

**Shire of Manjimup**  
**Bush Fire Advisory Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting 5 October 2022**



Minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held in the Manjimup Emergency Services Collocation Building, located at 46 Bath Street Manjimup on Wednesday 5 October 2022.

**1. Declaration of Opening the Meeting**

The Chairman, Cr Cliff Winfield, declared the meeting open at 7.02pm.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

*The Shire of Manjimup respectfully acknowledges the Noongar people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands in which we work throughout the region and we pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.*

**2. Attendance / Apologies**

Attendees		
Voting		Non Voting
Cr Cliff Winfield	SoM Councillor - Chair	Nicole Favero
Todd Ridley	CESM	Ashleigh Reeve (Proxy - CESM)
Remo Pessotto	CBFCO	Chris Sousa – DFES
Karen Nickels	Coastal Zone	Jeff Bennett - DBCA
Brad Wren	Manjimup West Zone	Peter Parker (Proxy - Coastal Zone)
Tom Winfield	Manjimup South West Zone	Max Connor (Proxy – Manjimup East Zone)
Rob Thorn (Proxy)	Manjimup Central East Zone	Cr Kim Skoss (Proxy – SoM Councillor)
Bill Rice	Manjimup South East Zone	
Shane Otway	Pemberton North Zone	
Tom Muir	Manjimup East Zone	
Frank Shaw	Manjimup North West Zone	
Apologies		
Joshua Kanny (Manjimup Central East Zone)	Colin Griffiths (Northcliffe BFB)	

**3. Declaration of Financial Interest – Nil**

**4. Confirmation of the Minutes of the General Meeting held Wednesday 17 November 2021.**

**MOVED:** Brad Wren

**SECONDED:**

Remo Pessotto

***“That the confirmed Minutes of the General Meeting held Wednesday 17 November 2021 be received as a true and correct record.”***

**CARRIED 11 – 0**

**5. Council's Response to Minutes of the General Meeting held Wednesday 17 November 2021.**

**Ordinary Meeting**

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION:**

**MOVED: Winfield, C SECONDED: Skoss, K**

**28673**

**That Council:**

- 1. Receive and note the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting held on the 17 November 2021 as contained in Attachment: 9.16.3(1);**
- 2. Support the Bush Fire Advisory Committee recommendation to amend the Terms of Reference to reflect the Zone Delegates and Proxies for a two year period, including the reduction of the Voting Members to 13 in total, with the Walpole Zone being reduced to one Voting Member and one Proxy Member;**
- 3. Appoint Remo Pessotto as the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and Brad Wren as the Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer for the two year period, expiring on 21 October 2023;**
- 4. Amend the Terms of Reference in accordance with Attachment: 9.16.3(2).**

**CARRIED: 10/0**

**6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes - Nil**

**7. Correspondence – See Attachments**

<b>IN</b>	<b>Attachment</b>
7.1 Northcliffe BFB – Roger Seares Northcliffe BFB & Northcliffe East – BFAC Recommendation to amalgamate.	<b>1</b>
7.2 Northcliffe BFB – Colin Griffiths – BFAC Proxy, advice that Roger Seares has resigned.	<b>2</b>
7.3 Henk & Deborah Dirks – Pemberton Woodlands Estate Group – regarding Firebreak & Fuel Hazard Reduction Notice.	<b>3</b>
<b>OUT</b>	<b>Attachment</b>
7.3 Shire of Manjimup – Unconfirmed Minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held on 17 November 2021 – Accepted at Council 16.12.21.	<b>NA</b>
7.4 Shire of Manjimup – Agenda & supporting documents for 4 October 2022	<b>NA</b>

**8. Review of BFAC Terms of Reference & Membership**

Discussion regarding the resignation received from Coastal Zone Proxy, Roger Seares together with new nomination from Northcliffe BFB for Colin Griffiths as the replacement.

**MOVED: Brad Wren SECONDED: Remo Pessotto**

***“That Council confirm and accept the amendments to appointments of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Terms of Reference, being Colin Griffiths –Coastal Zone Proxy.”***

**CARRIED 11 – 0**

## 9. Members Reports

### 9.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer – Remo Pessotto

- New Mordalup 4.4 Appliance arrived.
- Fire at Windy Harbour.
- Brigades holding AGM's.
- FCO & Captain Meeting to be held soon.

### 9.2 CESM and Training Coordinator – Todd Ridley

Written report submitted - **(See Attachment 4)**

### 9.3 Department Fire and Emergency Services – Chris Sousa

Written report submitted - **(See Attachment 5)**

Response:

Discussion ensued regarding the new Fire Danger Rating and no it will not affect DBCA prescribed burning. Todd clarified the new system will come with tools enabling them to further break down to individual fuel types. Request to DFES if the High Season for Upper Warren can be bush orientated.

### 9.4 DBCA Parks and Wildlife Services – Jeff Bennett

Written report submitted - **(See Attachment 6)**

Response:

Todd queried with the restriction of the logging industry, clarification sought regarding maintenance of roads. Jeff advised he has raised this issue himself as there will be a reduction, though there will be Strategic Access Roads maintained, but there is only so much funding.

**MOVED:** Tom Muir                      **SECONDED:** Tom Backhouse

***“Shire administration to write to Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions requesting clarification on the maintenance of roads.”***

**CARRIED 11-0**

## 9.5 Zone Delegate Reports

### 9.5.1 Manjimup East Zone - Tom Muir

- AGM's are nearly complete.
- Discussions ongoing regarding amalgamation, Upper Warren meeting next week with Dunreath.
- Topanup Fire, good work by all for the first fire of the season in very dirty bush.

### 9.5.2 Manjimup Central East Zone – Rob Thorn (proxy)

- No contact from Balbarrupn BFB in regards to an update for BFAC.
- Diamond AGM held in September with new Captain appointed.
- 18 Active members on CAD.
- Appliance Awareness Training on 6 November.
- Diamond utilised the Ringbarkers 2.4 throughout season.

#### 9.5.3 **Manjimup South East Zone - Bill Rice**

- Quiet at Smith Brook.
- Yet to hold AGM.
- Shed is near completion with power on and plumbing.

#### 9.5.4 **Manjimup North West Zone - Frank Shaw**

- Busy with grass tree fires from offender lighting up.
- Due to unfortunate loss of one of their members due to a bad accident, need to arrange collection of Brigade equipment, radio and unit.
- Ringbarker and Linfarne amalgamations – brigades yet to meet but AGM's coming up.
- Assisted M Smith with burn.
- Road Verge burning, may need to look at cameras.

#### 9.5.5 **Coastal Zone - Karen Nickels**

- AGM held 19 August 2022. Following positions appointed:  
Captain – Colin Griffiths  
3 x Lieutenants  
4 x FCOs  
1 x Treasurer  
Secretary was nominated and accepted, but later withdrew.  
Equipment Officer – vacant.  
1 x Training Officer
- EGM to be held 14 October 2022 elect Secretary and Equipment Officer.
- Meeting with Committee and Shire scheduled for 15 October 2022.
- Northcliffe sent crews to all major fires last season, including Topanup, Flybrook, Bridgetown, as well as dealing with local fires, including 2 on Charlie Road amongst others. Thanks to the Brigades who came to assist.
- A number of new members have signed up.
- Query on the sticker for the Northcliffe and Windy Harbour LT.

