

SHIRE OF MANJIMUP

Minutes

Bush Fire Advisory Committee

24 February 2026

Notice of Meeting

Please be advised that a meeting of the Shire of Manjimup Bush Fire Advisory Committee will be held on Tuesday, 24 February 2026 commencing at 7.00pm.

Manjimup Emergency Services Collocation Building
46 Bath Street
Manjimup WA 6258

If you are unable to attend, please advise Nicole Favero, Emergency Services Officer:

P: 08 9771 7777
E: nicole.favero@manjimup.wa.gov.au.

Benjamin (Ben) Rose
Chief Executive Officer

3 February 2026

Important Matters for the Attention of Meeting Attendees:

- To ensure the proceedings are accurately recorded, this meeting may be electronically recorded in accordance with clause 6.16 of the *Shire of Manjimup's Standing Orders Local Law 2013*; and
- Any recommendations in this meeting are unable to be acted upon until such time as the recommendations are endorsed by Council, with the exception of recommendations that are of an administrative nature.

Function of Committee

Pursuant to *Section 67 of the Bush Fires Act 1954* the of the Shire of Manjimup Bush Fire Advisory Committee is a committee of Council and reports on strategic matters of fire control and management of the bush fire network. The Bush Fire Advisory Committee is to represent Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades within the Municipality and to make recommendations to Council on the following:

1. Annual bushfire budget and relevant financial matters.
2. General management and communication within the Bushfire organisation.
3. Planning, setting standards and works program for fire prevention within the Shire.
4. Formation, rationalisation or winding up of any Bush Fire Brigades within the Shire.
5. Standards of equipment that should be provided and maintained under Brigade control.
6. Distribution of firefighting equipment and funding between Brigades.
7. Coordination of training to ensure Brigades can work together efficiently.
8. Review of Council's Fire Protection Strategy.
9. Any other matter relating to bushfire control.
10. The committee will establish working groups as necessary.

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Shire of Manjimup
Bush Fire Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting 24 February 2026

Minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held in the Manjimup Emergency Services Collocation Building, located at 46 Bath Street Manjimup on Tuesday 24 February 2026.

1. Declaration of Opening the Meeting

The Chairman, Shire President Donelle Buegge, 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. Announcements by Presiding Member - Nil

3. Attendance / Apologies & Review Membership and Contact Details

3.1 Attendance

Members - Voting

Cr Donelle Buegge	Shire of Manjimup – Shire President (Chair)
Remo Pessotto	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Peter Hill	Coastal Zone (Northcliffe)
Keith Scott	Pemberton West Zone (Springfield)
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)
Peter Parker	Manjimup South West Zone (Seven Day Road)
Bill Rice	Manjimup South East Zone (Quinninup, Quinninup Town, Upper Warren & Smithbrook)
	10

Members Non Voting & Invited Guests

Todd Ridley	Shire of Manjimup - Community Emergency Services Officer
Nicole Favero	Shire of Manjimup – Emergency Services Officer
Cr Jenny Willcox	Shire of Manjimup - Councillor (proxy)
Stephen Burch	Senior Ranger (CESM Proxy)
Kent Muir	Manjimup East Zone (proxy)
John Fishwick	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions
Chris Sousa	Department of Fire & Emergency Services

3.2 Apologies

Shane Otway	Pemberton North Zone (Pemberton Rural)
Paul Tempra	Manjimup North West Zone (proxy)
Richard Williams	Walpole Zone (Walpole)
Glen Burton	Walpole Zone (proxy) (Walpole)

3.3 Review of BFAC Terms of Reference & Membership & Contact Details

Nominations for the Bush Fire Advisory Committee 2025-2027 Membership appointments 2 year term from October 2025 to October 2027 were accepted at Council Meeting dated 23 October 2023, Resolution 29285.

Todd Ridley has been moved to the Non-Voting section.

4. Declaration of Financial Interest - Nil

5. Confirmation of the Minutes of the General Meeting held Wednesday 16 July 2025.

RECOMMENDATION/BFAC DECISION 2026/01

"That the unconfirmed minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting held Wednesday, 16 July 2025 be confirmed as a true and correct record."

