



SHIRE OF MANJIMUP



12 July 2023

Minutes

Bush Fire Advisory Committee

Shire of Manjimup
Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes: 12 July 2023



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Minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held in the Manjimup Emergency Services Collocation Building, located at 46 Bath Street Manjimup on Wednesday 12 July 2023.

1. Declaration of Opening the Meeting

The Chairman, Todd Ridley - CESM, declared the meeting open at 7.00pm.

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

2.1 Attendance

Members - Voting

Todd Ridley	Shire of Manjimup - Community Emergency Services Officer
Cr Kim Skoss	Shire of Manjimup - Councillor (proxy)
Shane Otway	Pemberton North Zone (Pemberton Rural)
Thomas Muir	Manjimup East Zone (Perup, Dunreath & Mordalup)
Bradley Wren	Manjimup West Zone (Yanmah & Glenoran)
Frank Shaw	Manjimup North West Zone (Ringbarkers)
Josh Kanny	Manjimup Central East Zone (Balbarrup, Dingup & Diamond)
William Rice	Manjimup South East Zone (Quinninup, Quinninup Town, Upper Warren & Smith Brook)
Peter Parker	Manjimup South West Zone (proxy)

Members Non Voting & Invited Guests

Nicole Favero	Shire of Manjimup – Ranger & Emergency Services
Max Connor	Manjimup East Zone (proxy)
Jeffrey Bennett	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions
Chris Sousa	Department of Fire & Emergency Services
Cr Donelle Buegge	Shire of Manjimup – Councillor (guest)

Cr Donelle Buegge arrived and joined the meeting at 7.06pm

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2.2 Apologies

Cr Cliff Winfield	Shire of Manjimup – Councillor (Chair)
Colin Griffiths	Coastal Zone (proxy)
Karen Nickels	Coastal Zone (Northcliffe)
Thomas Winfield	Manjimup South West Zone (Seven Day Road)
Thomas Backhouse	Pemberton West Zone (Springfield)
Remo Pessotto	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Ashleigh Reeve	Senior Ranger (CESM Proxy)
Robert Thorn	Manjimup Central East Zone (proxy)
Stephen Mills	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions

3. Declaration of Financial Interest

Bradley Wren expressed financial interest in Item 10.2 Honorarium Increase and will step out of the meeting in each section applicable to his role respectively.

Josh Kanny expressed a partial financial interest in Item 10.2 Honorarium Increase to Volunteer Training Budget.

4. Review of BFAC Terms of Reference, Membership & Contact Details

The Membership and contact list was reviewed. As the Terms of Reference ends in October prior to the next BFAC Meeting, nominations for Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control will be actioned in General Business Item 10.5.

Council member representation for the next 2 year term will be appointed once Council Elections have been held.

Zone Delegate Nominations for the next 2 year term will be taken at the next BFAC meeting as Brigade AGM's have not yet been held.

5. Confirmation of the Minutes of the General Meeting held Wednesday 22 March 2023.

RECOMMENDATION/BFAC DECISION 2023/06

That the unconfirmed Minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held Wednesday, 22 March 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record."

Moved: Bradley Wren, Shire DCBFCO

Seconded: Josh Kanny, Manjimup Central East Zone

CARRIED: 9/0

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6. Council's Response to Minutes of the General Meeting held Wednesday 22 March 2023.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

MOVED: Dawson Vidovich, S SECONDED: Jenkins, D

29125

That Council:

1. Receive and note the unconfirmed minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting held on the 22 March 2023 as contained in ATTACHMENT: 9.16.2:(1)
2. Approve the amalgamation of Linfarne and Ringbarkers Bush Fire Brigades and name that brigade Ringbarkers Bush Fire Brigade; and
3. Approve the amalgamation of all remaining Northcliffe Bush Fire Brigades and name that brigade Northcliffe Bush Fire Brigade.

ADOPTED BY EN BLOC RESOLUTION: 10/0

COUNCIL RESOLUTION:

MOVED: Winfield, C SECONDED: Skoss, K

29098

That Council:

1. Pursuant to the *Local Government Act 1995* section 3.12(3) and (3a), and all other legislation enabling it, give Statewide and Local public notice that it intends to make the Shire of Manjimup Bushfire Brigades Local Law 2023, as shown at 9.1.1 (1) with the following purpose and effect:

Purpose – to provide for the adequate governance of bushfire brigades throughout the Shire of Manjimup.

Effect – to repeal the outdated By-Law and ensure the legal constitution of all bushfire brigades within the Shire of Manjimup.

2. Advertise the Bushfire Brigades Local Law as referred to in point 1 above for a period of not less than 6 weeks in accordance with Statewide and Local Public Notice provisions;
3. In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995* section 3.12(3) advise the Ministers for Local Government and Emergency Services of the proposed local law; and
4. Await a further report on the Shire of Manjimup Bushfire Brigades Local Law 2019 following the completion of the advertising period referred to in point 2 above.

CARRIED: 10/0

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7. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

7.1 Action List

Action & Meeting Date	Action	Update	Status	Person Responsible
25/05/2016	<p>Northcliffe Shed Construct a new facility for brigade</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shire of Manjimup successful in obtaining grant. • DFES proposal to co-locate 2015. • Brigade met to discuss, in favour of co-location. • DFES submitted proposal, awaiting response. • Council approved DFES proposal. • \$30,000 in proposed Council budget for site works, budget being adopted 10th August 2017. • DFES Funding available December 2017 • Construct building in the 2017 / 2018 year, once DFES funding is available. • Shire of Manjimup and DFES signed funding agreement July 2018 • BFB shed side construction underway. • Work has currently ceased, waiting on paperwork from builder then should be able to recommence. • 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. • Building to commence soon December 2019 • June 2020, 90% completion of the Bushfire Brigade shed. Stage two construction underway. • 90% of stage two complete. Shire to meet with BFB and FRS to discuss final completion of works. • Met with BFB and FRS on the completion of works. • Builder to be back on site to complete the list of works required from 6 December 2021. <p>22/03/23: Backup Water Pump and double headed hydrant to be installed, hoses and taps requested, getting plumber is issue and an effective pump to back up. Charging plug and bump stops to be installed.</p> <p>12/07/23: Electrician engaged for charging plugs. Double hydrant received awaiting availability from plumber.</p>	In progress	Todd Ridley

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	In progress	Todd Ridley
<p>29/08/2018</p>	<p>Link all Radio Repeaters Channels 251, 292, 142, 293 and 252 be linked together</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T Ridley wrote to DFES in October • LSW ROAC moved motion for State to respond (28th March 2019). • Survey received from DFES re the Mid Band Network July 2019. • Survey completed by BFAC and returned to LSW DFES. • Karri Valley Blackspot issue. • Awaiting a response from DFES and Karri Valley Blackspot issue. • 252, 293 and 142 digital links installed. • Trial system throughout the fire season. • Report for Meeting. • Write to DFES regarding issues with trial period. <p>07/12/22: Correspondence sent to DFES on the 3 November 2021. Still no response.</p> <p>22/03/23: Still awaiting response from DFES, Todd will lodge a ICT request every time a fault occurs.</p> <p>12/07/23: Still no response from DFES. Shire administration on behalf of BFAC to write to DFES.</p>
<p>17/04/2019</p>	<p>Smith Brook Shed ESL Grant and Brigade funded. Construct a new facility for the Brigade.</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Todd Ridley</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once approved, plumber to be engaged to complete works. 100,000 litre fire tank to be completed. <p>07/12/22: Electrical, plumbing and gyprocking completed. Cornice, connection of toilet and sink to be completed. Install cabinets and carpet.</p> <p>22/03/23: Plumbing, cabinets and carpet installed. Procured overspend for purchase and installation of blinds and flooring in toilet then all works complete.</p> <p>12/07/23: All works finished with Acquittal done and lodged with DFES. There are a few jobs for the Brigade to complete though all items are there and shed is operational. Item now completed and can be removed from task list.</p>		
22/07/2020	Mobile Phone Reception West Manjimup Letters tabled from Seven Day Rd & Yanmah BFB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Todd to forward letter to CEO Contact made with TELSTRA. DCBFCO in contact and working through issues. Ongoing. Complaints received from Ringbarkers Captain in regard to coverage in the area. 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. Would like to look at going to the Ombudsman and advise Brigades to make individual complaints. Todd to discuss with the CEO and convey the above information. <p>05/10/22: Brad Tabled Interim Report from Telstra</p> <p>22/03/23: Brad Wren advised that Kevin was in district two months ago to look into it and was going to get back, but still nothing heard.</p> <p>12/07/23: Brad advised had another conversation with Deb and she advised Michael Hutchinson working with the Shire. Still ongoing.</p>	In progress	Brad Wren
05/10/2022	Amalgamation Linfarne and Ringbarkers BFB Request from Linfarne BFB	<p>05/10/22: Todd advised that Linfarne is requesting to amalgamate with Ringbarkers but they will require a letter from Linfarne requesting and Ringbarkers accepting.</p> <p>07/12/22: Todd discussed with both Brigades, advising them to meet. Still awaiting clarification from Brigade. When support letter received, go to advertising.</p> <p>22/03/23: Todd advised that formal requests now received from both Linfarne and Ringbarkers Brigades, so proceeded to advertisement of the proposed amalgamation. This occurred during February 2023, in the Manjimup Bridgetown Times allowing residents in all effected Brigade areas to comment by the 1 March 2023. No comments were received from members of the public. Discussion followed with confirmation from Brigade Minutes that both</p>	Completed	Todd Ridley