Response:

Todd advised stickers will be in place before the fire season commences.

#### 9.5.6 **Pemberton West Zone - Tom Backhouse**

- Springfield held AGM – new FCO is Nigel Pitts and Secretary is Toni Dearle.
- Thank you to all who turned out at Flybrook Fire.

#### 9.5.7 **Manjimup South West Zone – Tom Winfield**

- AGM held with a small turnout, new Treasurer is Drew Carruthers.
- Training done with Ipsen group.
- Currently updating membership list.
- 3 small fires in summer, with Yanmah truck assisting.
- Currently working on CAD list.

Response:

Todd advised there are 3 or 4 from Ipsen group that may assist Brigade.

#### **9.5.8 Pemberton North Zone - Shane Otway**

Written report submitted - (**See Attachment 7**)

- Pemberton Rural AGM held - new Secretary and Equipment Officer.
- 3 new members.

#### **9.5.9 Manjimup West Zone - Brad Wren**

- Yanmah truck attended 8 different incidents.
- Thank you to DBCA for burning the Yanmah block.
- AGM's – Yanmah and Glenoran to be held soon.

#### **9.5.10 Walpole Zone – Vacant – No Report**

### **10. General Business**

#### **10.1 Outstanding Issues and task list**

##### **10.1.1 Northcliffe BFB Shed**

Builder now completed works and Shire meeting with Brigade this week. Water pump and double headed hydrant outstanding.

##### **10.1.2 Linking of Radio Repeaters**

Ongoing correspondence from November last year regarding sustainability of those links. Item to remain on task list.

##### **10.1.3 Smith Brook Shed**

Close to completion with a few outstanding items ordered ie stainless steel cabinets for meeting room and then plumbing can be completed. There is a small amount left in budget.

##### **10.1.4 Mobile Phone Reception West Manjimup (**See Attachment 8**)**

Brad Wren presented an interim report from Telstra that was tabled. Item ongoing.

##### **10.1.5 Amalgamation – Linfarne and Ringbarkers BFB's**

This will be raised at the upcoming AGM's.

##### **10.1.6 Amalgamation – Northcliffe Windy Harbour and Northcliffe East BFB's**

Karen will raise at upcoming EGM.

#### **10.2 Firebreak & Fuel Hazard Reduction Notice 2022-2023**

Each year the Shire of Manjimup publishes the Firebreak and Fuel Hazard Reduction Notice. This notice is sent to all land owners within the Shire of Manjimup and published in local newspapers.

Letter was received in correspondence from Henk and Deborah Dirks (Item 7.3), requesting another review of the *Shire of Manjimup Firebreak and Fuel Hazard Reduction Notice 2022-2023*, Section B Building Protection Zone 'Subject to the required clearing permit being obtained, a property owner may extend the Building Protection Zone to a maximum of 40 metres'.

BFAC again reviewed this section and as there is no intent by the Shire of Manjimup to make a mandatory 40 metre Building Protection Zone and land owners have the choice to extend to 40 metres if they wish to have a higher level of protection, but this being subject to the required clearing permit being obtained, it was decided that no revision was required.

Proposed no changes other than amendments to FCO details and the wording in the table under Prohibited to add 'No Open fires' which will be at Officers discretion.

<b>MOVED:</b>	Brad Wren	<b>SECONDED:</b>	Tom Winfield
<b><i>"That Council accept the Shire of Manjimup Firebreak and Fuel Hazard Reduction Notice 2022-2023"; and</i></b>			
<b><i>"That Shire Administration respond to H &amp; D Dirks advising that after further review by BFAC no change is required to the Shire of Manjimup Firebreak and Fuel Hazard Reduction Notice 2022-2023."</i></b>			
<b>CARRIED 11-0</b>			

### **10.3 Amendments to the Bush Fire Brigade Operational Procedures 2020-2025**

Todd provided an overview of the amendments to the *Bush Fire Brigade Operational Procedures 2020-2025*. In addition to these Karen requested the following amendments:

- *Section 1.5.1 Complete Brigade Structure Section* – to add Treasurer (optional);
- *Section 4.4 Secretary – Annual Information Meeting* – to amend the description to include Treasurers and other administration officers.
- *AGM Template* – to include further prompts regarding change of bank signatories (this is an Appendix to the document).

Discussion ensued to accept all changes to the document and on further review of the AGM Template, this already includes a prompt regarding change of bank signatories for the Brigade.

<b>MOVED:</b>	Bill Rice	<b>SECONDED:</b>	Remo Pessotto
<b><i>"That Council accept the amendments to the Bush Fire Brigade Operational Procedures 2020-2025."</i></b>			
<b>CARRIED 11 – 0</b>			

### **10.4 New Fire Operational Guideline 3.0 Crew Safety and Operational Responsibility at Bushfires including Appendices Safe Operation Procedures 3.1 to 3.10**

Todd provided an overview on both the *Fire Operational Guideline 3.0 Crew Safety and Operational Responsibility at Bushfires* together with supporting *Appendices Safe Operation Procedures 3.1 to 3.10*.

Discussion followed with all in agreeance that this is very useful and important addition.

**MOVED:** Tom Winfield

**SECONDED:** Brad Wren

***“Recommendation that the Bush Fire Advisory Committee authorise and accept the Fire Operational Guideline 3.0 Crew Safety and Operational Responsibility at Bushfires and associated Safe Operation Procedures 3.1 to 3.10.”***

**CARRIED 11 – 0**

#### **10.5 Western Australian Local Government Association Arrangements for Management of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades: Proposed Advocacy Position – Council’s response**

Discussion ensued on Council’s response to the *WALGA Arrangements for Management of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades: Proposed Advocacy Position* with clarification provided regarding the Association’s position. There has been no response from WALGA at this stage.

#### **10.6 General Matters from Members**

- Tom Muir advised on *Item 13.6* in previous minutes regarding looking into Radar is still ongoing. One response from BOM but not very good. A lot of support, but it is a Federal Government issue not State and may need assistance from BFAC.
- Remo Pessotto CBFCO acknowledged and thanked Tom Backhouse for all his years of service as FCO for Springfield Bush Fire Brigade.
- Todd thanked the Chief’s and Brigade members for their assistance and understanding throughout the duration of the COVID mandate.
- Cliff advised on the Local Government reform that will change things dramatically and some wards may go and Shire President may no longer be elected by Councillors.

#### **11. Next Meeting**

Next Meeting to be held 7 December 2022.

#### **12. Declaration of Close of Meeting**

Chairperson Cr Cliff Winfield closed the meeting at 9.02pm.

