



A Fortunate Place

Shire of Wickepin

# Minutes

## Bush Fire Control Officer's Meeting

Council Chambers, Wickepin

# 10 August 2021

**Minutes of a Bush Fire Control Officer's Meeting held in Council Chambers, Wickepin  
Tuesday 10 August, 2021 at 7.00pm**

The CBFCO declared the meeting open at 7.00pm.

**1. Attendance**

Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	Roger Butler
Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	Trevor Leeson
Fire Control Officers	Tim Heffernan Daniel White Stephen Rose Wes Astbury Luke Lansdell
Chief Executive Officer	Mark J Hook
Manager of Works	Gary Rasmussen
Department of Fire and Emergency Services	Grant Hansen

**Apologies**

Wickepin Police	Darryl Gaull
Fire Control Officers	Phil Russell Dave Stacey Nathan Astbury Gordon McDougall

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**2.1 Confirmation of Minutes – 23 March 2021.**

**Moved D White / Seconded T Heffernan**

That the minutes of the Fire Control Officer's meeting held 23 March 2021 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

**Carried 7/0**

**3. Business Arising From Minutes**

Nil

**4. Elections 2021/2022 Fire Season**

**4.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer****Moved W Astbury / Seconded T Leeson**

That Roger Butler be nominated as the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer of the Shire of Wickepin for the 2021/2022 bush fire season:

Roger Butler accepted the nomination.

There being no further nominations Chief Executive Officer Mark J Hook declared Roger Butler elected to the position of the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer of the Shire of Wickepin for the 2021/2022 fire season.

**Carried 7/0****4.2 Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer****Moved T Heffernan / Seconded W Astbury**

That Trevor Leeson be nominated as the Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer of the Shire of Wickepin for the 2021/2022 bush fire season:

Trevor Leeson accepted the nomination.

There being no further nominations the Chairman declared Trevor Leeson elected to the position of the Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer of the Shire of Wickepin for the 2021/2022 fire season.

**Carried 7/0****4.3 Fire Control Officers/Bush Fire Radio Operators/Fire Weather Officers****Moved L Lansdell / Seconded W Astbury**

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 2021/2022 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  
Mark Hook

**Carried 7/0**

**4.4 Clover Burning Permits****Moved T Leeson / Seconded T Heffernan**

That the following persons be appointed as Clover Permit Issuing Officers for the 2021/2022 fire season:

Mark Hook  
Wes Astbury

**Carried 7/0****4.5 Dual Fire Control Officers from Wickepin****Moved D White / Seconded L Lansdell**

That the following persons be appointed as Dual Fire Control Officers for the 2021/2022 fire season:

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

**Carried 7/0****4.6 Dual Fire Control Officers from adjoining Shires****Moved T Leeson / Seconded T Heffernan**

That the following persons be appointed as Dual Fire Control Officers for the 2021/2022 fire season from adjoining Shires:

Shire of Pingelly	Rodney Leonard Shaddick Robert Alexander Kirk Victor Arthur Lee Andrew Augustin Marshall Sam MacNamara
Shire of Wagin	Steve Angwin
Shire of Corrigin	Craig Jespersen Greg Doyle
Shire of Cuballing	Mike Burges
Shire of Narrogin	Alistair McDougall Tim Shepherd
Shire of Kulin	Clinton Mullan David Lewis
Shire of Dumbleyung	Ken Wright

**Carried 7/0**

## 4.7 Fire Break Notice 2021/2022

### Moved D White / Seconded L Lansdell

That Council adopt the following 2021/2022 Fire Break Notice:

***Bush Fires Act 1954***  
***Shire of Wickepin***  
***Annual Firebreak Notice 2021/2022***

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 2021 and thereafter to 14 April 2022 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 1200 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 not more than \$400.