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		had voted and were happy with the name Ringbarkers. Recommendation to go to Council for endorsement. 12/07/23: Approved at Council. An updated Brigade Register was sent to DFES with their system now reflecting the amalgamation in RMS. Ringbarkers BFB Shed sign is now also actioned and on the shed and Linfarne LT will be renamed prior to fire season and will need to discuss housing location of LT with Brigade. An updated DFES list of members was forwarded to the Brigade after the amalgamation. Item complete and can be removed from task list. 05/10/22: 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'. 07/12/22: Letter and minutes received from Brigade in support of this. Administration proceed to advertising. 22/03/23: CESM advised this was proceeded to advertisement of the proposed amalgamation. This occurred during February 2023 in the Manjimup Bridgetown Times allowing residents in all effected Brigade areas to comment by the 1 March 2023. No comments were received from members of the public. Recommendation to go to Council for endorsement. 12/07/23: Approved at Council. Updated Brigade Register sent to DFES with their system now reflecting the amalgamation in RMS under new name of Northcliffe BFB. Item complete and can be removed from task list.		
05/10/2022	Amalgamation Northcliffe Brigades Only one brigade is operational.		Completed	Todd Ridley
01/23 22/03/2023	Manjimup Gun Club Gates restricting access Rifle Range Road	22/03/23: In Item 9.5.4 Manjimup North West Zone report they advised the gun club has put gates up near Kimba Road bush and cannot get through. CESM to see if there is an exclusion zone around club and if a gazetted road. 12/07/23: On investigation, Rifle Range Road is not a gazetted road and is within the Rifle Range reserve.	Completed	Todd Ridley
02/23 22/03/2023	Northcliffe Brigades investigate when gazetted	22/03/23: In Item 9.5.5 Coastal Zone report they requested Shire investigate when Northcliffe Brigades were gazetted, in Local Laws documentation it doesn't specify these Brigades and they have 100 year birthday celebration next year. Chris Sousa advised that he can also investigate with DFES.	Completed	Todd Ridley Chris Sousa

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<p>03/23 22/03/2023</p>	<p>Shire of Manjimup Bush Fire Brigade Local Laws</p>	<p>12/07/23: Chris Sousa investigated the above and the Northcliffe Central BFB was registered 12 November 1941. A copy of the email with record was forwarded to Karen Nickels and the Northcliffe BFB. Record of gazettal as shown in Item 8.2. Attachment. Karen Nickels responded by email requesting further information on North Northcliffe and East Northcliffe and Chris Sousa advised at the meeting that he has found this information and will forward on to Brigade. Item complete and can be removed from task list.</p> <p>22/03/23: Recommendation that Council accept and proceed with the legal requirements of the Local government Act 1995 in implementation. BFAC DECISION 2023/04</p> <p>12/07/23: Presented at Council meetingCOUNCIL RESOLUTION 29098. Advised Ministers and went to advertising as per agenda item, now waiting on Ministers comments and then it goes to Joint Standing Committee.</p>	<p>In progress</p> <p>Todd Ridley</p>
<p>04/23 22/03/2023</p>	<p>Brigade/Shire owned Slip On Units</p>	<p>22/03/23: In Item 10.3 BFAC recommendation for CESM to inspect all Brigade/Shire owned slip on units and report to BFAC in July. BFAC DECISION 2023/05</p> <p>12/07/23: Commenced work, designed new <i>Form 5.3.24 Appliance – Brigade Owned Slips and Fast Fill Trailers – Report</i> and currently still compiling these together with photos for report which will present at next BFAC meeting.</p>	<p>In progress</p> <p>Todd Ridley</p>
<p>05/23 22/03/2023</p>	<p>Dingup BFB – Concerns regarding lack of equipment</p>	<p>22/03/23: In Item 10.4 BFAC administration to write to Dingup BFB regarding discussions and lodgement of ESL submission for fast fill trailer. 12/07/23: Administration responded to Dingup BFB addressing their concerns and advised that we have lodged an ESL submission for fast fill trailer. Item complete and can be removed from task list.</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Todd Ridley</p>

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8. Correspondence –

Correspondence was tabled, see Item 8.1 and 8.2 Attachments

8.1 Incoming

- 8.1.1. DFES - Fire Danger Rating and Burning Permits- Important clarification (forwarded to FCO's).
- 8.1.2. Mark Muir FCO Mordalup – Request for Urgent BFAC meeting regarding High Fire Danger Ratings.
- 8.1.3. DFES – Have your say about the new Australian Fire Danger Rating System – Survey (forwarded to FCO's).

8.2 Outgoing

- 8.2.1. Shire Administration to Northcliffe BFB - Northcliffe Central BFB was registered 12 November 1941, copy of gazette.
- 8.2.2. Shire Administration to WALGA regarding Australian Fire Danger Rating System Feedback.
- 8.2.3. Shire Administration to Mark Muir FCO Mordalup – Response - High Fire Danger Ratings - Review at BFAC.
- 8.2.4. Shire Administration to Dingup BFB - BFAC Response to Letter re Concerns regarding lack of Equipment.

9. Members Reports

9.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, Deputy – Bradley Wren (proxy)

- Thank you to all the Brigades that were involved in any of the fires during the last season, job well done.
- 28 Fires in last season, only once sending crews outside of Shire.
- Training has commenced and off to a good start, with another group going through last weekend.
- Chief's have been discussing some appliances not being used or available on call over the season and only one High Season appliance last season used out Dunreath area.

The above report was received verbally at the meeting.

9.2 CESM and Training Coordinator – Todd Ridley

Report was tabled, see Item 9.2 Attachment

Discussion ensued with Todd Ridley CESM requesting FCO's and Captains look at including newly trained members into the Brigade network. Administration will notify Brigades once the required training has been completed. New Appliances with fridges, must turn them off when parked as flattens the battery, may need to look at stickers to place on them.

Thomas Muir Manjimup East Zone advised need to fix Fire Danger Ratings so they can complete mitigation burns and include newly trained members where it is safe to learn and not straight into a bushfire emergency.

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Frank Shaw Manjimup North West Zone enquired regarding the Ringbarkers BFB Shed having the lean to enclosed.

Todd Ridley CESM advised this should be added to their AGM Minutes for ESL Submissions.

9.3 Department Fire and Emergency Services – Chris Sousa

Report was tabled, see Item 9.3 Attachment

9.4 DBCA Parks and Wildlife Services – Jeffrey Bennett

Report was tabled, see Item 9.4 Attachment

Jeffrey Bennett DBCA also advised all to be mindful when assisting them with fires in areas like the Northcliffe fire scar, to fully brief any Brigade Members attending for their safety due to so many hazardous, dead and dangerous trees. As they have burns planned for this area, they have formed a group to try and address this issue prior.

9.5 Zone Delegate Reports

9.5.1. Manjimup West Zone - Brad Wren

- Has been quiet, nothing to report.

The above report was received verbally at the meeting.

9.5.2. Manjimup Central East Zone – Josh Kanny

- Has been quiet at the moment, though they did have a fire in Diamond at the Speedway about 3 weeks ago.
- Also turned out to a gazetted fire on the highway.

The above report was received verbally at the meeting.

9.5.3. Manjimup East Zone – Thomas Muir

- Has been pretty quiet.
- Would like clarification regarding FCO's being called to investigate fire reports once the season is open?

The above report was received verbally at the meeting.

Todd Ridley CESM advised that they are still obligated to check fires in open season, though depending on information reported as well. There is a burning register at DFES also.

Jeffrey Bennett DBCA advised if they get number of the caller that reports, they can call back to get the information firsthand which is very helpful.

Thomas Muir Manjimup East Zone enquired regarding Form 4 if still have to complete these to be involved in assisting with DBCA burns as there is a burn in Deeside they would like to assist with?

Jeffrey Bennett DBCA advised they would be happy for the assistance and usually the process would be that he would put in a request in writing to the Shire/Chief's to see if there are any resources available to assist and they would make the arrangements with Brigades.

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9.5.4. Manjimup South East Zone - William Rice

- Has been quiet, nothing to report.

The above report was received verbally at the meeting.

9.5.5. Manjimup North West Zone - Frank Shaw

- Has been quiet.
- Sign is now up on the Ringbarkers Shed, though may need another on the other side so it can be seen from road.

The above report was received verbally at the meeting.

9.5.6. Manjimup South West Zone – Peter Parker (proxy)

- Has been quiet, nothing really to report.

The above report was received verbally at the meeting.

9.5.7. Pemberton North Zone – Shane Otway

- Pemberton North Zone fire scene has been quiet since the last BFAC meeting.
- One new member has been registered.
- Fire units are all in good order and working condition.
- Pemberton Rural AGM set for the 6 September 2023.
- It appears that two of our three FCO's may not be standing for re-election come start of the season.
- The Heavy Duty has no working external speakers on it.

The above report was received by email prior to the meeting.

Brad Wren DBFCO advised that sometimes need both switches on in the HD for external speakers to work.

Todd Ridley CESM advised that it needs to be identified when the HD goes in for a service so it can be checked. Regarding the FCO's, will need to meet with Chief's and Brigade to discuss and work out a succession plan.

Add to Action List: Meet to discuss FCO's for Pemberton Rural succession plan.

9.5.8. Coastal Zone – Karen Nickels

Apology for meeting. No report received.

9.5.9. Pemberton West Zone – Tom Backhouse

Apology for meeting. No report received.