Moved: **Thomas Muir, Manjimup East Zone**
Seconded: **Remo Pessotto, CBFCO**

CARRIED: 10/0

6. Council's Response to Minutes of the General Meeting held Wednesday 16 July 2025.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr Eiby SECONDED: Cr De Campo

29711

That Council:

1. **Receive and note the unconfirmed minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC) meeting held Wednesday 16 July 2025 as shown in Attachment: 9.16.3().**

2. **Amend the Terms of Reference as recommended by the Bush Fire Advisory Committee to reflect the change of Appointments for the two year period commencing 18 October 2023 being, accept the resignation of Eric R Beckett – Coastal Zone with the position now Vacant in accordance with Attachment: 9.16.3().**

ADOPTED BY EN BLOC RESOLUTION: 9/0

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr Eiby SECONDED: Cr De Campo

29707

That Council adopt the 2025/2026 Annual Firebreak and Fuel Hazard Reduction Notice pursuant to Section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*, as shown at Attachment 9.7.1 (1).

ADOPTED BY EN BLOC RESOLUTION: 9/0

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr De Campo SECONDED: Cr Buegge

29718

That Council:

1. **Adopt the revised Council Policy 5.3.2 - Chief and Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Honorarium and Volunteer Training Officer as shown at Attachment: 9.7.2(1).**

2. **Adopt the revised Council Policy 5.3.16 - Resource to Risk Fire Fighting as shown at Attachment: 9.7.2(1).**

3. **Adopt the revised Council Policy 5.3.25 – Fire Protection Shire Brigade owned Fire Fighting Appliances as shown at Attachment: 9.7.2(1).**

4. **Direct the Chief Executive Officer to increase the honorariums paid to the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer by an additional $1,500 each, for the 2025-26 year onwards.**

5. **Direct the Chief Executive Officer to review the Honorarium Budget allocation item for the 2025/26 Shire Budget as part of the annual Budget Review in January / February 2026.**

6. **Direct the Chief Executive Officer to annually review the honorarium paid to the Shire's volunteer bush fire brigade officers in the lead up to the adoption of each Annual Budget.**

Reasons:

- **The Shire of Manjimup carries perhaps the greatest bush fire risk of all local governments in Western Australia. This is evidenced by the scale and impact of bush fires in recent years (O'Sullivan, Chesapeake).**
- **Regularly reviewing the honorarium ensures that the payment acknowledges the significant time, skill, and risk these volunteers undertake every fire season.**
- **It also acknowledges their vital service to the community and may help retain experienced officers by showing that their contributions are valued. This also prevents the honorarium from becoming stagnant and losing its symbolic value over time due to inflation.**

CARRIED: 9/0

For: Shire President Buegge, Cr Darin, Cr De Campo, Cr Eiby, Cr Miolin, Cr Omodei, Cr Ventris, Cr Willcox, Cr Winfield.

Against: Nil.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr Eiby SECONDED: Cr De Campo

29708

That Council adopt the Shire of Manjimup Bushfire Risk Management Plan 2025 – 2027 as shown at Attachment 9.7.3 (2).

ADOPTED BY EN BLOC RESOLUTION: 9/0

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr Darin SECONDED: Cr Burns

29750

That Council:

1. **Appoint the following representatives to the Bush Fire Advisory Committee for the biennial period 21 October 2025 to 16 October 2027.**

Cr Buegge	Council Member
Todd Ridley	Community Emergency Services Manager
Remo Pessotto	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Richard Williams	Walpole Zone (Walpole)
Peter Hill	Coastal Zone (Northcliffe)
Keith Scott	Pemberton West Zone (Springfield)
Shane Otway	Pemberton North Zone (Pemberton Rural)
Tom Muir	Manjimup East Zone (Perup, Dunreath & Mordalup)
Brad Wren	Manjimup West Zone (Yanmah & Glenoran)
Frank Shaw	Manjimup North West Zone (Ringbarkers)
Josh Kanny	Manjimup Central East Zone (Balbarrup, Dingup & Diamond)
Peter Parker	Manjimup South West Zone (Seven Day Road)
Bill Rice	Manjimup South East Zone (Quinninup, Quinninup Town, Upper Warren & Smithbrook)

PROXIES

Cr Willcox	Council Member (proxy)
Stephen Burch	Senior Ranger (proxy)
Brad Wren	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (proxy)
Glen Burton	Walpole Zone (proxy)
Mark Batty	Coastal Zone (proxy)
Vacant	Pemberton West Zone (proxy)
Vacant	Pemberton North Zone (proxy)
Kent Muir	Manjimup East Zone (proxy)
Steve Vidovich	Manjimup West Zone (proxy)
Paul Tempra	Manjimup North West Zone (proxy)
Robert Thorn	Manjimup Central East Zone (proxy)
Drew Carruthers	Manjimup South West Zone (proxy)
Vacant	Manjimup South East Zone (proxy)