# Outstanding Issues and Task List

Item	Information	Update
Northcliffe Shed	Construct a new facility for brigade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shire of Manjimup successful in obtaining grant.</li> <li>• DFES proposal to co-locate 2015.</li> <li>• Brigade met to discuss, in favour of co-location.</li> <li>• DFES submitted proposal, awaiting response.</li> <li>• Council approved DFES proposal.</li> <li>• \$30,000 in proposed Council budget for site works, budget being adopted 10<sup>th</sup> August 2017.</li> <li>• DFES Funding available December 2017</li> <li>• Construct building in the 2017 / 2018 year, once DFES funding is available.</li> <li>• Shire of Manjimup and DFES signed funding agreement July 2018</li> <li>• BFB shed side construction underway</li> <li>• Work has currently ceased, waiting on paperwork from builder then should be able to recommence.</li> <li>• Purchase Orders have been issued and approved and the issue with builder now resolved. Funding arrangements with DFES resolved as well with a top up to complete the rebuild of Fire and Rescue station to become the Co-Location building. Northcliffe BFB building hoping to get to pretty quickly.</li> <li>• Building to commence soon December 2019</li> <li>• June 2020, 90% completion of the Bushfire Brigade shed. Stage two construction underway.</li> <li>• 90% of stage two complete. Shire to meet with BFB and FRS to discuss final completion of works.</li> <li>• Met with BFB and FRS on the completion of works.</li> <li>• Builder to be back on site to complete the list of works required from 6 December 2021.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Step:</b> 90% of remaining works and variation completed. Backup Water Pump and double headed hydrant to be installed.</p>
Link all radio repeaters	Channels 251, 292, 142, 293 and 252 be linked together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• T Ridley wrote to DFES in October</li> <li>• LSW ROAC moved motion for State to respond (28<sup>th</sup> March 2019).</li> <li>• Survey received from DFES in regards to the Mid Band Network July 2019.</li> <li>• Survey completed by BFAC and returned to LSW DFES.</li> <li>• Karri Valley Blackspot issue.</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awaiting a response from DFES and Karri Valley Blackspot issue.</li> <li>• 252, 293 and 142 digital links installed.</li> <li>• Trial system throughout the fire season.</li> <li>• Report for Meeting.</li> <li>• Write to DFES regarding issues with trial period</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Step:</b> Correspondence sent to DFES on the 3 November 2021 – awaiting response</p>
Smithbrook Shed	ESL Grant and Brigade funded. Construct a new facility for the Brigade.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ESL funding was achieved for the 2018 / 2019 budget</li> <li>• Shire of Manjimup met with the brigade.</li> <li>• Quotes received by 19<sup>th</sup> November</li> <li>• T Ridley met with brigade on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Brigade arranged to hand over the brigade funds and that the Shire of Manjimup to be the project manager.</li> <li>• Toilet and bathroom accessories have been purchased.</li> <li>• Local builder has been awarded building project</li> <li>• Construction to start in 2-3 months</li> <li>• Application to Western Power for green dome on site is in progress</li> <li>• Work currently cease, waiting on paperwork from builder then should be able to recommence.</li> <li>• Purchase Orders have been issued and approved and the issue with builder now resolved. Construction to commence late January-February.</li> <li>• Builder issued with a percentage payment to order materials. Green power dome installed, sand pad completed, shale hard stand constructed. Grant received for Fridge, Laptop, Smart TV, Hot Water System, Air Conditioner and Oven.</li> <li>• Construction of stage one underway.</li> <li>• Stage one 90% Complete.</li> <li>• Complete Stage Two power and plumbing.</li> <li>• Electrical plan completed and contractor engaged to complete works.</li> <li>• Waste water application completed and submitted for approval.</li> <li>• Once approved, plumber to be engaged to complete works.</li> <li>• 100,000 litre fire tank to be completed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Step:</b> Electrical, plumbing and gyprocking completed. Cornice, connection of toilet and sink to be completed. Purchase and install cabinets.</p>

Mobile Phone Reception – West Manjimup	Letters tabled from Seven Day Rd & Yanmah BFB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Todd to forward letter to CEO</li> <li>Contact made with TELSTRA. DCBFCO in contact and working through issues.</li> <li>Ongoing. Complaints received from Ringbarkers Captain in regards to coverage in the area.</li> <li>Brad Wren – another call to Deborah, SW Manager Telstra two weeks ago who advised that the Tech actually was in town last year and to now go back to individual complaints to an email address that she was going to provide, but hasn't yet.</li> <li>Would like to look at going to the Ombudsman and advise Brigades to make individual complaints.</li> <li>Todd to discuss with the CEO and convey the above information.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Step:</b> BFAC advice.</p>
Amalgamation Linfarne and Ringbarkers BFB	Request from Linfarne BFB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Todd advised that Linfarne is requesting to amalgamate with Ringbarkers but they will require a letter from Linfarne requesting and Ringbarkers accepting.</li> <li>Todd has discussed with both Brigades, advising them to meet.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Step:</b> Awaiting clarification from Brigade</p>
Amalgamation Northcliffe Brigades	Only one brigade is operational.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amalgamation of the remaining Northcliffe BFB's as the other Brigades have no members/committees and are no longer operational, this is purely to clarify the zones and simplify the name to 'Northcliffe Bush Fire Brigade'.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Step:</b> Awaiting clarification from Brigade</p>
H & D Dirks	Letter regarding Firebreak & Fuel Hazard Reduction Notice	Administration to respond with BFAC response.
DBCA Roads		Administration to contact DBCA for clarification on the maintenance of forest roads.
Northcliffe BFB	Light Tanker Stickers	Renaming on the two Northcliffe LTs to be completed prior to fire season

## Nicole Favero

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**From:** Northcliffe Bush Fire Brigade <northcliffefbf@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 1 December 2021 9:07 PM  
**To:** Todd Ridley  
**Cc:** Nicole Favero; Colin HJ Griffiths  
**Subject:** CM: NBFB and Northcliffe East - BFAC recommendation

Todd

Colin has asked me to confirm with you the willingness to absorb and amalgamate the Northcliffe East Brigade into the NBFB.

Trusting this provides for your formalisation of this process.

Roger Seares  
Secretary

Northcliffe Bush Fire Brigade  
PO Box 176 Northcliffe WA 6262  
Captain: Colin Griffiths 0427 529 518 | Secretary: Roger Seares 0428 224 958 | Treasurer: Karen  
Nickels 0497 022 702 | Training Co-ordinator: Colin Griffiths 0427 529 518

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## Nicole Favero

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**From:** Northcliffe Bush Fire Brigade <northcliffefbf@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, 24 January 2022 9:00 PM  
**To:** Nicole Favero; Todd Ridley  
**Subject:** CM: BFAC Proxy

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Hello Todd and Nicole,

Please be advised I have now received an email from Roger stating that he will be standing down as the BFAC proxy.

If you require any further information please let me know.

Would you please be able to assist me with what's the process to nominate another proxy and how do I go about this?

We have someone who is keen to fill this role.