9.5.10. Walpole Zone – Vacant – No Report

10. General Business

10.1 Australian Fire Danger Rating System – BFAC submission

Report was tabled, see Item 10.1 Attachment

Todd Ridley CESM presented his report to the meeting with much discussion following regarding these concerns and how we can approach this.

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Thomas Muir Manjimup East Zone asked for the recommendation from BFAC to include a request for a representative from the DFES Rural Fire Division to attend a BFAC meeting to address the concerns.

RECOMMENDATION/BFAC DECISION 2023/07

That Shire administration, on behalf of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee, write to the Australian Fire Danger Rating System and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services Rural Fire Division with concerns raised on the new Fire Danger Ratings and the impact during the fire season with an invitation to attend a BFAC Meeting to address these concerns.

Moved: Thomas Muir, Manjimup East Zone

Seconded: William Rice, Manjimup South East Zone

CARRIED:9/0

Bradley Wren DCBFCO declared a financial interest in the following Item 10.2 and sub Items 10.2.1 and 10.2.2 so left the meeting at 8.44pm.

Josh Kanny declared a partial financial interest as a Volunteer Trainer.

10.2 Honarium Increase – Chief & Deputy CBFCO Payment Increase & Volunteer Training Budget Increase

Report was tabled, see Item 10.2 Attachment

Todd Ridley CESM presented his report to the meeting with much discussion following regarding his Officer recommendation to increase the honorarium payments for CBFCO to \$3,000.00 & DCBFCO to \$2,500.00 and increase the Volunteer Training budget by \$500 each.

Cr Kim Skoss requested that this recommendation for the CBFCO & DCBFCO honorarium payments be increased further by an additional \$1,000 each as these payments have not increased significantly for many years and would barely cover expenses. He would also like to see the Volunteer Training Payment be increased to \$70 or \$100 per day. All members agreed.

Todd Ridley CESM advised that in Council Policy 5.3.2 Chief & Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer Honorarium & Volunteer Training Officer, that BFAC is responsible for recommending the honorarium payment amount for the CBFCO & DCBFCO so this increase can be recommended to Council, whereas the Volunteer Training Payment is set to \$50 per day within the Policy so we can only increase the Budget. The payment would need to be increased when the Policy is next reviewed.

The following recommendations have been listed separately:

10.2.1. Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Honorarium Payment Increase

RECOMMENDATION/BFAC DECISION 2023/08

That Council approve the increase to the honorarium payment for Chief Bush Fire Control Officer to \$4,000.00 for the 2023/2024 Budget year.

Moved: Thomas Muir, Manjimup East Zone

Seconded: Frank Shaw, Manjimup North West Zone

CARRIED:8/0

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10.2.2. Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Honorarium Payment Increase

RECOMMENDATION/BFAC DECISION 2023/09

That Council approve the increase to the honorarium payment Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer to \$3,500.00 for the 2023/2024 Budget year.

Moved: Thomas Muir, Manjimup East Zone

Seconded: Frank Shaw, Manjimup North West Zone

CARRIED:8/0

Bradley Wren DCBFCO returned to the meeting at 8.53pm.

10.2.3. Volunteer Training Officers Honorarium 2023 Budget Increase

RECOMMENDATION/BFAC DECISION 2023/10

That Council approve the increase to the Volunteer Training Officers Honorarium Payment Budget by \$500.00 for the 2023/2024 Budget year.

Moved: Thomas Muir, Manjimup East Zone

Seconded: William Rice, Manjimup South East Zone

CARRIED:9/0

10.3 Shire of Manjimup Firebreak and Fuel Hazard Reduction Notice 2023-2024

Notice was tabled, see Item 10.3 Attachment

Todd Ridley CESM presented his report to the meeting and advised that there were only two minimal changes with the addition of 'Special Use' in land category and the word 'combustable' in the Fire Break definition.

The only other changes will be to the list of FCO names and contact numbers which will be updated once they have been appointed.

RECOMMENDATION/BFAC DECISION 2023/11

That Council endorse the *Shire of Manjimup Firebreak and Fuel Hazard Reduction Notice 2023-2024*.

Moved: Thomas Muir, Manjimup East Zone

Seconded: Bradley Wren, Shire DCBFCO

CARRIED:9/0

10.4 Number of Days a Permit is Valid – Discussion

Todd Ridley CESM led the discussion on Permits being written out for the whole season and from a risk perspective, whether it should be changed to 7 or 14 days as it becomes difficult to keep up with the number of Permits out there with many not even lit. Some FCO's, especially those with small subdivisions and a large number of Permits to write, may do this due to time constraints etc. Discussion ensued with a request for Shire Administration to send a Memo to FCO's advising that unless extenuating circumstances, they can only write a permit suitable for the burn.

Add to Action List: Shire Administration to send a Memo to FCO's advising that unless extenuating circumstances, they can only write a permit suitable for the burn.

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10.5 Nominations for Bush Fire Advisory Committee 2 Year Term 2023-2025 Chief & Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officers

The Chair requested nominations for the 2 Year Term 2023-2025 for the following positions:

10.5.1. Nomination of Shire Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for 2023-2025

Nominations for the position of Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for the Shire of Manjimup were called for, receiving only one for Remo Pessotto nominated by Bradley Wren.

Remo Pessotto advised previously he would accept the nomination.

RECOMMENDATION/BFAC DECISION 2023/12

That the Bush Fire Advisory Committee nominates Remo Pessotto as Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for a term of two years from 2023-2025, no Council Resolution required.

Moved: Bradley Wren, DCBFCO

Seconded: William Rice, Manjimup South East Zone

CARRIED:9/0

10.5.2. Nomination of Shire Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for 2023-2025

Nominations for the position of Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for the Shire of Manjimup were called for, receiving only one for Bradley Wren nominated by Frank Shaw.

Bradley Wren accepted the nomination.

RECOMMENDATION/BFAC DECISION 2023/12

That the Bush Fire Advisory Committee nominates Bradley Wren as Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for a term of two years from 2023-2025, no Council Resolution required.

Moved: Frank Shaw, Manjimup North West Zone

Seconded: Shane Otway, Pemberton North Zone

CARRIED:8/0

EN BLOC MOTION/BFAC DECISION 2023/12

That the Bush Fire Advisory Committee endorse the following BFAC Membership nominations en bloc:

10.5.1 Remo Pessotto to the position of Shire of Manjimup – Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for a term of two years from 2023-2025, no Council Resolution required; and

10.5.2 Bradley Wren to the position of Shire of Manjimup – Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for a term of two years from 2023-2025, no Council Resolution required.

Moved: Cr Kim Skoss

Seconded: Frank Shaw, Manjimup North West Zone

CARRIED: 8/0

Todd Ridley CESM noted that on behalf of the Shire of Manjimup and Bush Fire Advisory Committee, he would like to thank both the Chief and Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officers for the outstanding job they both did in these positions during the last two year term and also for accepting the nominations to both continue in these positions for a further two year term.

Shire of Manjimup
Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes: 12 July 2023



10.6 Crewing of Appliances

Report was tabled, see Item 10.6 Attachment

Todd Ridley CESM presented his report to the meeting which was originally raised by the Chief and Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officers concerns, regarding Brigades that have an ESL appliance but are unable to crew or no firefighters with the appropriate drivers licence for the type of vehicle.

General discussion ensued with members agreeing with the Officers recommendation and the addition of supplying the Chief's with a list of trained members with truck drivers licences.

RECOMMENDATION/BFAC DECISION 2023/13

1. That Shire administration, on behalf of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee, write to all Bush Fire Brigades with ESL appliances and request they provide the following information:
 - a. The number of trained members with the appropriate class of Drivers License; and
 - b. If their Brigade has the means to crew their allocated appliance outside of the Brigade area but within Shire Boundaries.
2. That Shire Administration report back to BFAC on the findings of that request and supply the Chief's with a list of trained members with truck drivers licences.

Moved: Bradley Wren, Shire DCBFCO

Seconded: Shane Otway, Pemberton North Zone

CARRIED: 9/0

10.7 FCO & Captains Meeting

Todd Ridley CESM discussed planning for this years FCO & Captains Meeting, looking at holding at the Pemberton Golf Course which all agreed with. The agreed month was October (just not in school holidays).

Add to Action List: Shire Administration to set date and book venue for FCO & Captain Meeting in October then send invite.

10.8 Bush Fire Brigade AGMs & BFAC Nominations - due 30.09.2023

Todd Ridley CESM discussed the importance of Brigades holding their AGMs prior to the end of September so that we can appoint FCO's, receive their BFAC Nominations and complete all documents in preparation for the 2023-24 fire season.

10.9 General Matters from Members without notice

10.9.1. Contingency Plan for Chief & Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officers

Josh Kanny enquired if there is a contingency plan for the Chief's or if there is a need to reintroduce Senior FCO or Chief in Training for succession planning.

All agreed with decision and to add this to FCO & Captain's Meeting agenda.

Add to Action List: Add to agenda for FCO & Captain's Meeting in October.

11. Next Meeting

Next Meeting to be held 8 November 2023.

12. Declaration of Close of Meeting

Chairperson Todd Ridley – CESM, closed the meeting at 9.37pm.

ITEM 8.1.1 ATTACHMENT

Nicole Favero

From: local-government-emergency-management-network@googlegroups.com on behalf of Susie Moir <SMoir@walga.asn.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 31 May 2023 2:14 PM
To: local-government-emergency-management-network@googlegroups.com
Subject: FW: [External] Fire Danger Rating and Burning Permits- Important clarification - BOC action response

Please see below information about burning permits and the new AFDRS which was provided to the Bushfire Operations Committee by DFES today.