NON-VOTING

Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
Bush Fire Brigade Training Coordinator

2. **Appoint Shire President Buegge as Presiding Member of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee.**

3. **Appoint Cr Willcox as Deputy Presiding Member of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee.**

CARRIED: 9/0

For: Shire President Buegge, Cr Bettink, Cr Burns, Cr Daniele, Cr Darin, Cr De Campo, Cr Miolin, Cr Tempra, Cr Willcox.

Against: Nil.

7. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

7.1 Action List

Action & Meeting Date	Action	Update	Status	Person Responsible
23/03 **22/03/2023**	**Shire of Manjimup Bush Fire Brigade Local Laws**	**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** **12/07/23:** Presented at Council meeting ……..**COUNCIL 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. **17/04/24:** Joint Standing Committee commented and amendments were required in regard to Appointment of Members. Draft being submitted to Council at meeting 11 April 2024. **24/07/24:** Went to Council for Consideration of Submissions and Final Adoption of Shire of Manjimup Bush Fire Brigade Amendment Local law 2024 and has now gone to be Gazetted and then will go back to State. Ongoing. **30/10/24:** Local Laws Gazetted, waiting on a response/comment from Joint Standing Committee. Ongoing **16/07/25:** Ongoing **24/02/26:** Discussion followed, accepted, with the decision to remove from Action List	Completed	Todd Ridley
23/04 **22/03/2023**	**Brigade/Shire owned Slip On Units**	**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** **12/07/23:** Commenced work, designed new *Form 5.3.24 Appliance – Brigade Owned Slip-ons and Fast Fill Trailers – Report* and currently still compiling these together with photos for report which will present at next BFAC meeting. **17/04/24:** Work in progress. **24/07/24:** Slowly building a list. Ongoing. **30/10/24:** The list is gradually being completed. Ongoing **16/07/25:** Ongoing. **24/02/26:** Ongoing	In progress	Todd Ridley

23/11 **12/07/2023**	**Contingency Plan for Chief & Deputy CBFCO's**	**12/07/23:** Shire Administration to add this to FCO & Captain Meeting as an Agenda Item to address 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. **17/04/24:** This was part of the FCO and Captains Meeting presentation that was held in October 2023 with no clear direction received from members. Ongoing. **24/07/24:** Discussion with some options of looking at a second Deputy but the Act doesn't allow for two, could look at ranking FCOs with a Senior FCO who could learn and assist with skeds and at incidents. ACTION: CESM to prepare a recommendation on this for next BFAC Meeting. **30/10/24:** CESM requested BFAC Members to give more thought to this and also see what the new Act says when it comes out. Ongoing **16/07/25:** Ongoing **24/02/26:** Discuss this at both the Thank a Volunteer Event and next FCO & Captains Meeting.	In Progress	Todd Ridley
24/03 **24/07/2024**	**Amalgamation of Yanmah & Glenoran BFBs**	**24/07/24:** Shire Administration to proceed with advertising for the Amalgamation of Yanmah and Glenoran Bush Fire Brigades, with the name to remain as Yanmah Bush Fire Brigade. **30/10/24:** Advertising completed on 21 August with no submissions received. Discussed in General Business for Report and Recommendation where it was voted and accepted with Recommendation "That Council approve the amalgamation of Yanmah and Glenoran Bush Fire Brigades and name that brigade Yanmah. **BFAC RECOMMENDATION 2024/09** **16/07/25:** Went to Council on 12 December and was adopted Now needs to be lodged with DFES to complete registration. **COUNCIL RESOLUTION 29601** Donelle Buegge, Shire President, asked regarding the Glenoran BFB Shed as she has someone who would like to have this asset. The committee advised that they need to retain this for the Glenoran community to house their fire fighting assets. **24/02/26:** This is now completed and DFES have actioned, Brigade to review assets at Shed.	Completed	Todd Ridley