Look forward to hearing from you

Regards  
Colin Griffiths  
NCF BFB Captain

--

Northcliffe Bush Fire Brigade  
PO Box 176 Northcliffe WA 6262  
E: [NorthcliffeBFB@gmail.com](mailto:NorthcliffeBFB@gmail.com)  
Captain: Colin Griffiths 0427 529 518 | Treasurer: Karen Nickels 0497 022 702

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**Nicole Favero**

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**From:** Deborah Dirks <kleineparadijs@yahoo.com.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 May 2022 10:36 AM  
**To:** Todd Ridley; Info  
**Cc:** Deborah Dirks  
**Subject:** Firebreak & Fuel Hazard Reduction Notice - see letter attached  
**Attachments:** letter May 2022 Bushfire Advisory Committee Shire of Mjp.pdf

Shire of Manjimup 17 May 2022

Bush Fire Advisory Committee

PO Box 1

Manjimup WA 6258

Dear Bush Fire Advisory Committee Members

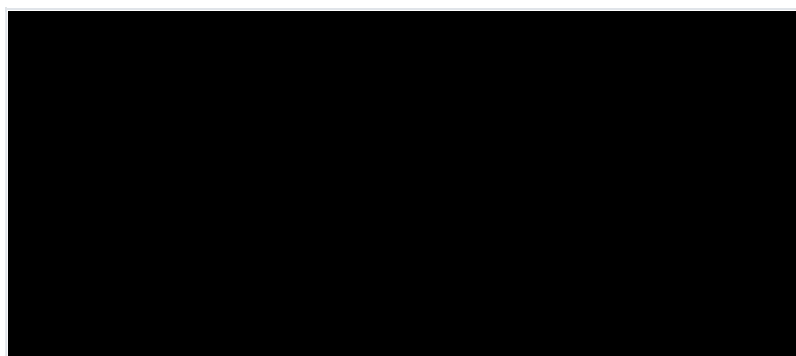
Re: the annual 'Firebreak and Fuel Hazard Reduction Notice 2021-2022' ('the Notice') with the clause under section B, Building Protection Zone (BPZ or APZ): '*Subject to the required clearing permit being obtained, a property owner may extend the BPZ to a maximum of **40 metres***'.

When you next get to discuss the upcoming 'Firebreak & Fuel Hazard Reduction Notice 2022-2023' we ask you to remove the environmentally destructive clause of **40 metres** (= ~ 2.4 acres or 20 suburban blocks) in Section B (APZ) from the notice. All neighbouring shires have an APZ of **20 metres**.

We look forward to your review again of 'the Notice'.

See full letter attached.

[Bushfire review report.pdf](#)



**Bushfire review report.pdf**

Yours sincerely

Pemberton Woodlands Estate Group

On behalf of all our members.

c/- 21 Ditri Court, Pemberton WA 6260. Ph: 9776 0171 Email: [kleineparadijs63@gmail.com](mailto:kleineparadijs63@gmail.com)

Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

Dear Bush Fire Advisory Committee Members

Re: the annual 'Firebreak and Fuel Hazard Reduction Notice 2021-2022' ('the Notice') with the clause under section B, Building Protection Zone (BPZ or APZ): *'Subject to the required clearing permit being obtained, a property owner may extend the BPZ to a maximum of **40 metres**'.*

We believe this clause is an environmental disaster for the area and should be removed. The risk from bushfire cannot be eliminated. Buildings and property outside designated bushfire prone areas can also be at risk, as demonstrated by the January 2016 Waroona/Yarloop bushfire.

The 'Bushfire Planning and Policy Review 2019' document (attached) is a review into the WA framework for planning and development in bushfire prone areas. We would like to refer you to the review as it has become apparent that the implementation of this framework has created ***some unintended consequences that do not provide an appropriate balance between risk-to-life and the cost of, or ability to, mitigate risk.*** Examples include residential lots in built-up urban areas unable to be developed and the inability to develop tourism accommodation and facilities in natural and/or remote locations (relevant to the Shire of Manjimup - see page 30 of the review).

We have summarised some information from the 'Bushfire Planning and Policy Review 2019' document (see appendices below) relevant to the Shire of Manjimup. A few statements in particular in this review stand out:

- On page 12: 'The current system is overly rigid and does not allow for consideration of alternative solutions to reduce bushfire risk' such as sprinklers and fire retardant paint.  
and: 'The unduly risk adverse over-reliance of decision-makers on DFES advice.'
- On page 14: The application of bushfire construction standards does not guarantee a dwelling will survive prolonged exposure and are only designed to provide a temporary refuge while the bushfire front passes.
- On page 15: **'The asset protection zone (= APZ or BPZ) will not necessarily reduce the rate of spread of a bushfire.'**

Climate change including more frequent heatwaves and government policies are making it nearly impossible to live in regional parts of Australia. If we can't have native vegetation, which has evolved over millions of years to support our unique flora and fauna on this continent, we should all just go back to where we came from. This is what is happening in the SOM, which despite millions of dollars in regional development funding, the population has not grown.

When you next get to discuss the upcoming 'Firebreak & Fuel Hazard Reduction Notice 2022-2023' we ask you to remove the environmentally destructive clause of **40 metres** (= ~ 2.4 acres or 20 suburban blocks) in Section B (APZ) from the notice. All neighbouring shires have an APZ of **20 metres**.

We look forward to your review again of 'the Notice'.

Yours sincerely

Pemberton Woodlands Estate Group  
Henk and Deborah Dirks  
21 Ditri Court, Pemberton WA 6260. Ph: 9776 0171 Email: [kleineparadijs63@gmail.com](mailto:kleineparadijs63@gmail.com)

References:

Shire of Manjimup WA: 'Firebreak and Fuel Hazard Reduction Notice 2021-2022'  
Bushfire Planning and Policy Review 2019 (attached)

## Bushfire Planning and Policy Review 2019' summary

The 'Bushfire Planning and Policy Review 2019' document (attached) is a review into the WA framework for planning and development in bushfire prone areas. We would like to refer you to the review as it has become apparent that the implementation of this framework has created ***some unintended consequences that do not provide an appropriate balance between risk-to-life and the cost of, or ability to, mitigate risk.*** Examples include residential lots in built-up urban areas unable to be developed and the inability to develop tourism accommodation and facilities in natural and/or remote locations (Shire of Manjimup) (page 30). It is a 56 page document, but you can skim read most of it and it provides 16 highlighted recommendations.

This 'Bushfire Planning and Policy Review 2019' document directly relates to the threats summarised in the Manjimup Corporate Business Plan 2021-2025 on page 20 under 'Organisation SWAT Analysis':

### Threats:

**Designations of bushfire prone areas.** See Page 14 of the review: The application of bushfire construction standards does not guarantee a dwelling will survive prolonged exposure and are only designed to provide a temporary refuge while the bushfire front passes. "Just placing a synthetic outdoor setting on a verandah will undo even the highest BAL standards," – BAL assessor, John Evans.

**Planning and development constraints.** See Page 12 of the review: 'The current system is overly rigid and does not allow for consideration of alternative solutions to reduce bushfire risk' such as sprinklers and fire retardant paint. The undue risk adverse over-reliance of decision-makers on DFES advice.

**Limited investment in land developments.** See Page 13 of the review: The limited number of builders who can construct buildings to higher BAL standards and the significant costs associated with building materials to construct to higher BAL standards. Eg a Pemberton town resident was denied building a decking with WA jarrah and had to use Eastern States spotted gum – more expensive timber plus the added cost of freight. Another resident who wanted to build in Jamieson Street, Pemberton was required to build half the proposed house with a BAL-rating and half not with a BAL-rating. The resident went on to build a house in Bridgetown.

It is really disappointing to see that the consultation process has not included stakeholders that have native vegetation and the Australian natural environment as their core business (page 10). This means that there is no conservation or green representation and a holistic approach is not considered at the planning stage even though the WA State Government is supporting native vegetation in the *Native Vegetation Policy for Western Australia August 2021* and in the *WA State Government Climate Policy 2021*.

