



# **SHIRE OF JERRAMUNGUP**

## **GENERAL MEETING JERRAMUNGUP BUSHFIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Monday, 14 October 2024**

### **MINUTES**

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**Jerramungup Bushfire Advisory Committee**  
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**Monday 14 October 2024**

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## JERRAMUNGUP BUSHFIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE - GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

### 1.0 DECLARATION OF OPENING, ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The meeting was opened at 7.08pm by the CBFCO.

### 2.0 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

#### 2.1 ATTENDANCE

Alex Jones	Gairdner BFB / CBFCO	Wade Brown	Needilup BFB
Stuart Hocking	Boxwood Hill BFB	Paul Barrett	Jerramungup VFES
Anthony Thomas	Boxwood Hill BFB	Anthony Armstrong	Jerramungup VFES
Mick Lester	Jacup BFB	Peter Buckenara	Bremer Bay VFES
Paul Hislop	Jerramungup VFES	Greg Williams	DBCA Ranger
Graham Taylor	DFES	Neil Foreman	Shire of Jerramungup
Martin Cuthbert, CEO	Shire of Jerramungup	Dan Biddulph, BRMC	Shire of Jerramungup
Charmaine Solomon, DCEO	Shire of Jerramungup	Glenda Forbes	Shire of Jerramungup

#### 2.2 APOLOGIES

Brad Shelton	Gairdner BFB
Craig Hall	Gairdner BFB

### 3.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Jerramungup Bushfire Advisory Committee General Meeting held 15 April 2024.

**That the Minutes of the Jerramungup Bushfire Advisory Committee General Meeting held at the Council Chambers, Jerramungup on 15 April 2024 be CONFIRMED.**

**MOVED: Anthony Armstrong**

**SECONDED: Peter Buckenara**

**That the Minutes of the Jerramungup Bushfire Advisory Committee General Meeting held at the Council Chambers, Jerramungup on 15 April 2024 be CONFIRMED.**

**CARRIED**

### 4.0 BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Local Law Review – Phase 1 now completed commence Phase 2 which is the preparation of the new Local Law. Consultation will occur and we will be seeking the BFAC comment at a later stage.

Fire Mapper demonstration provided at previous meeting. Charmaine has costings. Still under consideration.

## 5.0 CORRESPONDENCE

### 5.1 Vehicle Identifier stickers for LG's

Proposal so that private vehicles attending fires can be recognised at a roadblock. Stickers for windscreen. Being recognised has only been an issue when Police attend from out of the area.

**Decision:** No action.

### 5.2 Battery PAD-PAK in defibrillators (order has been placed supplier currently out of stock but will send when they have in stock)

### 5.3 Fire truck servicing records

Needilup being serviced. Jacup done but needs to go back. Gairdner and Boxwood not done yet.

### 5.4 Volunteer training records

### 5.5 AIIMS training

### 5.6 Jacup seasonal worker training

### 5.7 2024/2025 Volunteer fuel card delivery (*Note: Fuel cards sent to the Captains of each Brigade's home address*).

Noted that fuel cards have not been received.

### 5.8 Total Fire Ban and Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans Summary fact sheet

#### 5.8.1 Summary of Outline of Process Used to Declare TFB (below)

A Total Fire Ban (TFB) is imposed as a risk-based prevention measure to restrict activities and reduce the likelihood of ignition in bushland/vegetation and increase awareness in the wider community on the day the ban is declared. A TFB may be declared when fires are most likely to threaten lives and property due to adverse weather conditions or when widespread fires are stretching firefighting resources.

During adverse fire weather, Bush Fire Control Officers may be required to issue a harvest and vehicle movement ban (HVMB). Where a TFB is declared, under regulation 24C of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, a Bush Fire Control Officer must impose an HVMB when the Fire Behaviour Index (FBI) issued by the Bureau of Meteorology reaches 40. This will result in banning all agricultural and off-road activities involving engines, vehicles, plant, equipment or machinery, when they are of the opinion the activity is likely to cause a fire or would be conducive to the spread of a bush fire (when the HVMB is issued under r.24C, exemptions apply for urgent works by an essential service provider i.e. electricity services).