25/Task1 **16/07/2025**	**Strategic Water Tank Repairs - Thompson Road**	**16.07.25**: CBFCO requested repairs to leaning tank off Thompson Road, CESM advised it is not ELS funded but will add to Budget. **24/02/26:** Update – Need to request additional Capital Funding of $6,500 from Council in the 26/27 Budget for Repairs to Strategic Water Tank. This item was moved to General Business for a recommendation. Completed	Completed	Todd Ridley
25/Task2 **16/07/2025**	**Pemberton Rural BFB – Deregistering a Brigade from ATO**	**16.07.25:** That Shire Administration provide information from finance regarding deregistering a Brigade from ATO. **24/02/26:** Todd responded to Brigade with the information that was requested regarding deregistering the Brigade from ATO.	Completed	Todd Ridley
25/Task3 **16/07/2025**	**Ringbarkers BFB – Removal of Back Wall and Add Bars to Window**	**16.07.25:** That Shire Administration remove the back internal wall in Ringbarkers BFB Shed and look at placing bars on window. **24/02/26:** This went out to quote last week, in progress.	In Progress	Todd Ridley
25/Task4 **16/07/2025**	**FCO & Captains Meeting**	**16.07.25:** That Shire Administration commence planning of the FCO & Captains Meeting in October. **24/02/26:** Due to low numbers the 2025 Meeting was cancelled and it was discussed to hold the next at the end of the season.	Completed	Todd Ridley
25/06 **16/07/2025**	**Appeal LGGS Decision to Not Fund Additional Appliances**	**16.07.25:** That Shire Administration appeal the Local Government Grant Scheme 2025-2026 Capital Grants decision to not fund a 2.4 Broadacre for the Dunreath BFB or Diamond BFB. **24/02/26:** The Shire lodged appeal and there was a pre-appeal teams meeting held between CEO, Director, CESM and DFES Finance lead. Now awaiting appeal information from DFES. Chris Sousa DFES, advised there was no contact to LWS DFES for comment from the Appeals committee but they meet in March/April so may be waiting til this time. Ongoing.	In Progress	Todd Ridley
25/Task5 **16/07/2025**	**Amalgamation of Upper Warren, Quinninup & Quinninup Town**	**16.07.25:** That Shire Administration and Chief's to pursue the request for amalgamation between Upper Warren, Quinninup & Quinninup Town BFB's. **24/02/26:** CBFCO's discussed with Quinninup Town and they were reluctant to amalgamate, no resolution yet, look at inviting Brigades to BFAC Meeting to discuss. It was decided to call a meeting with these Brigades, CESM and Chief's. Ongoing. ***ACTION: "That Shire Administration to send invite to Quinninup Town, Quinninup Rural and Upper Warren to meet with Chief's and CESM to discuss the best action regarding Amalgamation of Brigades."***	In Progress	Todd Ridley & Chiefs

25/Task6 **16/07/2025**	**Meeting with Plantation Companies**	**16.07.25:** That Shire Administration invite Plantation representatives to BFAC Meeting, to discuss their Fire Strategy Plans. **24/02/26:** Awaiting appointment of FPC's Fire Coordinator, who has now been appointed. Look at inviting Alison Raper, combined group FIFWA to next BFAC Meeting. ***ACTION: "That Shire Administration to invite FPC and FIFWA representatives to next BFAC Meeting, to discuss their Fire Strategy Plans for Plantations.".***	In Progress	Todd Ridley

8. Correspondence – *(copies can be available on request)*

8.1 Incoming

28.07.25	Jackie Jarvis MLC – Election Commitments BFB
05.11.25	DFES to Shire – Capital Grant Appeal – Received
20.01.26	DBCA – Advice of New Representative – Ben Farquhar

8.2 Outgoing

04.08.25	**SoM** to BFAC Members - Minutes
04.08.25	SoM to DFES – Capital Grant Appeal
05.05.26	SoM to BFAC Members – Agenda, Previous Minutes and Reports

9. Members Reports

9.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer – Remo Pessotto

Report was tabled, see Item 9.1 Attachment

Discussion followed on Plantations being ongoing issue, only one FPC truck in yard and staff very inexperienced. When we hold a meeting with Plantation representatives, BFAC need to be very prepared. More discussion on Gov Agency (FPC) compared to private plantations and expectations of both and the paying of rates. Shire President clarified, FPC do pay rates, but to the Treasury not to the Shire and this may include an ESL component, to be clarified.