Regards
 Susie

From: HARDING Jo <Jo.Harding@dfes.wa.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 31 May 2023 1:42 PM
To: emergencyservices <emergencyservices@cuballing.wa.gov.au>; Exmouth <cesc@exmouth.wa.gov.au>; clstewart <clstewart@westnet.com.au>; Darren Tomkins <d.tomkins@heathmotorgroup.com.au>; cbfco <cbfco@amrshire.wa.gov.au>; fairview1861 <fairview1861@gmail.com>; randrlane <randrlane@gmail.com>; LYNN, Rob <cbfco@albany.wa.gov.au>; Susie Moir <SMoir@walga.asn.au>; plozzaplows <plozzaplows@gmail.com>; Rodney Wallington <rwallington@gosnells.wa.gov.au>; thunter1503 <thunter1503@gmail.com>
Cc: TOWNSEND Lauren <Lauren.Townsend@dfes.wa.gov.au>; WATERS Craig <Craig.Waters@dfes.wa.gov.au>; CARTER Murray <Murray.Carter@dfes.wa.gov.au>
Subject: Fire Danger Rating and Burning Permits- Important clarification - BOC action response

Good afternoon BOC members

One of the action items following the last BOC meeting was to look into whether permits are automatically cancelled rather than suspended since the introduction of AFDRS. I can confirm that there has been misunderstanding of the process and there is no legislative obligation to cancel the permits as is currently being practiced.

Please see below advice and circulate to your DOACs/ROACs.

As of 1 September 2022, the new Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) came into effect, which updated the previous six rating system to a nationally considered and scientifically based four rating system. This four rating system of 'moderate', 'high', 'extreme' and 'catastrophic' aims to simplify the ratings and more accurately reflect fire danger.

With the introduction of the refined rating system, a number of minor consequential amendments have occurred in respect of burning permits and how they interact with these fire danger ratings. The new threshold for a burning permit now sits at 'high' and burning as per a permit may not be carried out if the fire danger rating in the locality, as issued by the Bureau of Meteorology, reaches 'high' or above.

It has recently been brought to the Department's attention that misinterpretation exists surrounding burning permits and the new threshold for burning within some local government districts. Concerns have been raised that a burning permit is automatically cancelled when the fire danger rating is 'high' or above and burning can no longer be carried out.

While burning under a burning permit cannot be undertaken on a day or for a period in a locality where the fire danger rating is 'high' or above, the Department wishes to clarify that under regulation 15B(7) of the *Bush Fires Regulations 1954* (the regulations), burning can continue as per the issued permit on the next following day / or the following forecast period that the fire danger rating is below 'high' ('moderate' or 'no rating').

Please note, a forecast period is based on the publishing of fire danger rating forecasts as follows:

- 1600hrs – a FDR forecast is published for the following day from midnight.
- 0400hrs – a FDR forecast is published for that day from 0400hrs to midnight.
- 1600hrs – a FDR forecast is published for the following day from midnight.

While pursuant to the regulations, a permit is not automatically cancelled when the fire danger rating is 'high', a local government or the issuer of the burning permit may impose further conditions on a burning permit as required in accordance with the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, including automatic cancellation of a burning permit in specified circumstances.

Please visit <https://volunteerhub.dfes.wa.gov.au/home/news-circulars/projects/australian-fire-danger-rating-system> for more information.

Kind regards
Jo

Jo Harding
Committees & Projects Officer | Rural Fire Division

Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Cockburn Emergency Services Complex
20 Stockton Bend, Cockburn Central WA 6164
P: 9395 9437 | M: 0428 490 164 | E: jo.harding@dfes.wa.gov.au | W: dfes.wa.gov.au



Acknowledgement of Country: DFES acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia, and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

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ITEM 8.1.2 ATTACHMENT

Nicole Favero

From: Mark Muir <mmuir@bordnet.com.au>
Sent: Thursday, 30 March 2023 8:27 AM
To: Nicole Favero
Cc: paul.omodei@bigpond.com
Subject: [External] high fire danger ratings

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good morning Nicole,

With this ludicrous high fire danger ratings DFES are placing on us I urge Manjimup Shire **URGENTLY** convene a BFAC meeting to discuss and protest about this situation we are been put in.

It also has far reaching affects for general farming operations and general industrial business's regarding what you can and can't do, plus can seriously affect your insurance liability if a situation arises because of this "High Fire Danger" is placed on us when the temperature and wind speeds are low.

I guess this also affects DPAWS ability to start their Autumn burn program as well.

Please this is a serious problem DFES is placing on the community.

Regards
Mark Muir
FCO
Mordalup BFB

This email has been scanned for spam and viruses by Proofpoint Essentials. Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

ITEM 8.1.3 ATTACHMENT

Nicole Favero

From: Australian Fire Danger Rating System <AFDRS@dfes.wa.gov.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 23 May 2023 1:37 PM
To: Australian Fire Danger Rating System
Subject: [External] **Have your say about the new Australian Fire Danger Rating System**

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Good afternoon,

The new Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS), which came into effect on 1 September 2022, has changed how the emergency management sector calculates, assesses, makes decisions, and communicates fire risk across all Australian jurisdictions.

The new nationally consistent approach for predicting fire behaviour and communicating public information and warnings of fire danger has been in effect for over 6 months.

Now that the new, national AFDRS has been implemented and had some time to settle in the WA AFDRS project team is taking the opportunity to evaluate the project communications rollout. We would like to hear how you think it went and how we might be able to improve the way future changes to policy are communicated.

To help DFES understand what has worked well and areas for improvement in the AFDRS communications project rollout in WA, you're invited to complete a [short survey](#).

To ensure anonymity, DFES has engaged Painted Dog Research to coordinate the survey. It will take approximately 10 minutes to complete and **closes on Monday 5 June 2023**.

We would appreciate your feedback on this important topic!

On behalf of the WA AFDRS Project team, many thanks for your time.

Any questions?

If you have questions about the research, please contact the WA AFDRS Project team at afdrs@dfes.wa.gov.au.

The DFES AFDRS Project Team

Department of Fire and Emergency Services / 20 Stockton Bend, Cockburn Central WA 6164

E: AFDRS@dfes.wa.gov.au / **W:** dfes.wa.gov.au



Acknowledgement of Country: DFES acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia, and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

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ITEM 821 ATTACHMENT

62

THE BUSH FIRES ACT, 1937.

ITEM ATTACHMENT

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND SURVEYS.

CERT. N^o 161-16 2/41

Corres. No. - 2459/39.

PERTH. 3rd December, 1941.

It is hereby notified for general information that the

^{CENTRAL} Northcliffe No. 1 Bush Fire Brigade (Personnel - C.A.H. Heathcote, Captain; J. Bashford, R. Munro, J. McCoy and A.H.W. Langford, Lieutenants.) and the ^{WEST NORTHCLIFFE} Richardson-Read Bush Fire Brigade (Personnel - W. Grimshaw, Captain; R. Gould, R. Jay, R. Grimshaw and A.H. Bristow, Lieutenants.) were duly registered as Bush Fire Brigades on the 12th day of November, 1941, in accordance with the provisions of the above Act, and His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor in Executive Council has been pleased to approve of the By-laws of the Manjimup Road Board as published in the Government Gazette dated the 24th May, 1940, pages 1098 and 1099 for the establishment, maintenance and equipment of the said Bush Fire Brigades.

Notice to Council
- 31/12/41

G.L. HERDHAM.

UNDER SECRETARY FOR LANDS.

Mr Lewis
4-12-41

ITEM 8.2.2 ATTACHMENT

Nicole Favero

From: Todd Ridley
Sent: Friday, 16 June 2023 2:52 PM
To: em@walga.asn.au
Cc: Jocelyn Baister; Nicole Favero; Brad Wren - DCBFCO (wrenfire@outlook.com); remo.pessotto61@icloud.com
Subject: **WALGA Australian Fire Danger Rating System Feedback**

Hello WALGA

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the new AFDRS system. The Shire of Manjimup acknowledges the need for a more robust and nationwide system for predicting Fire Danger Ratings and Fire Behavior modelling. We have used the AFDRS platform consistently throughout the 2022 / 2023 fire season and have found the tools available on the website useful from a fire practitioners prospective.

The main complaints and frustrations we are receiving are from Fire Control Officers and land owners requesting a "Permit to Burn" throughout the Restricted Burning Period. The trigger point of "high" for the cancellation of "Permits to Burn" seems to be low or the weather modelling for the Southern Forest Fire Weather District is not being accurately inputted into the system. On several occasions throughout the Restricted Burning Periods the Southern Forest Fire Weather District received a "high" Fire Danger Rating when in fact the true conditions on the ground were very mild. One example was on Friday the 14 April 2023, over night the area had between 20 to 35mm of rain, relative humidity was high and the temperature was very low. However legally all "Permits to Burn" for the day were cancelled.

The four day forecasting of the Fire Danger Rating is not being trusted by Fire Control Officers or holders of a permit when performing a risk assessment and decision making of when to issue a "Permit to Burn" or carry out large scale burning such as large agricultural heaps or fuel hazard reduction burning of forested areas that could burn for several days.

The below tables shows the available days through the two Restricted Burning Periods within the Shire of Manjimup this fire season.