The only reference to native vegetation is on page 11: 'A tension between the requirements for fuel reduction to reduce bushfire risk and for retaining vegetation for environmental value'; and

Page 14: '...must be balanced with other important considerations such as ... the impact on ecological values ...' of the 56 page document.

On page 34 at Recommendation 14: "Minimum 'best practice' requirements for firebreak notices be developed to standardise assessment practices under AS3959 and provide an enforceable mechanism for bushfire management plan compliance." This should affect the Shire of Manjimup 'Firebreak and Fuel Hazard Reduction Notice' in the future.

It is also really disappointing to see that the recommendations in the review document are only to be trialled for the Cities of Perth, Bunbury and Busselton. Probably more than any place on Earth, largely because of our vegetation and climate, make us the most bushfire prone area in the world. Destroying native vegetation only creates more problems eg. Salinity, the WA Wheatbelt is one of the biggest man-made environmental disasters in the world. 20 years ago 1.2 million hectares of the total 1.9 million hectares of agricultural land affected by dryland salinity in Australia was in the WA Wheatbelt. The WA State Government is now prioritising the ***replanting of native vegetation*** in this area – good luck with replanting salt tolerant species on salt scalds!

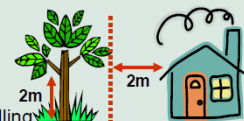
The Shire of Manjimup's 'Firebreak and Fuel Hazard Reduction Notice 2021-2022 section B (APZ or BPZ) below is determined by a committee with only representation for fires – no consideration is given to the natural environment.

### SECTION B

**Building Protection Zone** - Where a dwelling exists on your property you are required to have a Building Protection Zone for minimum of (20) metres measured from any external wall of a dwelling. Subject to the required clearing permit being obtained, a property owner may extend the Building Protection Zone to a maximum of (40) metres.

For all outbuildings on your property you need only to comply with Clause 1 in this Section.

1. Remove all flammable material within (20) metres of any dwelling or outbuilding.
2. Tree trunks to be free of branches to a height of (2) metres.
3. No trees are to over hang the dwelling.
4. No tall shrub over (1) metre in height or live standing tree is to be located within (2) metres from any part of a dwelling.
5. Shrubs are not to be located under trees, are not to be planted in clumps greater than 5m<sup>2</sup> in area, clumps of shrubs should be separated by at least (5) metres.
6. The Shire of Manjimup permits the clearing of live standing trees in the Building Protection Zone subject to the land owner obtaining a clearing permit from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. Please contact the Shire of Manjimup for assistance.





# **CESM BFAC REPORT**

## **5 October 2022**

### **Training**

- 2 X Bushfire Safety Awareness courses completed.
- 2 X Firefighting Skills courses completed.
- 1 X Fire Control Officers course completed.
- Bushfire Safety Awareness and Firefighting Skills course planned for end of October (mid week).
- Members can nominate to attend courses at any stage in other Local Governments.

### **Mitigation Activity Fund (grant) / Bush Fire Mitigation**

- Successful grant for the 2022 – 2023 period, \$289,320 awarded.
- 11 Planned burns, we will be meeting with brigades shortly to discuss.
- 19 new treatments (mulching / slashing).
- 1 X construction of a Fire Service Access Route in Pemberton.
- 1 X Fire Gate in Palgarup.
- Maintenance of existing area has started in Pemberton and will move around the town sites and settlement in the coming months.
- Maintenance around Bush Fire Brigade sheds has started.
- Strategic water tank will be checked this month.

### **Emergency Services Levy**

- \$239,030 allocated in the operational grant.
- \$5,790 approved for a Fast Fill Trailer in the Perup area.
- 2 X Appliances (1 East Manjimup, 1 Diamond area) applied for. Application not approved “additional fleet requests not considered due to subsequent delays in supply for future builds”.
- New Mordalup 4.4 appliance now been delivered.

### **General Information**

- Appliance serving will start in a couple of weeks.
- The DFES Comcen SMS for brigade response has been set up. Brigades that have nominated members to be on the list will now receive a text stating a response is needed, the message will have a map link attached.
- The new Fire Danger Index is now in play across Australia.
- Servicing of First Aid Kits to commence end of October.
- Maintenance of Sheds & gutter cleans currently in process.
- Maintenance spraying for spiders etc commencing in coming months.



## Shire of Manjimup BFAC Meeting

DFES LSW Region Report – October 2022

### • Australian Fire Danger Rating System

The Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) Program has come into effect from 1 September 2022 across Australia. The AFDRS is a project of national significance developed collaboratively by each state and territory, and the Commonwealth government. Aims to improve public safety, reduce the impacts of bushfires and better support the community with nationally consistent ratings and messaging.

Changes to the Bush Fires Act have occurred to support the new AFDRS. While conditions for a Vehicle Harvest Movement Ban remain similar to the old forecasting system, automatic permit cancellation will occur earlier under the new rating system.

### • Fleet

The Mordalup 4.4 has been delivered to the Shire DFES is keen on any feedback on the vehicle from the Brigade as it is one of the first of types in service.

Manjimup VFRS have had a new Light Tanker handed over formally in early September. This vehicle will also be available for use by the Bush Fire Brigade network when required.

The High Season Appliance rollout is due to start in November 2022 with Upper Warren being identified as a priority delivery.

### • LSW VFES Unit

The Lower South West Region has been granted approval to form a Volunteer Fire and Emergency Services Unit (VFES) for regional support. The unit will bring together volunteers that wish to assist in the following areas:

- Mitigation (burning) Crews
- Bush Fire Ready Facilities
- Incident Control Vehicle Crews
- WebEOC operators
- Peer Support Officers

Further information is available by contacting myself on Nathan Hall on 0408 616 433.

### • Mitigation

Tim Hutton has commence working with DFES as the Bush Fire Risk Management Officer. There are several planned burns on unallocated crown land within the Manjimup Shire. Tim will be making contact with the FCO's of the areas concerned to invite them to participate in the burn.

### • DFES Air Operations

DFES Air Operations Manager has extended an invitation to meet with the Shire Executive/ Council/ BFAC to provide an overview for this year's aerial capability for emergency services response. The Government has provided funding for the Large Air Tanker to be based at Busselton Airport this year.

Chris Sousa

**District Officer Nelson - LSW**



Department of **Biodiversity,  
Conservation and Attractions**



## **Warren Region Update for BFAC meeting Wednesday 5th October 2022**

### **Prescribed Burning**

Warren Region is underway with preparations for its 2022/23 prescribed burn program.

The proposed 2022/23 program for the Warren Region consists of 61 burns totalling 123 598 hectares ensuring there is enough flexibility in the burn program to allow the region to take advantage of suitable opportunities where and when they occur. The proposed burn program provides a spread of burns to cater for the seasonal drying, north to south, east to west across the region.

Burns will be applied to achieve a range of objectives including town site protection, biodiversity management, silviculture, and broad scale fuel reduction.

Some of our high priority burns for this year are:

Cascades, Giblett, Walpole, Horseyard Hill, Tingle View, Giblett, Jane, Dombakup and Hawke.