9.2 CESM and Training Coordinator – Todd Ridley

Report was tabled, see Item 9.2 Attachment

Discussion followed and Chris Sousa DFES advised the third party agreement to purchase radio's are waiting on the Chief Superintendent approval.

9.3 Department Fire and Emergency Services – Chris Sousa

Report was tabled, see Item 9.3 Attachment

9.4 DBCA Parks and Wildlife Services – John Fishwick

Report was tabled, see Item 9.4 Attachment

Further to his report, John advised on the following staffing changes:

- *Warren RL Fire Coordinator (Jeff Bennett's old position) – Stephen Mills was acting – now Ben Farquher*
- *Warren Fire Operations Officer - Alison Raper (assistant to Jeff Bennett) left and now working for FPC*
- *Donnelly District Manager Duncan Palmer 12 months leave – Stephen Mills is Acting*
- *Donnelly District RL Fire Coordinator - John Fishwick is Acting*
- *Frankland RL Fire Coordinator - Tristan Farmer is Acting*
- *Warren – Note that Tim Foley and Peter Bamess also finishing soon with DBCA losing a lot of experienced staff.*

Thomas Muir, Manjimup East Zone queried a burn east of Walpole, Coalmine, being delayed by Minister with John Fishwick advising that DBCA stopped it as it was a Sunday and people were everywhere.

9.5 Zone Delegate Reports

9.5.1. Manjimup West Zone - Brad Wren

- Slow season so far, Fire on Graphite Road but was stopped quickly with Seven Day Road assisting them.
- Training had good numbers turn up.

The above report was received verbally at the meeting.

9.5.2. Manjimup Central East Zone – Josh Kanny

- Nothing received from Balbarrup though they had a good training with approximately 15 members.
- Diamond had one fire.

The above report was received verbally at the meeting.

9.5.3. Manjimup South East Zone - Bill Rice

- Received a request for a permit – declined as still prohibited.
- Easter – hoping there will be no permits allowed over this period.
- A lot of feed in paddocks still around.

The above report was received verbally at the meeting.

9.5.4. Manjimup North West Zone - Frank Shaw

- Burn Over Training – only had small attendance.
- New Light Tanker arrived and already been out to lightning strike, fire on Frosty Road, area is very steep and with the new LT they had to position vehicle carefully or the fuel gauge alarm goes off, even when showing half a tank. Also has a few bolts missing so look at booking in for a service and repairs.
- Changed the settings on the battery system now working.

The above report was received verbally at the meeting.

Remo Pessotto, CBFCO, commented regarding new members with many being FIFO.

Discussion regarding Telstra and Starlink with Kent Muir advising that with a new model iPhone you can now get satellite messaging.

9.5.5. Coastal Zone – Peter Hill

- Season quiet so far.
- Burn Over Training – well attended.
- Getting some burning done, gives new members some experience.
- Looking for new members in the area and then hold training in Northcliffe.

The above report was received verbally at the meeting.

Discussion followed regarding burning and to note burning karri after first rain.

9.5.6. Pemberton West Zone – Keith Scott

- Burn Over Training – well attended.
- Good response by members to call outs.
- Fire Water Tank at St Hilda's Outdoor Campus at Yeagarup is always full and available for BFB's to utilise if required.

The above report was received verbally at the meeting.

9.5.7. Manjimup South West Zone – Peter Parker

- Fire at Waugh's where DBCA attended – thank you to them.
- Pemberton Rural BFB Burning Over Training – during this they tested the sprinkler systems for each appliance and how long the water lasted. Results were as follows:
    - Truck – 10 minutes
    - LTanker – 2 minutes 18 seconds

The above report was received verbally at the meeting.

9.5.8. Pemberton North Zone – Shane Otway

Nil to Report, Apologies for meeting

9.5.9. Manjimup East Zone – Thomas Muir

- High Season Appliance – has arrived and already used it at fire. They had a good response to the truck, though they need to relearn each appliance as they differ.
- Concerned that Fire 18 in Perup is the third in three years, they had to have a D3 there and rake hoe it this time, spoke to owner asking for recompense, if they have fire and itinerants they will be paying – no contact back from them. So, can we bill for dozer and the meals as this may then wake them up?

The above report was received verbally at the meeting.

Todd Ridley CESM, responded that the issue is it's not the property owner, they do not know who it is and there is no evidence they had anything to do with it, though we did have a response from them, just no tools to deal with it.