Restricted Burning Period Zones (6 & 8) 9 November 2022 to 31 December 2022	
Number of Burning days	53
Number of days, High FDR or above (permits cancelled)	23

Restricted Burning Period Zones (6 & 8) 29 March 2023 to 18 April 2023	
Number of Burning days	21
Number of days, High FDR or above (permits cancelled)	5

The risk is the erosion of confidence in the system from both the general public and fire practitioners. The general comments from Fire Control Officers is that the system is flawed because the weather and fuel loadings input into the Fire Danger Rating modelling are incorrect or the new trigger point within the *Bush Fires Act 1954 (Act)* of High (24) is too low to cancel permits. Whilst the Act allows for a "Fire Weather Officer" to approve permits on a High FDI the Shire of Manjimup could have over 30 permits issued across the landscape from Palgarup to Walpole. This would place extreme pressure on a "Fire Weather Officer" to assess the risk of all current (live) permits.

Any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Regards

ITEM 8.2.3 ATTACHMENT

Nicole Favero

From: Nicole Favero
Sent: Thursday, 30 March 2023 9:30 AM
To: Mark Muir
Cc: paul.omodei@bigpond.com; Todd Ridley; Remo Pessotto - CBF2CO 2 ; Remo Pessotto - CBF2CO; Brad Wren - DCBF2CO
Subject: RE: High Fire Danger Ratings - Review at BFAC

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Due By: Tuesday, 4 April 2023 4:00 PM
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: BUSHFIRE

Hi Mark,

Thank you for your email.

This was discussed at our BFAC meeting last week with advice that they will be reviewing the impact the new Fire Danger Rating Index has had on the Restricted Burning Period in our district.

When Todd returns on Tuesday I will ensure he is notified regarding your concerns so they can be addressed accordingly.

Kindest regards,
 Nicole



Nicole Favero
 Administration Officer Ranger and Emergency Services
 Shire of Manjimup
 PO Box 1
 37-39 Rose St, Manjimup WA 6258
 T: (08) 9771 7777
 F: (08) 9771 7771
 D: (08) 9771 7734
 E: Nicole.Favero@manjimup.wa.gov.au

[Website](#) [Events](#) [Our Region](#)



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

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From: Mark Muir <mmuir@bordnet.com.au>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 8:27 AM
To: Nicole Favero <Nicole.Favero@manjimup.wa.gov.au>

ITEM 8.2.4 ATTACHMENT

Nicole Favero

From: Todd Ridley
Sent: Tuesday, 11 July 2023 3:11 PM
To: Lisa Lambert; Josh Kanny - Dingup
Cc: Brad Wren - DCBFCO (wrenfire@outlook.com); remo.pessotto61@icloud.com; Nicole Favero
Subject: RE: [External] **BFAC Response to Letter from Dingup BFB**

Hi Lisa

Further to my last email the Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC) met in March 2023, your brigade letter was tabled at that meeting. The BFAC was sympathetic to the needs of the Dingup Bush Fire Brigade (BFB) and discussion took place about how BFAC could help the brigade whilst still remaining committed to the resource allocation Policy as stated in my previous email.

BFAC resolved to:

- Stay committed to the *Policy 5.3.16 Resource to Risk Firefighting* and as a priority fill the Diamond BFB and the East Zone with a designated ESL appliance.
- Support the Dingup BFB with any training needs required.
- As requested by Josh Kanny Manjimup Central Zone member, apply for a fast fill trailer for the Dingup BFB in the 2023 – 2024 Emergency Services Levy (ESL) application. This has been actioned and we are waiting on our application approvals.

Further discussion was had regarding the placement of a high season appliance (this appliance is loaned to the Shire of Manjimup from DFES over the fire season) and whether Dingup BFB could be allocated this appliance for a period of time over the next fire season. Dingup BFB would need provide a guarantee that it could man and operate the appliance throughout the Shire of Manjimup and surrounding Local Government areas. Once the Shire of Manjimup has been supplied with a high season appliance for this coming fire season, I will discuss with the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer on its allocation.

The Shire of Manjimup will continue to apply for more firefighting appliances through the ESL application process to meet its commitment to its *Resource to Risk Policy*, in the meantime we remain supportive of the Dingup BFB and would welcome any idea's / conversation with the brigade on how the BFAC can support your area going forward.

Any questions please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Regards

Todd Ridley
 Community Emergency Services Manager



ITEM 9.2 ATTACHMENT

Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting Community Emergency Services Manager Report 12 July 2023



General Matters

Sheds Maintenance

- Roller Door servicing - Expression of Interest have gone out to suppliers for the servicing of all Roller Doors at Brigade sheds, we are awaiting one more quote and then will action in July/August 2023
- Mordalup BFB Shed – Replacement Solar system quote approved through the ESL operational.
- Servicing Fire Extinguishers – Six month servicing completed end of June 2023 with the next due in December 2023.
- Pest control treatment of all Brigades was completed February 2023.
- Gutter cleaning of all relevant Brigades was completed October 2022 and will be done again prior to the fire season.
- Walpole BFB Shed – repairs and upgrade of the Shed Lighting completed June 2023.

Appliance Maintenance

- All Brigade appliance servicing was completed end of 2022, with a couple being done early 2023.
- Springfield and Walpole LT – Ignition Harness Override installation completed.
- GPS Installation to NON ESL Appliances – could not be completed as they were too old.

Training

Training Calendar is now underway with one Bushfire Safety Awareness course and a Bush Firefighting Skills course completed in June with another two courses running in both July and August. While these courses are nearly all full, if you have any members requesting training, please contact us and we can place them on the waitlist for the next available.

Emergency Services Levy

2022/2023 ESL Operational Budget and Capital

The current 2022/2023 Operational Budget expenditure is close to completion, this was under this year due to the additional State Government 2022/23 Insurance Allowance

2022/2023 Operational Budget Expenditure	
Activity: ESL - Clothing and Accessories	\$33,130.49
Activity: ESL - Insurance	\$110,363.39
Activity: ESL - Maintenance Land and Buildings	\$10,844.73
Activity: ESL - Maintenance Plant and Equipment	\$2,167.51
Activity: ESL - Maintenance Vehicles/Trailers/Boats	\$38,544.06
Activity: ESL - Other Goods and Services	\$21,553.39
Activity: ESL - Purchase Plant and Equip \$1,500 to \$5,000	\$4,848.85
Activity: ESL - Purchase Plant and Equip <\$1,200	\$1,529.07
Activity: ESL - Utilities, Rates and Taxes	\$8,044.35
Total Expenditure to date	\$231,025.84

Community Emergency Services Manager Report - 12 July 2023

2022/2023 Small Capital <\$5,000 – Purchasing Complete	
Fast Fill Pump & hoses	Purchased
Trailer for Fast Fill	Purchased

2023/2024 ESL Operational Budget and Capital

The 2023/24 Operational Budget, Small Capital and Capital applications were submitted on 31 March 2023 and we are still awaiting approvals. Items are as follows:

2023/2024 Small Capital Submissions <\$5,000		Approved/ Declined
Dingup	Fast Fill Pump & hoses	TBA
Dingup	Trailer for Fast Fill	TBA
Quinninup Rural	Fast Fill Pump & hoses	TBA
Quinninup Rural	Trailer for Fast Fill	TBA
Smith Brook BFB	Trailer for Fast Fill	TBA
Smith Brook BFB	Fast Fill Pump & hoses	TBA
Glenoran	Trailer for Fast Fill	TBA
Glenoran	Fast Fill Pump & hoses	TBA
Yanmah	Roller door and fill for Breezeway for Security and Vermin control	TBA
Glenoran	Sign for Prohibited, permits, FCO details	Declined – Not Eligible
Smith Brook BFB	Generator	Declined – Not Eligible
Quinninup Town	Generator	Declined – Not Eligible
Pemberton Rural	Auxilliary Board and Backup Generator	Declined – Not Eligible

2023/2024 Capital Submissions		Approved/ Declined
Dunreath	2.4 Broadacre	TBA
Diamond	2.4 Broadacre	TBA

[Mitigation Activity Fund \(Grant\) Bush Fire Mitigation](#)

Bush fire mitigation works has been completed for the 2022-2023 season with 36 MAF (State Funded) treatments and our normal maintenance throughout the Shire.

The 2023-2024 MAF application was submitted, and we were successful in receiving 42 treatment areas for a total amount of \$233,920.

[Form 5.3.9 v2 - Application to Join a Bush Fire Brigade with Questionnaire](#)

There will be a revised form that will now include a two page questionnaire for new Memberships that requires completion prior to being approved.

ITEM 9.3 ATTACHMENT



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Fire & Emergency Services**



Shire of Manjimup BFAC DFES Report – 12 July 2023

Operations

The DFES Lower South West Region has had no significant incidents to report on since the last BFAC meeting. Regional Staff and Volunteers have continued to support intrastate incidents and mitigation programs, with one staff member returning this week after being deployed to the Alberta bush fires in Canada.

Training and Exercises

Regional training is being carried out throughout the winter months for volunteers with a focus on road crash rescue and structural firefighting skills. Bush Firefighting courses are also being conducted throughout the various emergency services.

Community Preparedness

DFES was successful in receiving Disaster Ready Funding to develop a virtual reality package that can simulate and highlight the risks and emotional, psychosocial impacts to community members who choose to "Stay and Defend" a property during bushfire. The initiative will be trialled in the Lower South West Region's local governments.