#### 5.8.2 Summary of Activities Prohibited When TFB Imposed – see also DFES web page

In accordance with Section 22B of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, the declaration of a TFB prohibits persons from lighting or maintaining fires in the open air or carrying out an activity in the open air that causes or is likely to cause a fire.

It is an offence for a person in the open air to use solid fuel for the purpose of cooking or to carry out any process or operation that is likely to create a bushfire danger, eg incinerating, welding, grinding, soldering or gas cutting. Gas appliances, whereby the flame is encapsulated by the appliance (as is the case in most BBQs), are not prohibited from use during a TFB.

During a TFB regulation 24A of the *Bush Fires Regulations 1954* prohibits the use or operation of any engine, vehicle, plant, equipment or machinery (*where it is activated by an internal combustion engine*) on land on which there is bush, or which is under crop, pasture or stubble. This prohibition does not apply if the activity is being carried out to prevent the risk to life or livestock, as long as all reasonable precautions are taken to prevent a bushfire. The prohibition also does not apply if the off-road activity is part of urgent works carried out by an essential service provider for the provision, restoration, or maintenance of an essential service (i.e. Western Power driving off-road to carry out fault finding activities).

Any place from which sparks or embers could escape. Undercover areas such as patios, pergolas and huts that are open or partially open to the weather are deemed to be in the open air. Any place that is not fully enclosed by a building or structure.

#### 5.8.3 Harvest Vehicle Movement Ban

Under S38A of Bushfires Act 1954 HVMB can only be issued during restricted and prohibited season.

#### 5.8.4 Roadworks and TFB

Roadworks are permissible during TFB if carried out on behalf of, or by, public authority, provided catastrophic FDR is not forecast.

If no Catastrophic FDR forecast ground within 5m of operating machinery must be cleared of flammable material.

When not in use machinery must be parked up in cleared area. If Catastrophic FDR forecast then 'urgent road works' can still be undertaken. (Scanned attachments were provided with the Agenda outlining specific details and requirements and exact wording of regulations.)

## 6.0 REPORTS

### 6.1 AUSTRALIAN WARNING SYSTEM

Presentation provided by Tayissa Sweetlove, DFES.

### 6.2 CHIEF BUSHFIRE CONTROL OFFICER REPORT

Attachment 6.2 a)

### 6.3 DBCA REPORT

Attachment 6.3 a)

### 6.4 DFES REPORT

Attachment 6.4 a)

### 6.5 BUSHFIRE RISK MITIGATION COORDINATOR

Attachment 6.5 a)

## 7.0 WHS UPDATES

### 7.1 INCIDENTS REPORTED

No reportable incidents.

### 7.2 TRAINING

Graham advised that the training spreadsheet has highlighted a few areas with deficiencies since the courses were changed. Unable to RPL.

Derek Jones has offered to conduct a two-day course covering Firefighting Skills and Bush Fire Safety Awareness early next year.

**Action:** Set up a TEAMS meeting with Alex, Charmaine and Derek to get some dates and move forward.

### 7.3 PPE

PPE Orders were submitted from Boxwood and Gairdner.

**Action:** Needilup to provide sizes of coats required. Jacup to submit PPE Order.

## 8.0 ROUND TABLE

### Paul Hislop

Queried whether the Fireline Construction training could be available for Brigade members who may have machinery on a fire ground before Contractors arrive.

**Action:** Dan to see what is in the course content and what may apply.

### Paul Barrett

Consider holding training days in early February, as soon as school is back, in preference to March.

### Anthony Armstrong

Still trying to locate three missing radios.

