

Could training also be held in conjunction with meeting times?



Shire of Wickepin Bushfire Ignitions

For all Bushfires, of any size.

This report shows the number of Bushfire incidents recorded in IRS within the Locality shown. A bushfire is uncontrolled fire to bush, grass, scrub, forest or any other vegetation; of any size.

The information contained within this report has been provided by the Operational Information Systems Branch of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (WA). Contact: reports@dfes.wa.gov.au

Data Date: 26/03/2024

	2023/2024
Total Number of Bushfires:	10
Unreported	6
Weather Conditions - Lightning	2
Vehicles (incl. Farming Equipment/Activities)	1
Power lines	1

Locality	Incident No	Date / Time	Suburb	Street
WICKEPIN (S)	5603	16/10/2023 30:12	WICKEPIN	MURRAY ROAD
WICKEPIN (S)	645177	27/10/2023 36:08	WOGOLIN	WILLIAMS-KONDININ RD
WICKEPIN (S)	649484	25/11/2023 50:15	WOGOLIN	EIGHTY SIX GATE RD
WICKEPIN (S)	649752	27/11/2023 28:13	YEALERING	DALTON RD
WICKEPIN (S)	650657	06/12/2023 23:13	WICKEPIN	
WICKEPIN (S)	654568	13/01/2024 51:20	YEALERING	COAD RD
WICKEPIN (S)	655099	17/01/2024 42:13	GILLIMANNING	GROVES RD
WICKEPIN (S)	655101	17/01/2024 20:14	WICKEPIN	HALLIDAY RD
WICKEPIN (S)	660315	09/03/2024 47:11	WICKEPIN	WILLIAMS-KONDININ RD
WICKEPIN (S)	661893	24/03/2024 19:19	WICKEPIN	YARLING BROOK RD



Government of Western Australia
Department of Fire & Emergency Services



Shire of Wickepin Bushfire Ignitions

For all Bushfires, of any size.

This report shows the number of Bushfire incidents recorded in IRS within the Locality shown. A bushfire is uncontrolled fire to bush, grass, scrub, forest or any other vegetation; of any size.

The information contained within this report has been provided by the Operational Information Systems Branch of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (WA). Contact: reports@dfes.wa.gov.au

Data Date: 26/03/2024

Ignition Cause	Size (hect)	Latitude	Longitude	Location Description
Unreported	2	-32.99197	117.78512	
Unreported	Unknown	-32.78128	117.84375	
Unreported	< 1	-32.73454	117.84916	
Weather Conditions - Lightning	20	-32.65221	117.59851	COMADYNE HOMESTEAD
Vehicles (incl. Farming Equipment/Activities)	< 1	-32.84004	117.51751	
Unreported	Unknown	-32.62969	117.53201	
Weather Conditions - Lightning	20	-32.61125	117.46191	
Unreported	10	-32.81054	117.57304	
Power lines	< 1	-32.78153	117.54002	
Unreported	< 1	-32.76027	117.52733	

10.2 Chief Bush Fire Control Officers Report

Thank you to all the Fire Control Officers for your continued commitment in assisting with harvest and vehicle movement bans, regular call ups, issuing permits and your management of several fires that we have had so far this season.

Thank you to the Shire of Wickepin for your continued support in supplying staff and equipment at fires and also the administration staff for the behind the scenes office work.

Thank you to DFES (Gavin Stevens) for your work within our shire brigades and your assistance with fires throughout the season particularly the rubbish tip fire.

It has been a very busy fire season with lightning strikes being the main cause. Thankfully with the quick response of volunteers the majority of the fires were kept to a minimum. During January we had a total of 8 lightning strike fires which put a lot of pressure on our FCO's and volunteer resources as a lot of people are on holidays at this time of the year.

Another issue putting pressure on our local volunteer resources is the changing of farmlands with absentee farmers being the major ones, purchasing or leasing these farms resulting in less volunteers around full time.

Noted Fires

16/10/23 Fraser Murray/Blacky's - 2ha crop burnt and the house caught fire but was saved. Cause unknown.

27/10/23 Matthew Orchard - Pole top fire, 2ha burnt.

18/11/23 Flavel's @ Claude Simpson's Farm - Header caught fire, electrical fault. 1 acre oat stubble burnt. Fire unit on the front of the tractor with the chaser bin was close by which kept this one to a minimum.

25/11/23 Lange's @ Lenny Lewis' Farm - Header with seed terminator caused the fire. Half an acre burnt. Chaser bin has a fire unit which kept this one to a minimum.

27/11/23 Angwin's @ Beaties Farm - Lightning strike 15 - 20ha stubble burnt.

6/12/23 Tillbrook's - Header, suspect fine dust from seed destructor built up on exhaust manifold. Less than an acre burnt, several spot fires in lupin stubble.

25/12/23 Rutherglen Dawes'- Lightning strike, small area burnt.

04/01/24 Wickepin Rubbish Tip - Cause suspect. Small area burnt.

12/01/24 Smith's Watts Road - Lightning strike. Small area burnt.

12/01/24 Russell Road Verge - Lightning strike. Small area burnt.