Chris Sousa
District Officer Nelson
0447 362 006

ITEM 9.4 ATTACHMENT



Department of **Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions**



**Warren Region
Update for Manjimup BFAC meeting Wednesday 12 July 2023**

Prescribed Burning

Warren Region completed 27,900 hectares of prescribed burning last Spring and autumn. This was a combination of 19 prescribed burns. See attached map. The number of hectares is down from our long-term average partially due to an extended wet spring, then followed by a dry summer and a relatively early break of the rain season in autumn.

Burn planning is underway and attached is a map of the Burn Options Program for the 23/24 burn season. Planning of 113,000 hectares of prescribed burns provides us the flexibility across the landscape given different vegetation types and fuel moisture and weather patterns.

Advertising for seasonal fire fighters will be taking place soon.

Bushfire

In 2022/23 fire season, Warren region reported 37 bushfires totalling 10,204 hectares.

Fifteen conservation employees from Warren (Frankland and Donnelly) travelled to Canada to assist in firefighting efforts.

Regards,

Jeff Bennett

Regional Leader Fire Management

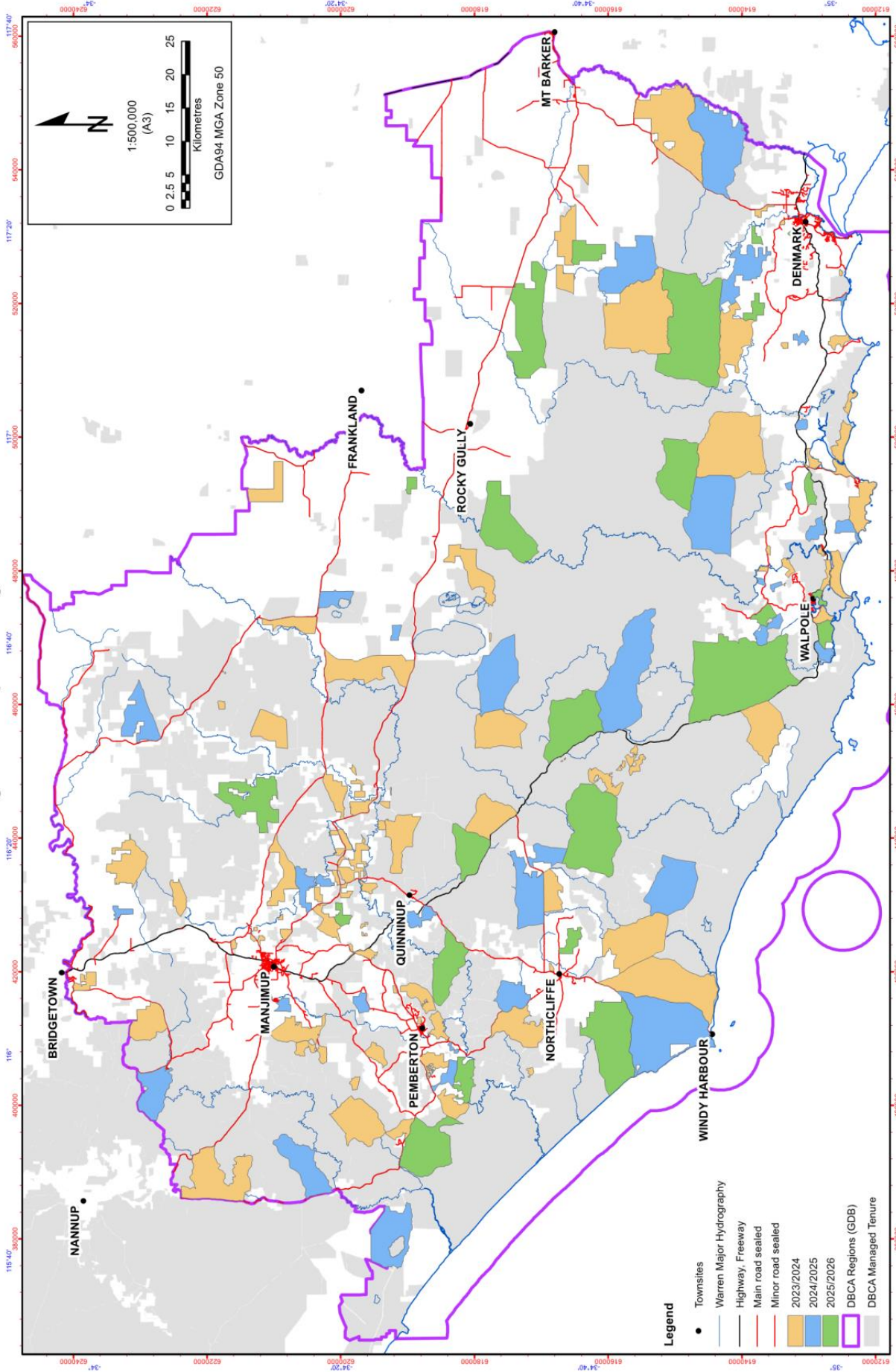
Warren Region

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

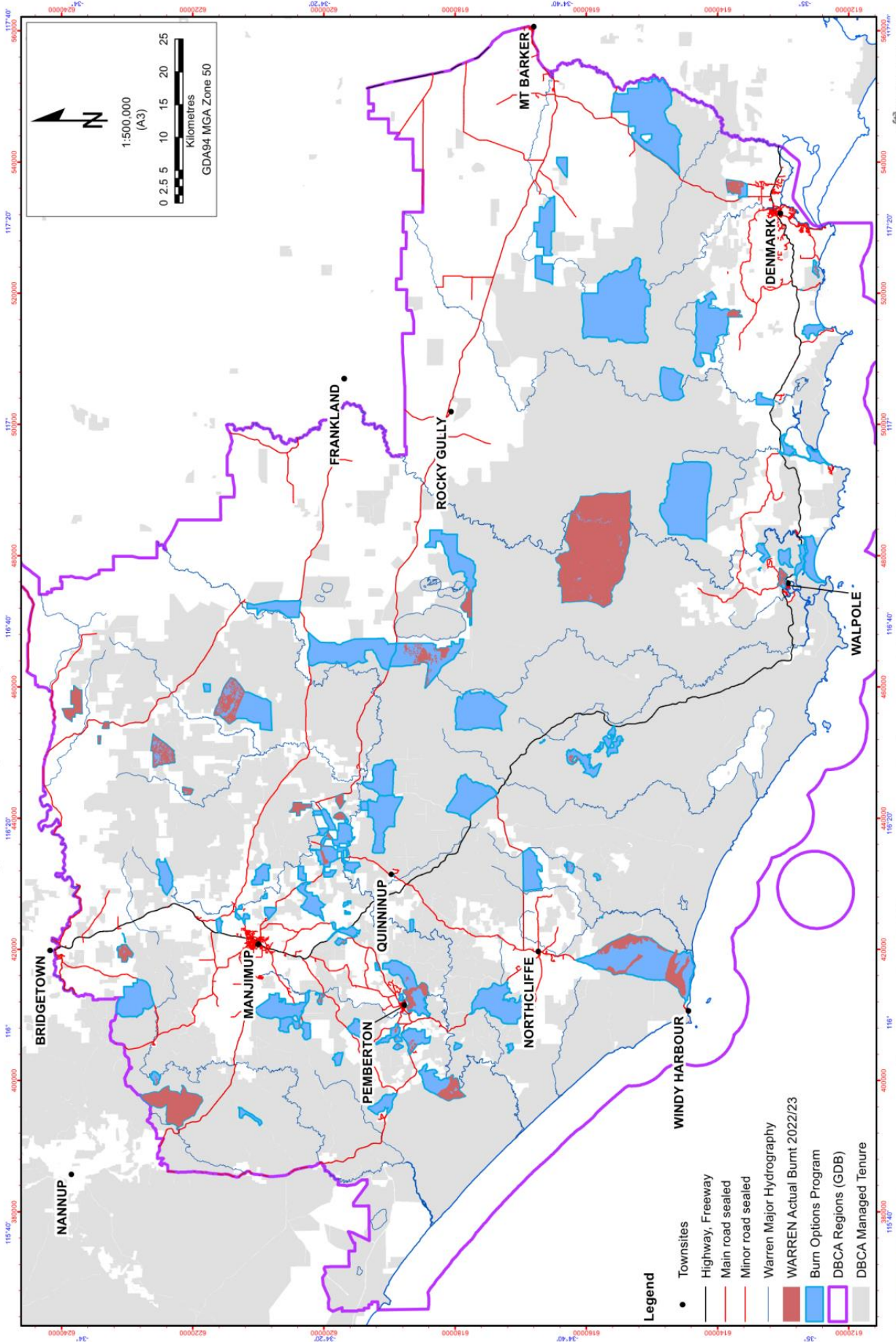
Warren Region Burn Options Program 2023 - 2026



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 declines all liability for any errors, loss or other consequence which may arise from relying on any information depicted.

Graticule shown at 20 minutes intervals
Grid shown at 20000 metre intervals

Warren Region Burn Options Program 2022/2023 - 27 900ha as at 02/06/2023



Job Ref: 412, Produced at 10:41am, on June 7, 2023

Ranger and Emergency Services
FORM 5.3.23



ITEM 10.1 ATTACHMENT

Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC) Report

REPORT:	Australian Fire Danger Rating System
OFFICER:	Todd Ridley - CESM
DATE:	23 June 2023

BACKGROUND:

The Australian Government and all State and Territory Governments recognised the development of a new National Fire Danger Rating (FDR) system as a National priority in 2014. In 2022 the new National system was rolled out to all States and Territories.