**Action:** Anthony Armstrong to follow up with Albany Comms.

### Pete Buckenara

Sunday pre-season training day commencing at 2.00pm – refresher on all vehicles, radios and hydrants followed by a barbecue.

Checked Schedules for the coming season – to be on bad days and when had action.

**Action:** Alex to put out a WhatsApp message soon and conduct radio checks.

### Alex Jones

Steve Booth will replace Peter Kinnear as a Permit Issuing Officer at Boxwood Hill.

**Action:** Steve Booth to be provided with Dropbox access.

**Action:** Give Shire Ranger access to Dropbox to check permits.

Anthony Thomas

Noted that an incident report provided to the previous CESM had not been recorded in relation to an incident on Bremer Road (Henry Brown).

**Action:** Anthony to send copy of incident report to Charmaine.

Charmaine Solomon

District maps have been updated for vehicles. There is a chance that funding may be available for the provision of diesel fuel at Boxwood Hill.

Mick Lester

There were 15 at Jacup for seasonal worker training. In future consider holding a fortnight later so more workers are able to attend.

Alex Jones

The seasonal worker training covers basic safety for working on your own farm. Need to do additional training to go on fireground. Another seasonal worker training course is to be held at Green Range on 24 October. Registration through Albany CESM.

**9.0 CLOSURE OF MEETING**

The CBFCO closed the meeting at 8.39pm.

<p>These minutes were confirmed at a meeting held</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Signed: .....</p> <p>Presiding Person at the meeting at which these minutes were confirmed</p> <p>Date: .....</p>
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Attachment 6.2 a)

CBFCO report BFAC October 14<sup>th</sup> 2024

Good evening and welcome everyone. The seasons seem to earlier every year and this is no exception with harvest upon us already.

As expected incidents have been minimal during the mid season. Boxwood volunteers assisted at a residence in July where a tidy up burn became a concern for the owner but was quickly deemed ok. In September Mick had to spend Father's day morning with the truck putting out a campfire at the Jacup truckstop. Lucky he had Kade with him.

Last Monday while myself and 14 others were learning the AIIMS 2017 course, I had a 000 call during the lunchbreak-I thought-this will be a test, part of the course but no, a truck was on fire on Devils Creek Rd so a crew went to that one and it was handled pretty quickly. Thank you to the 7 people who completed the course from our shire

The CESM position has been vacated and we look forward to having a new CESM as a stand alone for our shire soon. Charmaine has taken that role until it is filled.

Truck servicing is in progress now

Radios have been checked and we have a new radio at Boxwood. It is in the office of East Stirling Rural. It won't be used much but could be important during an incident in that area where we lack sometimes in communication. Call sign is Boxwood ESR. New permit officer is Steve Booth lives at Marra.

Dan has been having an impact reducing the bushfire risk- he will give more detail shortly.

My priority next year will be to get more volunteers to complete basic training.

Let's enjoy a safe harvest and hopefully a mild bushfire season. If we are faced with an incident let's work together to protect our communities. Thank you to all who volunteer in our shire.



## Attachment 6.3 a)

### **Parks and Wildlife Service - Albany District Report: Jerramungup BFAC Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

#### **Fire Season Preparedness:**

DBCA are currently undertaking preparations for the bushfire season ahead which is coming out of a warmer and drier Autumn, Winter. We are currently at moderate staffing capacity. Ranger at SRNP has retired, and the process is underway for selection and appointment of a new ranger for the park. We will have 4 new Conservation Employees joining the ranks within the next few weeks.

#### **Government Investment in Capacity:**

The State Government investment into fire capability is underway. The new Conservation Employees have been selected and are commencing in the near future. The new heavy duty "gang truck" fire appliance, a D6 bulldozer, a low loader and prime mover are all on order and under construction. Expected time of arrival will be later next year.

