



Minutes

Bush Fire Control Officers Committee Meeting Tuesday 5 September 2023

Date	Tuesday 5 September 2023
Time	7.00pm
Location	Shire of Wickepin 77 Wogolin Road, Wickepin WA 6370
Distribution Date	Wednesday 1 November 2023



Notice of Meeting

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

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

Nathan Cain
Chief Executive Officer
Wednesday 1 November 2023

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1 Declaration of Opening

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 7.02pm.

2 Attendance

2.1 Present

Members

T Leeson	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
L Lansdell	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
T Heffernan	Fire Control Officer
W Astbury	Fire Control Officer
T Mullan	Fire Control Officer
T Russell	Fire Control Officer
C Sims	Fire Control Officer

Employees

N Cain	Chief Executive Officer
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3 Public Question Time

3.1 Responses to Previous Public Questions Taken On Notice

Nil

3.2 Public Question Time

Nil

4 Apologies and Leave of Absence

4.1 Apologies

P Russell	Fire Control Officer
D White	Fire Control Officer
G McDougall	Fire Control Officer
R Butler	Fire Control Officer
J Hamilton	Fire control Officer
D Stacey	Fire Control Officer
G Stevens	Department of Fire and Emergency Services

4.2 Previously Approved Leave of Absence

Nil

4.3 Requests for Leave of Absence

Nil

5 Petitions, Memorials and Deputations

5.1 Petitions

Nil

5.2 Memorials

Nil

5.3 Deputations

Nil

6 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

7 Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meetings

7.1 Minutes of the Bush Fire Control Officers Meeting held on 21 March 2023.

Officer Recommendation

That the minutes of the Bush Fire Control Officers Meeting held on 21 March 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Committee Decision

Resolution BFCO-230905-01

Moved T Heffernan

Seconded C Sims

That the minutes of the Fire Control Officer's meeting held 21 March 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Carried 7/0

8 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.

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

○ = in progress ✓ = completed ✕ =superseded

9 Motions of Which Notice Has Been Given

Nil

10 Notices of Motions for the Following Meeting

Nil

11 Reports and Information

11.1 Gavin Stevens - Department of Fire and Emergency Services

Attached under separate cover.

Discussion topics raised from the report -

What can we do better / what can we do differently?

- Alternate power / emergency for fuel

Radios

- Radio Register is currently up to date

Training

- Training to be undertaken before the 15 October
- Bushfire safety awareness Course / Firefighting Skills Course - 2-3 hours to complete
- Advanced Bush Firefighter Course / Captain Course / Fire Control Officer Course - 5hrs up to 4 days.
- Training Booklet - To be available online versus in-person

11.2 Other matters raised by members

- Report all fires to Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, regardless of the size
- 50,000L tank - is there funding available to purchase mobile water tanks? Chief Executive Officer to investigate further and report back at the next meeting.
- 86 Gate water Standpipe - Issues accessing standpipe. Chief Executive Officer to investigate further and report back at the next meeting.
- Future FCO's - to be discussed at the next meeting.
- Stickers for volunteer utes - available from the Shire Officer
- Thermal Imaging Cameras - is there funding available to purchase thermal imaging cameras for the Fire Trucks? Chief Executive Officer to investigate further and report back at the next meeting.
- FCO ID cards - issued by Shire of Wickepin

11.3 Chief Bush Fire Control Officers Report

Hi everyone, welcome to our preseason Bush Fire Control Officers meeting.

Thanks to all the FCO's for their continued support in fire control duties and the management of permits during the permit period this season. It was challenging having to implement the new fire danger rating system and educating some permit holders to understand when you could burn or not. The new system caused a big delay in the lighting of fires for crop management purposes, which resulted in a lot of hectares being burnt in a small time frame. We were fortunate to receive some good early season rainfall which helped reduced the fire risk during this period.

Noted Fires

- 25/01/2023
Angwin's Toolibin farm. Tractor and Boom spray fire - total loss. 20 ha burnt.
- 01/04/2023
Pole top fire Gillimanning. Simpson's farm pasture paddock small area burnt. 000 Called. Power lines were on the ground on the Wickepin North Road. Western Power attended 2 hours after the 000 call.
- 14/04/2023
Angwin's Yealering/Wickepin Road. SP Sprayer fire. 000 called. Road was closed and thanks to the Shire for their traffic management control during this time. There was an issue moving the Sprayer off the road with a dead engine and hydraulic brakes locking on. Had to wait for a machinery dealer to unlock the brakes.
- 01/05/2023
Angwin's. Truck fire. Wickepin-Harrismith and Toolibin North crossroads. 000 called.

Just to note that it is great to see 000 being called to register our fires. Keep up the good work. As I write this report the radio maintenance people are checking our Bushfire radios. If you have not had your radio checked, please let me or the shire know.

WA Kaolin annual inspection is due. Please let me know if you are interested in attending.

Officer Recommendation

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

Committee Decision

Resolution **BFCO-230905-02**

Moved **T Russell**

Seconded **T Mullan**

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

Carried **7/0**

12 Confidential Reports and Information

Nil

13 Urgent Business

Nil

14 Closure

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

There being no further business the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 9.02pm.