The new system is designed to simplify the FDR messages to improve community comprehension and uptake by reducing the number of ratings from six to four.

The new system also recognised the need to identify more fuel types to allow for a more accurate modelling.

The Chief & Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, Fire Control Officers and Permit to Burn Holders have raised concerns throughout the 2022–2023 Bush Fire Season, particularly with the prediction of “High” Fire Danger Rating and the need to cancel permits for that particular day.

COMMENT (Includes Options):

The main complaints and frustrations the Shire of Manjimup is receiving are from Fire Control Officers and land owners requesting a “Permit to Burn” throughout the Restricted Burning Period.

The trigger point of “High” for the cancellation of “Permits to Burn” seems to be low or the weather modelling for the Southern Forest Fire Weather District is not being accurately input into the system. On several occasions throughout the Restricted Burning Periods the Southern Forest Fire Weather District received a “High” Fire Danger Rating when in fact the true conditions on the ground were very mild. One example was on Friday the 14 April 2023, over night the area had between 20 to 35mm of rain, relative humidity was high and the temperature was very low however, legally all “Permits to Burn” for the day were cancelled.

The four day forecasting of the Fire Danger Rating is not being trusted by Fire Control Officers or holders of a permit when performing a risk assessment and decision making of when to issue a “Permit to Burn” or carry out large scale burning such as large agricultural heaps or fuel hazard reduction burning of forested areas that could burn for several days.

The below tables shows the available days through the two Restricted Burning Periods within the Shire of Manjimup this fire season.

Restricted Burning Period Zones (6 & 8) 9 November 2022 to 31 December 2022	
Number of Burning days	53
Number of days, High FDR or above (permits cancelled)	23

Restricted Burning Period Zones (6 & 8) 29 March 2023 to 18 April 2023	
Number of Burning days	21
Number of days, High FDR or above (permits cancelled)	5

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:

Bush Fires Act 1954

POLICY / STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:

Nil

ORGANISATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT:

The risk is the erosion of confidence in the system from both the general public and fire practitioners. The general comments from Fire Control Officers is that the system is flawed because the weather and or fuel loadings that are input into the Fire Danger Rating modelling are incorrect or the new trigger point within the *Bush Fires Act 1954* (Act) of "High" (24) is too low to cancel permits.

Whilst the Act allows for a "Fire Weather Officer" to approve permits on a High FDR the Shire of Manjimup could have over 30 permits issued across the landscape from Palgarup to Walpole. This would place extreme pressure on a "Fire Weather Officer" to assess the risk of all current (live) permits.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL:

Nil

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Shire Administration, on behalf of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee, write to the Australian Fire Danger Rating System and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services Rural Fire Division with the concerns raised in this report and by the Bush Fire Advisory Committee.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

Ranger and Emergency Services
FORM 5.3.23



ITEM 10.2 ATTACHMENT

Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC) Report

REPORT:	Chief & Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Honorarium
OFFICER:	Todd Ridley - CESM
DATE:	23 June 2023

BACKGROUND:

Each year the Chief and Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officers receive an honorarium from Council for their services throughout the fire season to assist in meeting some of the expenses associated with the position.

COMMENT (Includes Options):

From time-to-time Council needs to review the amount afforded to the honorarium. The Bush Fire Advisory Committee is responsible for recommending to Council an appropriate amount.

Currently the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer receives \$2,500 and the Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer receives \$2,000. It is the Officers recommendation that the amount be raised for the 2023 – 2024 Council Budget.

The Policy also allows for the payment of Volunteer Training Officers to attend Shire of Manjimup Training Courses, this amount is currently \$50 per day that the Training Officer attends a course in a role as a Training Assessor. The Officer is recommending an increase to the amount available in Budget, not the amount paid per day.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:

Local Government Act 1995

POLICY / STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:

Council Policy 5.3.2 Chief & Deputy Bush Fire Control Officer Honorarium & Volunteer Training Officer

ORGANISATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT:

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL:

A \$1,500 increase to the 2023–2024 Budget is recommended.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

That Council

1. Increase the Chief Bush Fire Control Officers honorarium to \$3,000 for the 2023-2024 Budget;
2. Increase the Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officers honorarium to \$2,500 for the 2023-2024 Budget; and

3. Allow for a \$500 increase to Budget for the payment of Shire of Manjimup Volunteer Training Officers during the 2023–2024 Budget year.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil

ITEM 10.3 ATTACHMENT

DEFINITIONS

BUSH LAND: Land other than pastured or grassed land including plantations of less than (8) hectares.

EXTERNAL BOUNDARY: Means the external perimeter boundary of contiguous land contained within the same ownership, irrespective of whether it contains one or more allotments.

FIRE BREAK: Means a trafficable portion of land being the prescribed width and height, clear of all flammable and combustible material, litter and forest fuels.

FLAMMABLE MATERIAL: Means accumulated fuel (living or dead) such as leaf litter, twigs, bark, dead trees and grass over the height of 100mm and anything deemed by an Authorised Officer to be capable of combustion. Flammable Material excludes cultivated plants located in gardens, fruit or vegetables plants, live standing trees or approved structures.

FOREST FUEL: Is any combustible material, dead or alive, in isolation, in clusters or aggregated with other combustible materials. It includes but is not limited to vegetation both on the ground and suspended, leaves, sticks, fallen branches, twigs and bracken. This definition excludes live standing trees.

FIRE SEASON: Means the period of time set out as the *Restricted and Prohibited Burning Season* and any variation. When applying 'Fire Season' to the summary of requirements for your property the start dates are (*Zone 8 - 11 December 2023 & Zone 6 - 18 December 2023*).

GRASSED LAND: Land used for the purpose of grazing or cropping.

LITTER: Means leaves, small sticks, twigs and branches immediately above the soil surface.

LIVE STANDING TREE: Means perennial plant having a permanent woody, self-supporting main stem or trunk, usually growing to considerable height and usually developing branches at some distance from the ground. Live standing trees exhibit a distinct crown of foliage with a stem diameter at breast height of at least 100mm. A live standing tree will continue to have sap movement along the cambium layer (layer of living cells) located under the bark.

PLANTATIONS: Land upon which any pine or eucalypt species of tree is planted on an area exceeding (8) hectares.

PLANTATION BOUNDARY: Shall mean contiguous parcels of land under separate ownership, lease or any form of contractual or financial arrangements whatsoever.

TOWN SITE LAND: All land located within the gazetted townsite boundaries of Manjimup, Pemberton, Northcliffe, Walpole, and Settlements of Jardee, Palgarup, Quinninup, Nyamup, Windy Harbour and Deanmill.

TRAFFICABLE: Means a portion of land free from overhanging trees, limbs or vegetation or any other natural or man made object to a vertical height of (5) metres, traversable by a large fire fighting appliance.

PARK LAND CLEARING: Means the removal of forest fuels whilst leaving live standing trees and predominate vegetation so as to maintain a reasonable forest fuel load at the required standard or below.

ZONED LAND: Means all land described in the *Shire of Manjimup Local Planning Scheme No 4*.

FOR EMERGENCIES CALL	000
SHIRE OF MANJIMUP	9771 7777
FIRE DUTY OFFICER A/HOURS	0427 913 252
CHIEF BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICER	
Remo Pessotto	0427 270 714
DEPUTY CHIEF BUSH FIRE CONTROL OFFICER	
Brad Wren	0427 959 431

FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS		
Brigade	Fire Control Officer	
Balbarrup / Wilgarup	Gary Ryan	9771 2955
Diamond	Rob Thorn	0409 815 977 9771 1703
	Mick Terrigno	0419 864 687 9771 1637
Dingup	Josh Kanny	0429 881 528
Dunreath	Tom Muir	0418 831 296
Glenoran	Kim Skoss	0475 432 825
Manjimup / Pemberton	Shire Rangers	9771 7777
Mordalup	Mark Muir	0427 691 001 9769 1001
Northcliffe Townsite	Paul Owens	0427 667 199
	Rod Parkes	0400 783 100
Northcliffe	Peter Russell	9776 7148
	Len Dickson	9776 7071
	Browns Road: Mark Roche	0427 761 510
Pemberton Rural	Eastbrook: Dennis Barnsby	9776 1114
	Pemberton North: Hugh Jackson	0417 761 557
Perup	Eric Ipsen	0427 831 237
Quinninup	Maurice Humphrey	0419 138 685
Quinninup Town	Mick Eastwood	0438 731 960
Ringbarkers	Ringbarkers: Paul Tempra	0417 095 899 9771 1311
	Linfarne: Frank Shaw	0473 371 185
Seven Day Rd / Appadene	Tom Winfield	0417 964 463
	Peter Parker	0427 761 285
Smith Brook	Bill Rice	0427 057 243 9772 3543
Springfield	Nigel Pitts	0400 422 334
	Keith Jackson	9776 1206
Upper Warren	John Mottram	0417 993 536 9773 1179
Walpole	Glen Burton	0447 822 897
	Richard Williams	0429 442 252
Yanmah	Brad Wren	0427 959 431 9772 1397

REGULATED BURNING TIMES		
THESE DATES ARE INCLUSIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE		
RESTRICTED	PROHIBITED (NO BURNING / NO OPEN FIRES)	RESTRICTED
ZONE 8 MANJIMUP / PEMBERTON / QUINNINUP		
9 NOV 2023 TO 21 DEC 2023	22 DEC 2023 TO 14 MAR 2024	15 MAR 2024 TO 26 APR 2024
ZONE 6 NORTHCLIFFE / WALPOLE		
19 NOV 2023 TO 31 DEC 2023	1 JAN 2024 TO 28 FEB 2024	1 MAR 2024 TO 12 APR 2024

Prohibited Burning Time

- No Burning is permitted.