The region has called for seasonal fire fighters but due to competing workforce issues our numbers and experience levels may be impacted.

The Warren Region is also commencing preparations for the bushfire season with preseason training schedules being finalised and fire availability rosters being finalised.

Please find attached maps showing the 1 year and 3 year Burn Options Program within the Warren Region.

Jeff Bennett

Regional Leader Fire Management

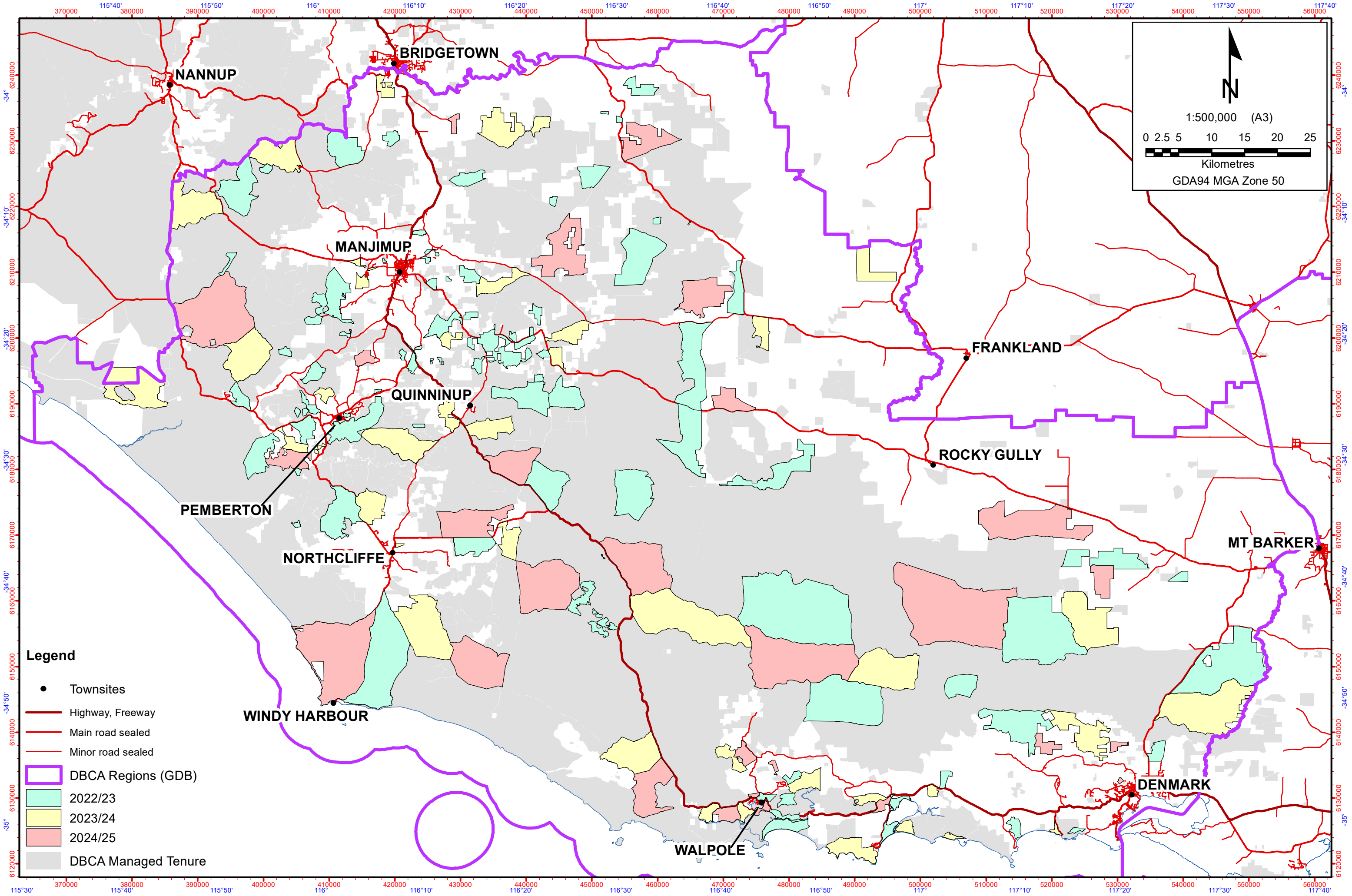
Warren Region

Manjimup

**Warren Region**

Locked Bag 2, Manjimup, Western Australia 6258  
Phone: (08) 97 717 988 Email: warren.admin@dbca.wa.gov.au  
dbca.wa.gov.au

Warren Region Burn Options Program 2022 - 2025



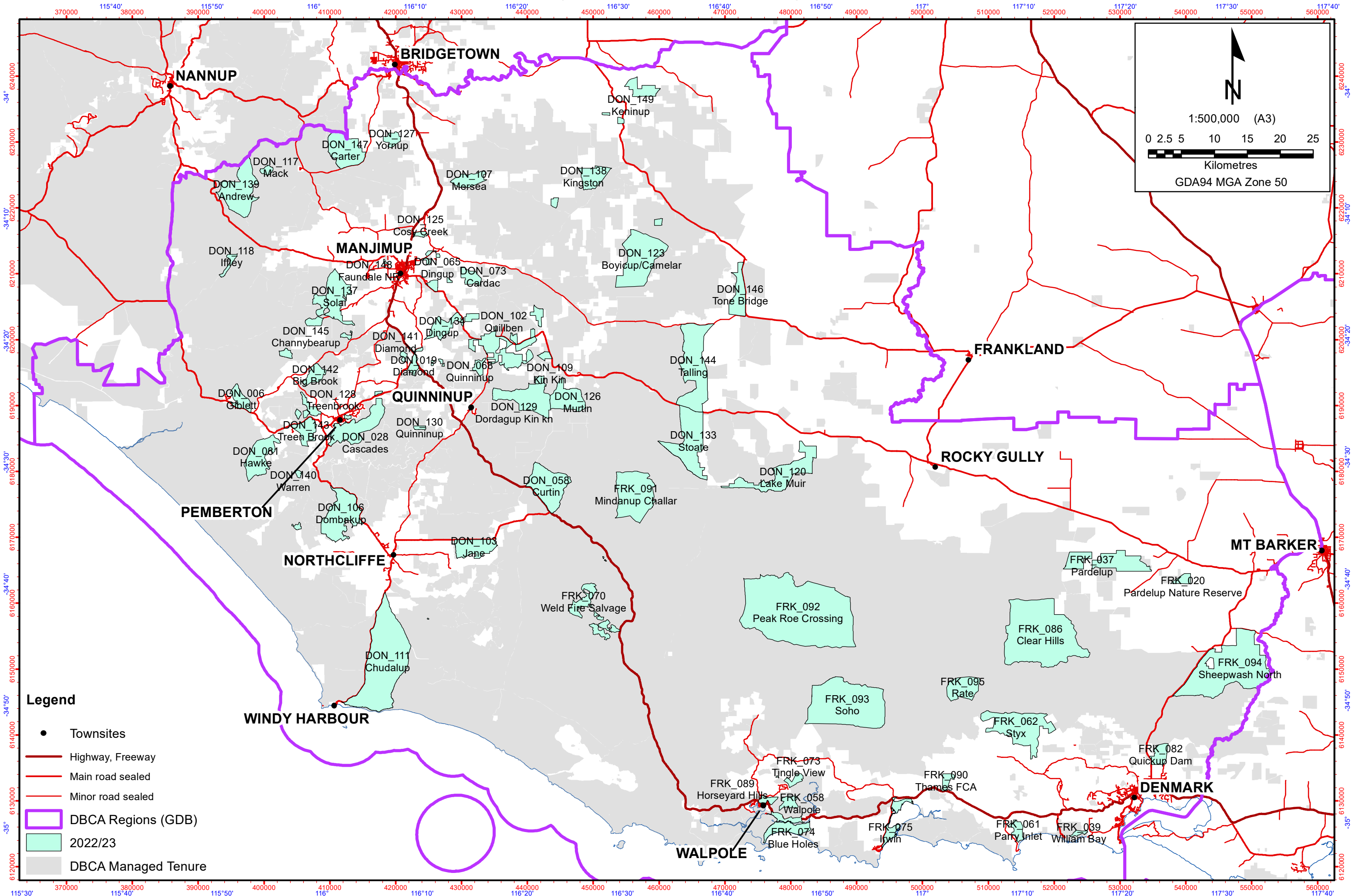
Graticule shown at 10 minutes intervals  
Grid shown at 10000 metre intervals