13/01/24 Hobby Farm? Coad Road - Lightning strike 5 - 10ha?

14/01/24 Ken Beatie's - Lightning strike, small area burnt.

16/01/24 Shane Hill - Lightning strike, small area burnt.

17/01/24 Russell's, Milligans Hill - Lightning strike 5 - 10ha burnt.

17/01/24 Simpson's/Flavel's Graves Road - Lightning strike, 20ha burnt (Pingelly Shire).

17/01/24 Halliday Road - Lightning strike, 10ha burnt.

06/03/24 Dowling, Leeson Road - Loader fire on crunched canola stubble. Nil area burnt. Fire was in the Cuballing Shire but Comcen (000) had contacted CBFCO Wickepin so we became the respondent which led to the fire being in our control.

09/03/24 Western Power near White Road - Tree branch fell on the lines, minimal area burnt. Very slow response time with this one.

24/03/2024 Line down over the weekend.

Also with neighbouring shires having a very busy fire season, we had a number of volunteers attending to those as well.

Over all the fires were well attended and kept to a minimum.

I'd like to note that two of the header fires which had fire units on their chaser bins is a good example of keeping fires to a minimum. These could have had a quite a different outcome otherwise. Another good asset to have in your paddock and something for farmers to consider on their chaser bin or on the front of the tractor going forward.

A big thank you to all our volunteers and their equipment for this fire season.

Officer Recommendation

That the Bush Fire Control Officers Committee receives the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer report.

Committee Decision

Resolution **BFCO-240326-02**

Moved **L Lansdell**

Seconded **T Russell**

That the Bush Fire Control Officers Committee receives the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer report.

Carried **7/0**

11 Appointments 2024/2025 Fire Season

11.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

T Leeson stood down from the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer role for the purpose of the election of the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer position for 2024-2025.

The Chief Executive Officer assumed the Chairperson and called for nominations for the role of Chief Bush Fire Control Officer.

That C Sims nominated T Leeson to be the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer of the Shire of Wickepin for the 2024/2025 bush fire season:

T Lesson accepted the nomination.

There being no further nominations the Chief Executive Officer declared T Leeson elected to the position of the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer of the Shire of Wickepin for the 2024/2025 fire season.

Committee Decision

Resolution BFCO-240326-03

Moved C Sims

Seconded L Lansdell

That Committee recommends to Council for T Leeson to be appointed as the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for 2024/2025.

Carried 7/0

T Leeson assumed the Chair.

11.2 Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

The Chairperson called for nominations for the role of Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer.

That T Russell nominated L Lansdell as the Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer of the Shire of Wickepin for the 2024/2025 bush fire season:

L Lansdell accepted the nomination.

There being no further nominations Chairman declared L Lansdell elected to the position of the Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer of the Shire of Wickepin for the 2024/2025 fire season.

Committee Decision

Resolution BFCO-240326-04

Moved T Russell

Seconded T Mullan

That Committee recommends to Council for L Lansdell to be appointed as the Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for 2024/2025.

Carried 7/0

11.3 Fire Control Officers/Bush Fire Radio Operators/Fire Weather Officers

The Chairperson confirmed the intentions of 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 2024/2025 bush fire season:

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

With the Chairperson noting that Mr. Tim Heffernan and Mr. Nathan Astbury have declared to step down from their roles and wish to thank both officers for their appreciation of service over the number of years for the Shire of Wickepin and the volunteer roles that they both have undertaken.

The Chairperson also discussed that all members reach out to local residents/farmers/relevant persons to increase the volunteer base for the district. A number of persons of interest were discussed with officers to reach out to see the interest.

Committee Decision

Resolution BFCO-240326-05
Moved R Butler
Seconded C Sims

That Committee recommends to Council for the following persons to be appointed as a Fire Control Officers/Bush Fire Radio Operators and Fire Weather Instrument Officers of the Shire of Wickepin for the 2024/2025 bush fire season:

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

Carried 7/0

11.4 Clover Burning Permits

That the following persons be appointed as Clover Permit Issuing Officers for the 2024/2025 fire season:

Dan White
Wes Astbury

Committee Decision

Resolution BFCO-240326-06
Moved L Lansdell
Seconded T Russell

That Committee recommends to Council that the following persons be appointed as Clover Permit Issuing Officers for the 2024/2025 fire season:

Dan White
Wes Astbury

Carried 7/0

11.5 Dual Fire Control Officers from Wickepin

The Chairperson confirmed that the following persons be appointed as Dual Fire Control Officers for the 2024/2025 fire season:

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

Committee Decision

Resolution BFCO-240326-07
Moved T Mullan
Seconded L Lansdell

That Committee recommends to Council that the following persons be appointed as Dual Fire Control Officers for the 2024/2025 fire season:

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

Carried 7/0

11.6 Dual Fire Control Officers from adjoining Shires

Nil responses to date have yet to be received.