#### **Projects Planned/Completed:**

A number of projects have been underway or are planned within Fitzgerald River National Park. Last year we completed approximately 250km of firebreak spraying, 15 km of firebreak upgrades. Planned for this summer is 40km of firebreak upgrade on the northern boundary of the Park, 100 km of firebreak spraying and approximately 30km of grading north of Bremer Bay..

#### **Prescribed Burning:**

There are a number burns planned for next autumn/winter. Considerations were made in the previous Autumn to undertake burning within these areas, however unfortunately the timeframe between the bush being drought-ridden and too dry to being saturated was insufficient for any operation to be successfully undertaken. Some of these were subject to the outcomes of permits to take flora and all were subject to permits to take fauna.

#### **Soil Dryness and Ecosystem Health:**

Rainfall across the Albany District is down on last year, increasing more so the further east of Albany you go. After an already dry year, this is raising concerns for the ongoing drought effects on the landscape, as well as the inherent bushfire risk that brings. DBCA are continuing to monitor the situation.

#### **Staff Changes**

After almost 20 years as a District Fire Coordinator, Vince Hilder will be taking up a position as Regional Operations Officer – Work Health and Safety.

## BFAC – Jerramungup 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024

### 1. Off Season Update

Preparations well under-way  
Regional exercise – late August  
Offering small bushfire exercises to LGs if they wanted a ‘refresher’  
Staff to Canada.  
No clear picture of expectations for the upcoming fire season.  
Nothing formal from Esperance fatality – don’t relax, take all steps to ensure you and colleagues are safe.

### 2. PAFTACS

Back to CBFCO and/or onto Comcen  
Gives excellent overview to region of situation.  
Anticipate template made available to CBFCOs next week to assist first arriving.

### 3. Alerts and Warnings – Focus Area 1

State Strategic Priority – All Hazards, inc Fire  
AWS update – now nationally & hazard consistent.  
Push notification via new App facility planned to be in place for fire season.  
Needs a warning map to be effective.  
Emergency warning – now require use of telephone warning system  
DFES Public Warnings can assist – 1800 718 288

### 4. Air Assets – Focus Area 2

Importance of air assets.  
Fixed wing – do not overlook LAT and helicopter support when required.  
Evening discussion forum was held Oct 10th.  
Request through RDC – 1800 314 644

### 5. Machinery Use

LG to expend funds initially.  
Must have prior approval prior to engagement – contact RDC 1800 314 644

### 6. Online Training Available for those interested.

AFDRS X (3 Modules)  
Australian Warning System (2 Modules)  
Tree Hazard Awareness (1 Module)

Graham TAYLOR – 31098

14/10/2024

Attachment 6.5 a)

## **Shire of Jerramungup Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

### **Report from Shire of Jerramungup**

#### **Bushfire Risk Mitigation Coordinator Dan Biddulph**

Shire of Jerramungup 2023/24 MAF Round 2 grants program, all funds are expected to be spent.

These funds have been spent on:

#### **Hazard reduction burns completed.**

- SE Caravan Park to the wind turbine-15Ha.
- Bremer School-1.2Ha.
- Bog arm -2.7Ha
- Old rubbish tip block-12.5 Ha
- North of Whitetail Rd, South of water Corp dams and west of golf course-15Ha
- West side of Wellstead Rd- on all sides of the rubbish tip-10Ha

#### **Mechanical works**

- Parkland clearing behind Industrial area
- Road reserves on the Pt Henry peninsula,
- Road reserve in the Bremer Bay townsite,
- Maintenance of the existing strategic low fuel zones around Bremer Bay,
- New Strategic breaks established at Millers Point and Gairdner town site,

#### **Chemical Works**

Spraying of regrowth peppies and mallee on low fuel zones.

**BRMP** in progress with good feedback to date, finalising final draft to go to OBRAM

**Fireline Construction Course** for Shire and Contractors November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> in Jerramungup.

#### **MAF202425 R2**

38 Treatments- \$381,750.00 Funding will include treatments in Jerramungup townsite to start the process in that area.