Restricted Burning Time

- Burning can only be carried out with a Permit from your Fire Control Officer.

For further information on fire control and the new Fire Danger Rating System refer to:

- www.manjimup.wa.gov.au
- www.dbca.wa.gov.au
- www.dfes.wa.gov.au

Application to Vary

- If considered impractical for any reason to comply with this Notice, you must apply to the Shire for an 'Application to Vary' no later than the 1 December 2023.



SHIRE OF MANJIMUP
MANJIMUP - PEMBERTON - NORTHCLIFFE - WALPOLE

Firebreak & Fuel Hazard Reduction Notice 2023 / 2024

Section 33 of the Bush Fires Act 1954



The requirements of this notice must be in place by:		
ZONE 8	Manjimup Pemberton Quinninup	11 December 2023
ZONE 6	Northcliffe Walpole	18 December 2023

FIRST AND FINAL NOTICE

RANGERS WILL BE INSPECTING PROPERTIES,
PENALTY FOR NON-COMPLIANCE \$5,000

SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS (WHAT YOU NEED TO HAVE IN PLACE ON YOUR PROPERTY)

Land Category

(where you are unsure of your Land Category please contact the Shire of Manjimup)

The Sections you are required to have in place.

Land within a Townsite Boundary and land zoned Caravan Park	A							I
Karri Lakes Estate Quininup		B	C		E			I
Land used for Timber Plantations		B				F		I
Land zoned Rural, Reserves, Rural Small Holdings, General and Priority Agriculture		B	C				G	I
Land zoned Rural Residential, Bush Land Protection, Rural Conservation, Tourist Enterprise, Special Use (<i>Bush Land Properties only</i>)		B	C	D	E			I
Land zoned Rural Residential, Tourist Enterprise, Special Use (<i>Grassed or Pasture only</i>)		B					H	I

SECTION A

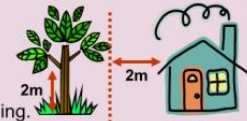
Remove all *flammable material* from the whole of the property OR all *flammable material* mowed and maintained at a level not exceeding 100mm **throughout the fire season.**

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 5m² 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.



SECTION C

Fuel Hazard Reduction Bush lands - Forest fuel in your bush land must not exceed the following parameters for your property. (Sampling and fuel calculation should be as approved by the Department of Fire & Emergency Services procedures)

- Karri: 15 tonnes per hectare = 1,500 grams of forest fuel per square metre.
- Jarrah / Marri: 8 tonnes per hectare = 800 grams of forest fuel per square metre.
- Mixed Forest: 15 tonnes per hectare = 1,500 grams of forest fuel per square metre.

Acceptable methods of fuel hazard reduction include Hand Clearing, Mechanical Clearing, Park Land Clearing, Fuel Hazard Reduction Burning.

SECTION D

Where Bush Land exists on your property

A *trafficable firebreak* clear of all *flammable material* and not less than (3) metres wide shall be constructed immediately inside the external boundary of all land and be **maintained throughout the fire season**. Turn around areas designed to accommodate a 3.4 fire fighting appliance (as pictured) must be constructed every 500 metres.



SECTION E

Where *strategic firebreaks* are located on your land, they must be maintained in accordance with this notice or approved subdivision plans, whichever requirement is greater.

SECTION F

1. Construct a *trafficable firebreak* of not less than (15) metres wide around and inside the boundaries of all plantations established after 2009 (existing plantations established in 2009 or earlier require a firebreak of (10) metres wide).
2. Construct a *trafficable firebreak* not less than (6) metres wide within the plantation so as to divide the plantation into compartments not exceeding (30) hectares each.
3. Maintain all *firebreaks* in a *trafficable* condition. Trees on both sides of the firebreaks are to be pruned to a minimum height of (5) metres to allow for unrestricted access to all maintenance and fire fighting vehicles so as to maintain an effective firebreak width.
4. Where dwellings exist within (100) metres of a Plantation, no Plantation trees shall be planted within (50) metres of any existing or proposed dwelling. A further (50) metres of plantation should be pruned and have ground fuels reduced so as to provide a minimum of a (100) metre low fuel zone area immediately surrounding any dwelling.

SECTION G

1. **Abutting a Residential Zone** - Where rural land, whether bushland or pastured, abuts a residential zone boundary a (3) metre firebreak shall be constructed along the common boundary of the residential zone.
2. **Bushland** - Where bushland exceeds more than (1) hectare and abuts a boundary, a *trafficable firebreak* of not less than (3) metres must be constructed along the boundary and within (15) metres of that boundary.
3. **Grain Crops** - Shall have a (3) metre firebreak around the perimeter of the crop, this firebreak is to remain in place until the crop is harvested. During harvesting of the crop you must have an operational fire fighting unit full of water (not less than 600 litres) located within the paddock being harvested.
4. **Fuel Storage / Hay Sheds** - Shall have constructed a (6) metre firebreak immediately adjacent to any fuel storage and or hay sheds.

SECTION H

1. **Fuel Hazard Reduction** - All *flammable material* mowed and maintained at a level not exceeding 100mm and **maintained throughout the fire season**.
2. **Dwelling / Outbuilding** - Where a dwelling or outbuilding exists on your property you need to remove all *flammable material* within (20) metres from any external walls of that building.

SECTION I

Where a *Fire Management Plan* exists for a Subdivision or a property, the requirements of the plan needs to be in place.

Ranger and Emergency Services
FORM 5.3.23



ITEM 10.6 ATTACHMENT

Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC) Report

REPORT:	Crewing of Appliances
OFFICER:	Todd Ridley - CESM
DATE:	26 June 2023

BACKGROUND:

The Chief and Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officers have raised concerns in regards to several Bush Fire Brigades that have an Emergency Services Levy (ESL) supplied appliance and their ability to crew that vehicle at short notice. On several occasions in the past fire season/s Brigades have been unable to crew their supplied appliance for reasons of available firefighters or a volunteer with an appropriate driver's licence for the type of vehicle.

It has also been reported in some cases that there is a reluctance by some Brigades to respond to fires outside of their Brigade boundary, but within the Shire of Manjimup. This results in pressure being placed on the fire ground whilst waiting on other appliances responding from a further distance and also not all ESL appliances being utilised equally throughout the fire season.

COMMENT (Includes Options):

The Shire of Manjimup Bush Fire Brigade Operational Procedures 2022-2027 (Procedures) Section 1.5.1 prescribes that a Brigade with a supplied ESL appliance shall have an available crew for a two-shift period. (Heavy Duty is 6 active members, Light Tanker is 4 active members). What the Procedures don't allow for is the number of active members that hold an appropriate licence.

Records show that all Brigades with an ESL supplied appliance meet the current prescribed numbers of trained volunteers to crew their supplied appliance, what is unclear is the number of licence holders within the Brigade.

Licence Types

Appliance Type	Licence Class Required
Light Tanker	C Class
1.4 Broadacre	Light Rigid
2.4, 3.4 and 4.4 Broadacre	Medium Rigid

Currently, the Shire of Manjimup has 16 ESL supplied appliances allocated to ten Bush Fire Brigades, leaving eight Brigades without an ESL appliance. It has been long understood by the Brigades with a supplied appliance that the vehicle needs to be ready to respond throughout the Shire of Manjimup at short notice.

ESL Supplied Appliances

Brigade	Supplied ESL Appliance
Balbarrup / Wilgarup	1.4 Rural
Mordalup	4.4 Broadacre
Northcliffe	Light Tanker
Northcliffe	Light Tanker (Windy Harbour)
Northcliffe	2.4 Rural
Northcliffe	4.4 Broadacre
Pemberton Rural	Light Tanker
Pemberton Rural	2.4 Broadacre
Quinninup Town	3.4 Urban
Ringbarkers	Light Tanker
Ringbarkers	2.4 Broadacre
Springfield	Light Tanker
Springfield	2.4 Rural
Walpole	Light Tanker
Walpole	2.4 Broadacre
Yanmah	4.4 Broadacre

Each year the Shire of Manjimup, through the ESL Grants Process, apply for two additional appliances as per *Policy 5.3.16 Resource to Risk* as approved by BFAC. We have been unsuccessful in being allocated an additional appliance since 2009.

It is the Officers recommendation that a review of all brigades that are allocated ESL appliance be undertaken.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:

Shire of Manjimup Bush Fire Brigade Operational Procedures 2022-2027.

POLICY / STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:

The Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC) Terms of Reference allow for BFAC to distribute firefighting equipment and for the general management of the Bushfire organisation.

ORGANISATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT:

The movement of appliances throughout the Shire of Manjimup needs to be managed strategically to allow for an appropriate Resource to Risk approach.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL:

Nil

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Shire Administration, as a result of this Item and taking into account the general discussion by BFAC, write to all Brigades with ESL appliances and request that the brigades provide the following information:
 - a. The number of trained members that have the appropriate class of drivers licence.
 - b. If their brigade has the means to crew their allocated appliance outside of the brigade area, but within Shire Boundaries.
2. That Shire Administration report back to BFAC on the findings of that request.

ATTACHMENTS:

Nil