11.7 Shire of Wickepin Fire Break Notice 2024/2025

Committee Decision

Resolution BFCO-240326-08
Moved T Russell
Seconded C Sims

Carried 7/0

That Committee recommends to Council for the following wording for the 2024/2025 Fire Break Notice:

***Bush Fires Act 1954
Shire of Wickepin
Annual Firebreak Notice 2024/2025***

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 endeavor 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 2024 to 13 November 2025

Prohibited Burning – 14 November 2024 to 7 February 2025

Restricted Burning – 8 February 2025 to 14 April 2025

Harvest and Fire Ban 2024/2025 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.

12 General Business

Chief Leeson asked each person around the table if there was any general business or topics to discuss further. Each person has noted or commented on the details below.

Tim Heffernan

- wished everyone all the best and thanked everyone for their support over his time.
- Tim asked how the shire will need deal with the Telstra towers/lack of telecommunications during the fire season, as having it down for a number of days is a real issue. This has been discussed at ROAC over the years.

Roger Bulter

- With the 3G towers closing off in June 2024 do we need to consider other options like starlink mobile?
- Fire Danger Rating (FDR) - New system to function under over this last period. At times it is hard to forecast out past 3 days. It would be great to have further training on this.
- Advice to people asking for permits and to educate them on the new ratings. Is there some details or education that can be given out to those who do not live in the region i.e. farmers or hobby farms living outside of the district. The Shire can be very different from East to West.
- Online portal is there any chance to get further training on this?

Luke Lansdell (Deputy)

- Trucks & Volunteers – is it possible to do volunteer drive to help increase numbers for others to be able to assist during the season? Having us out of the town areas and coming back to grab trucks, it may be easier to have someone bring the truck/s out, saving time.
- What's App - by increasing our volunteer base then more active with the what's app - volunteer drive needs to happen to add into the town brigade. Increasing the opportunity to train others on the truck system and how to use it. Having more people the trucks will assist. Can this be advertised more? It has also been noted that what were the chances of the Shire

Depot staff assisting with this option as well? All FCO's reach out to their networks to encourage new members to help improve numbers and volunteer base.

- 000 eventually rang me and they had no contacts to ring for the Wickepin Central fire truck – CEO to check with Gavin DFES on this one.
- Discussion of a CESM – will the Shire be looking into this into the future? The benefits are paramount over the last year and seeing how effective it has been with other shires.

Committee Decision

Resolution BFCO-240326-09

Moved C Sims

Seconded R Butler

Carried 7/0

That Committee recommends to Council to consider in the future to seek the request for a Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) for the Shire of Wickepin with the opportunity to share with another local government.

Trevor Leeson (Chief)

- Acknowledge that text messaging is a high cost for sending out. HVMB can be to \$200. Does the review of the listing need to be checked as to all those who are on there, are used for the purposes of HVMB or those that are no longer reside within the Shire? Talking to Nat Manton, we may have other options to consider – check with NM. Is there a better messaging system out there? How can we get the best options for savings for the Shire?
- Please make sure the Easter message is completed as the Christmas message was missed.
- Shire of Narrogin – ROAC Chief & Deputy to come to me sharing a permanent tank – Williams – Kondinin Road Taylor Road – Further down Taylor Road – Cubie East corner – is there a chance to review this?
- Question – ESL Funding – where we sit – do we have funding – that comes with an issue – where we have our PPE etc. to fit out a person \$1250 helmets etc.
- Question for Gavin (DFES) – talked about it with roads and traffic – Yealering Road – road sign with flashing lights – slow traffic down – park fire trucks – flashing flares – are we able to get any of these? CEO will follow up with DFES and LGGS.
- Acknowledgements need to be done for Nathan Astbury and Tim Heffernan for their service to the district and their capacity roles in the bush fire space. We wish to thank them both and their families for their support and assistance over many years. I would like the CEO to arrange certifications of appreciation to be presented to them.

Kellie Bartley (CEO)

- LGGS – What do we need for all trucks, building maintenance etc. for all sites? [LGGS - GRANTS MANUAL 2024-2025](#)
- All trucks need to be reviewed – 2 inch camlock nearly broke from the pressure. Can we get another fast fill trailer? Cuballing had tarp bags – can this be looked at?
- Wearn Radio – Tim had sent off for request, I will follow up on this with DFES and Graeme.
- PPE – Uniforms – is there any orders required? The rest for boots and helmets have been requested.
- Yealering Fire Fighting Tank – has been applied through a DWER grant this week. 220,000KL tank @ CBH site with gutters. Coupling sizing required with a further 2 x 48,000KL tanks put in – what size CAMLOCKS required – 1 ½ inch, 2 inch, 3 inch M & F.

- Whats App – just a reminder to log on/log off with call outs
- PPE – make sure that you are all wearing your appropriate PPE on call outs, please let me know if you do not have PPE.
- Mitigation Funding can now be accessed for the purpose of the areas that have been identified under the new Bush Fire Mitigation Plan that was endorsed by Council in September/October 2023.
- Training – the Shire will look into the training needs and work with Gavin on this.
- LGIS – hand outs of the WHS Act – **CEO Briefing Bushfire Volunteers (Attachment)** and **Local Government Bushfire Officers Returning home safe and well (Attachment)**.

13 Closure

The next Bush Fire Control Officers Committee meeting will be held in September 2024.

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 10.03pm.