Roads and tracks on land managed by DBCA may contain unmarked hazards and their surface condition is variable. Exercise caution and drive to conditions on all roads.  
The Dept. of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions does not guarantee that this map is without flaw of any kind and disclaims all liability for any errors, loss or other consequence which may arise from relying on any information depicted.

Produced: Warren Region 2022



# Warren Region Annual Burn Options Program 2022/23



Graticule shown at 10 minutes intervals  
Grid shown at 10000 metre intervals

Roads and tracks on land managed by DBCA may contain unmarked hazards and their surface condition is variable. Exercise caution and drive to conditions on all roads.  
The Dept. of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions does not guarantee that this map is without flaw of any kind and disclaims all liability for any errors, loss or other consequence which may arise from relying on any information depicted.

Produced: Warren Region 2022

## PEMBERTON NORTH ZONE DELEGATES REPORT 2022

In 2021 wet conditions persisted till late in the year preventing any brigade assisted burns.

In 2022 high temperatures resulted in a very busy fire season which at times stretched this brigade's limited crew resources to the limit as the temperatures climbed.

On the 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> December we had call outs for the 2.4HD to attend reigniting heaps on Plackett Drive.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> January we had a call out to supply VFRS Pemberton with bulk water to contain a car fire behind the Pemberton Mill.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, & 7<sup>th</sup> February was the Topanup fire which jumped the Muir Highway, we supplied the 2.4HD with crews day and night to assist DBCA to contain that fire.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> February we had the Hester Bridgetown fire, where we supplied the LT with crews day and night to monitor the fire edge around Bridgetown.

On the 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> March we had the fly Brook lightning strike fire, we organised crews for our 2.4HD & Springfield's 2.4HD unit day and night to assist DBCA crews to bring that fire under control.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> April was the fire at Chesapeake Road and Windy Harbour Road, we provided a crew and the LT to assist DBCA with traffic control in the smoke.

Shane Otway  
Captain – Pemberton Rural

## Nicole Favero

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**From:** Bradley Wren <wrenfresh@westnet.com.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 5 October 2022 6:18 PM  
**To:** Nicole Favero; Todd Ridley  
**Subject:** FW: Summary to date of Manjimup visit.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

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**From:** [Donnellan, Kevin](#)  
**Sent:** Monday, 15 August 2022 5:36 PM  
**To:** [wrenfresh@westnet.com.au](mailto:wrenfresh@westnet.com.au)  
**Subject:** Summary to date of Manjimup visit.

Hi Brad

Apologies for the time it has taken to get back to you with a summary of my analysis to date of mobile coverage in the Manjimup area.

- On my recent visit to Manjimup for the purpose of meeting with yourself and the other community members, I was able to also conduct some ad-hoc coverage surveys as I drove between locations. As a result, I managed to sample a number of roads in locations including Fonty's Pool, Appadene, Deanmill, Yanmah, Dixvale, Jardee, Ringbark, Palgarup, Wilgarup Black Butt Ridge, and Yeticup. I believe I've been able to obtain a reasonable impression of coverage in the general area, particularly to the North, South and West of Manjimup (on a radius of around 15Km from town)
- The nature of the coverage in the area surveyed is relatively complex, with around 24 separate elements (unique antenna sectors & frequency bands) within the 4G network alone, which contribute to coverage levels at various points throughout the survey route. These elements are the factors that need to be balanced and optimised in order to attempt to maximise both coverage and capacity in the network.
- There are numerous environmental factors (hills and trees) in the area which will impact upon radio frequency propagation, this makes the challenging task of predicting and optimising the extent of mobile coverage that much more complex. This being said, the measured results from my surveys appear to compare well with predicted outdoor coverage levels, so I have reasonable confidence in our coverage modelling for the area. By analysing the predicted coverage against the measured levels for individual elements, I have checked for anomalies such as incorrect antenna bearings or tilts, of which no obvious discrepancies appear to be present. Automated call and data testing was conducted in conjunction with the signal surveys, using handsets on dash mounted cradles (no external antenna) within the cab of the vehicle. While the test results did indicate some call drops, these occurred in locations where the device was reporting low coverage levels. The results did not highlight any indications of underlying equipment faults or underperforming radio units within the network, however the data did highlight how aspects such as where the handset is mounted in the vehicle (above dash height is generally best) and the direction of travel (toward or away from the tower) can have a relatively significant impact upon the received signal.
- In the absence of any unexpected results from the coverage surveys, I have tried to account for the loss of coverage that yourself and others have described. Unfortunately I do not have any historical signal level data with which I can compare the current measured coverage, so I have looked at some of the historical changes that have been made to the mobile network which would have been associated with coverage in the area west of Manjimup, including the initial build of the "Graphite Rd Tower" (or Manjimup West as our systems refer to it) located near the intersection of Graphite Rd and Waughs Rd. From this I have put

together the following timeline, and my best guess at how each event may have altered the coverage. I would be interested to understand if this aligns at all with your recollection of the experience.

**June 2014**, Manjimup West first commissioned as a 3G 850Mhz site. Presumably this was a substantial step change to coverage in areas to the west of Manjimup, and I expect this would have seen an expansion to coverage for most users in the area, in comparison to what coverage may have previously been available from Manjimup Town tower

**March 2015**, Manjimup Town mobile tower was upgraded to include 4G 700Mhz coverage. Handsets are generally set to prefer 4G signal over that of 3G signal, even in situations where the 3G signal may be the more dominant comparative signal level in the area. A reduction in signal bars would generally occur when devices change between 3G and 4G networks (even when the two networks originate from the same tower) and this is due to the different methods used to measure the two networks (3G measures RSCP - Received Signal Code Power, and 4G measures RSRP - Reference Symbol Received Power). My suspicion is that around this time (March 2015), handsets in the West Manjimup area would potentially have received some of the 4G coverage originating from Manjimup town. This would have likely resulted in the signal bars on the phone dropping considerably on occasions when the handset switched from the 3G coverage (coming from Manjimup West), over to the 4G coverage (coming from Manjimup Town). It is conceivable that coverage may have appeared erratic in locations where fringe 4G signal existed at this time.