#### **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 CEO and Manager Works & Services. 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 2021 to 13 November 2021

Prohibited Burning – 14 November 2021 to 7 February 2022

Restricted Burning – 8 February 2022 to 14 April 2022

**Harvest and Fire Ban 2020/2021 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.

**Carried 7/0**

**5. General Business****5.1 Chief Bushfire Control Officer Report**

Thanks to all the FCOs for another season of volunteering and fire and permit management.

Congratulations to Steve Rose on over 40 years of dedicated service as an FCO. Steve has been diligent in this role and has rarely missed a call up in my time. I have appreciated his support and wisdom in fire management. Steve is cool in a crisis and a great communicator. Thank you, Steve.

**Noted Fires for the 2020/21 Season**

**Hassell Fire Cuballing Shire 28/11/2020** - A large fire in difficult, hilly country started by a header in lupin stubble. It was well represented by volunteers from the Wickepin shire. There was an issue with people leaving the fire ground as they were not deployed to jobs and seemed to regard themselves as finished. They were not. Aerial bombers were requested by attending FCOs but not deployed.

**Bayley Fire Tincurrin 29/11/2020** - Large fire approx 60Ha burnt mainly stubble. Started by a header. Issues noted: very heavy windrows, a 60 foot header front very difficult to extinguish. Wickepin shire water tanker requested but no staff available to be deployed due to weekend. Phillip Russell attended with shire water tanker. Phillip has subsequently been inducted and given permission to take the shire tanker as required. Fire entered bush which burnt for several days. The fire was attended by many personnel from both Wickepin and surrounding shires. Two backburns were conducted successfully. Two aerial bombers attended as a training run.

**Matthews/Fortini 8/12/2020** - Ignition point at small on farm disused rubbish tip in bush. Actual ignition unknown. Small backburn was conducted to contain fire. Fire was believed to be safe.

**Matthews/Fortini 10/12/2020** - Re ignition on a windy day with a strong southerly wind. This burnt approx 60Ha stubble, crop and bush. The fire was well attended by volunteers. A request for shire equipment was made for a front end loader and grader however due to the Merino Fours Bowls Day there were no personnel available to dispatch or operate the equipment. Tim Fleay provided his own FEL and Tim Heffernan and Peter Bird provided their graders. As Chief and FCO in charge I requested a Spot Weather Report from Paul Dennison DFES from the fire ground to assist in backburn placement. I was advised 30 minutes to be emailed to my phone and I'm still waiting for it to this day. Weather apps were used to gauge the predicted 180 degree wind change. A difficult backburn was placed on the southwest side of the fire using FEL and graders and copious amounts of water and fire appliances. This burn took approximately 2 hours to complete, commencing at around 6pm. This is by far the scariest backburn I have known with 30km/hr wind blowing directly towards very flammable material on a disused road only meters away from the fire. Back burn was conducted

successfully which made the fire ground safe as the predicted wind change occurred. Good communication with the troops ensured there was adequate cover both during the fire and the mop up afterwards.

**10/2/2021 Williams Kondinin Rd Car Fire** - East Wickepin approx 5km from town. Town Brigade and shire attended. Fire extinguished promptly. Contained predominantly to the car and side of road.

## 5.2 General Discussion

CEO to organise a radio maintenance day.

Harrismith fire truck – CEO advised that DFES have approved the chassis modifications to the Harrismith Fire truck. CEO will organise modifications prior to fire season.

Roger Butler asked the CEO about the application for a fire tanker. CEO advised the application has been forwarded and CEO now has to do a business case to justify the fire tanker.

The following FCO's requested a vehicle ID sticker:

- Tim Heffernan
- Roger Butler
- Trevor Leeson

Stephen Rose raised the insurance issue for the Townsendale Brigade holding their Annual meeting on brigade member's farms. CEO to raise the issue at the next ROAC meeting.

Roger Butler thanked Stephen Rose for all his work and dedication over the last 40 years.

## 6. Closure

There being no further general business CBFCO declared the meeting closed at 8.13pm.