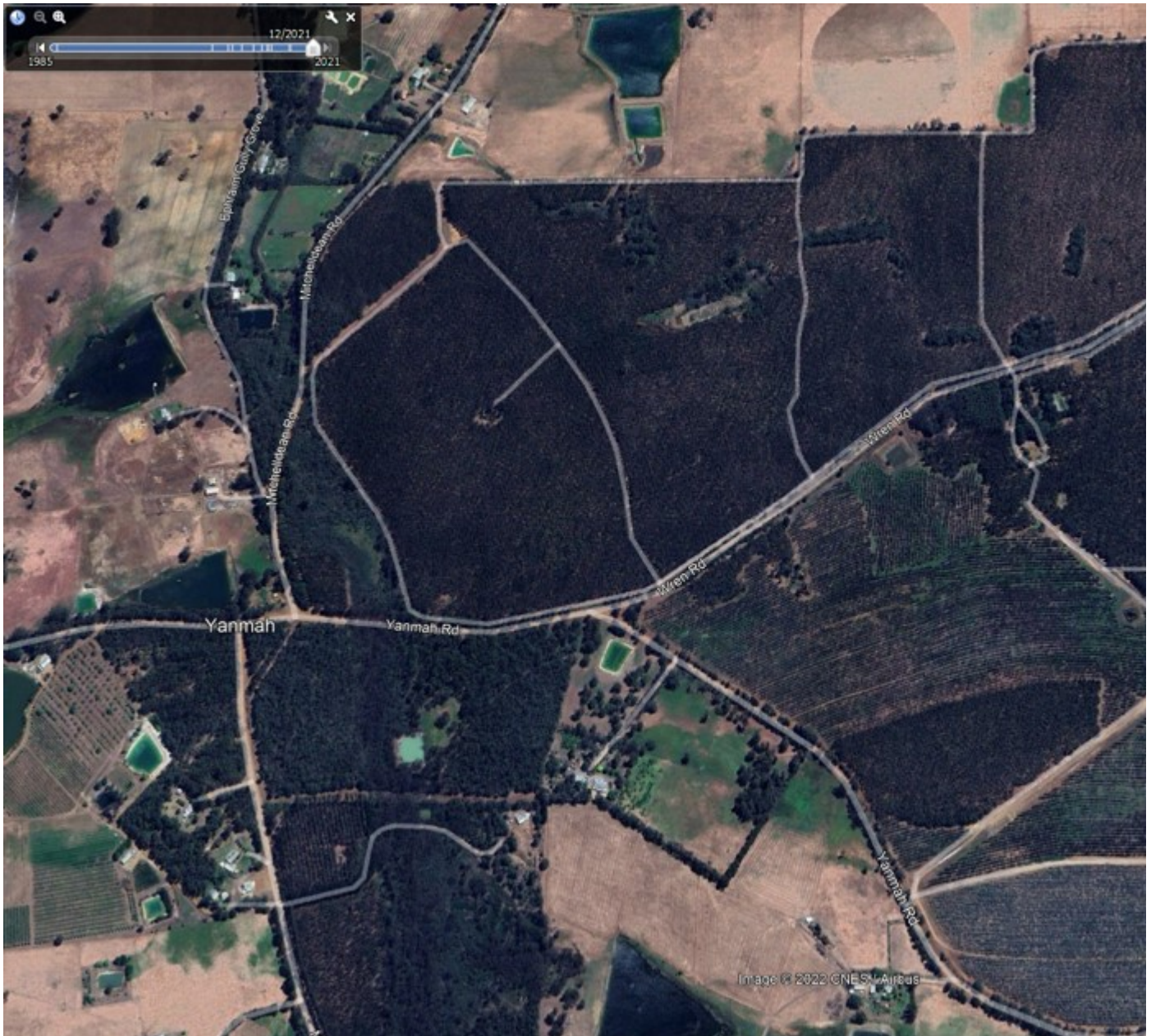
**May 2016**, 4G 700Mhz coverage was added to Manjimup West tower. The discrepancy in displayed signal bars would likely have improved around this time, but would still be expected to continue to show a difference in indicated signal bars between the 3G and 4G network, particularly toward the edge of coverage.

- One other factor which is likely to impact coverage over time, and in particular is likely to be relevant to your location, is the existence of areas of higher growth rate and density vegetation such as what appears to be a timber plantation between your property and the Manjimup West tower. As can be seen in the satellite images below from 2015 and 2021, there has been a change in the density and presumably the height of the vegetation. While this would not be expected to cause a step change in coverage over a short period of time, when it is situated in the coverage ray-line, vegetation growth such as this will have an impact to signal strength over time. I'm not seeking to place blame for a change in coverage solely on this factor alone, but feel it is worth highlighting as vegetation growth is one of the forms of localised obstructions that can have significant impact upon coverage at individual locations. Any localised obstruction can produce "Shading" or "Shadowing" of the coverage, generally the closer the obstruction is, the more impact it will have upon signal strength.









- I am currently giving further attention to the areas of limited coverage around your general location (approximately bounded by Mitchelldean Rd, Donnelly and Rd Wren Rd), and also sections along Seven Day Rd. Both of these locations appear to have a bit of a mosaic of coverage from several different towers, generally measured at relatively lower levels owing mostly to the topography of the locations. I have had some initial discussion with our Network Optimization team to try to seek out any options for potential improvement in these areas, however they would like to wait to see the results of the pending capacity expansion works planned for Manjimup Town tower, before considering any adjustments to the broader network.
- I'll also be looking closer at the area around Wilgarrup near Remo's location to confirm if anything can be altered to improve coverage out there, however my initial impressions of his location and its proximity to our surrounding network does not make me hold a great deal of confidence at this stage, other than what may potentially come next year from a proposed new tower out in the Balgarrup area. I did discuss the potential of the vehicle mounted mobile repeater as a device that would generally improve access to coverage around his farm, and suggested a couple of changes for the unit that was already installed in his son's vehicle aimed at improving its effectiveness. I will hopefully catch up with him at the Dowerin Field Days to see how that worked out, as it was clear to me from my testing while driving in the general area, that when directly connected to either the handset (if possible) or via a repeater, even a modest antenna positioned on or above the roof of a vehicle where it is un-obstructed, can yield a significant improvement

to coverage continuity by largely overcoming the additional losses associated with the vehicle cabin itself (particularly when driving away from the tower).

At this stage, I'm of the understanding the capacity expansion at Manjimup town is due to take place in mid-September. I'll revisit with our Network Optimising team once the work has been completed and the impact of the change is understood, so we can then discuss any potential opportunities for further optimisation of the network.

Regards



**Kevin Donnellan**  
Regional Network Advisor

P [08 62245749](tel:0862245749) | M [0427190626](tel:0427190626) |  
E [Kevin.M.Donnellan@team.telstra.com](mailto:Kevin.M.Donnellan@team.telstra.com)  
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