Issue is no evidence of anyone there for weeks.

9.5.10. Walpole Zone – Richard Williams

Nil to Report, Apologies for meeting

10. General Business

10.1 ADFRS, Fire Weather District Review Summer 2026

Report was tabled, see Item 10.1 Attachment

Todd Ridley CESM presented his report to the members followed by discussion and members resolved the below recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION/BFAC DECISION 2026/03

"That Council:

1. Instruct the Shire of Manjimup Chief Executive Officer to write to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services requesting that the Shire of Manjimup be issued its own Fire Weather District removing the Shire of Nannup, and to name that Fire Weather District "Southern Forest".
2. That Council instruct the Shire of Manjimup Chief Executive Officer to request that the Department of Fire and Emergency Services undertake a review of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* to allow for the creation of Sub-Fire Weather Districts."

Moved: **Bradley Wren, Manjimup West Zone**
Seconded: **Remo Pessotto, CBFCO**

CARRIED:10/0

10.2 Manjimup Emergency Services Colocation Building – Ownership Review

Report was tabled, see Item 10.2 Attachment

Todd Ridley CESM presented his report to the members followed by discussion. As LGGS ESL funding is not permitted, BFAC will investigate Funding/Grants that may be used and the area decided was the Manjimup industrial area. Members resolved the below recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION/BFAC DECISION 2026/04

1. That Council release the Manjimup Emergency Services Co-Location Facility under a Management Order to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES).
2. That Council instruct the Shire of Manjimup Chief Executive Officer to facilitate the Shire of Manjimup and the Bush Fire Brigade network to exit the facility, including the Bush Fire Brigade bay.
3. That Council instruct the Shire of Manjimup Chief Executive Officer to investigate options for an appropriate facility to house Shire of Manjimup Bush Fire Brigade equipment and emergency services operations, including consideration of a training/meeting room with capacity to manage Level 1 and Level 2 incidents, then prepare a report to Council outlining the findings and recommendations for a facility prior to the 2026/2027 Shire of Manjimup Budget Review.

Moved: **Thomas Muir, Manjimup East Zone**
Seconded: **Remo Pessotto, CBFCO**

CARRIED:10/0

10.3 Thank a Volunteer Event Discussion

Discussion followed and all agreed to hold this event and for Todd Ridley CESM to commence arrangements.

Add to Action List: "That Shire administration commence planning of the Thank a Volunteer event."

10.4 Election Funding Commitment $20,000 -Telstra Cel-fi for Bush Fire Brigades

Report was tabled, see Item 10.4 Attachment

Todd Ridley CESM presented his report to the members followed by discussion and members resolved the below recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION/BFAC DECISION 2026/05

"That the Bush Fire Advisory Committee authorise the Chief, Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and the CESM to nominate the vehicles and sheds the Cel-Fi Boosters to be located on."

Moved: **Peter Hill, Coastal Zone**
Seconded: **Bill Rice, Manjimup South East Zone**

CARRIED: 8/0
Remo Pessotto & Bradley Wren abstained from Voting

10.5 Shire of Manjimup Fuel Hazard Reduction and Mitigation Plan 2026-2030

Document was tabled.

Todd Ridley CESM, provided an overview of the revised *Shire of Manjimup Fuel Hazard Reduction and Mitigation Plan 2026-2030*.

RECOMMENDATION/BFAC DECISION 2026/06

"That Council endorse the *Shire of Manjimup Fuel Hazard Reduction and Mitigation Plan 2026-2030*."

Moved: **Bradley Wren, Manjimup West Zone**
Seconded: **Frank Shaw, Manjimup North West Zone**

CARRIED: 10/0

10.6 Strategic Water Tank Repairs – Thompson Road Tank

Report was tabled see Item 10.6 attachment
This item was moved to General Business from the Task List to be actioned here.

Todd Ridley CESM presented his report to the members followed by much discussion regarding if the tank was necessary and if it had been used recently? CESM advised it hasn't been able to be used as repairs were required and it is never good to get rid of assets. Discussion that it isn't in a good position as on private property and asked who decided to put it there. CESM advised BFAC made the decision to place it there due to the remoteness and that it made it more secure. Members decided on the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION/BFAC DECISION 2026/02

"That BFAC **do not** go ahead with the Officer's report recommendation to request additional Capital funding of $6,500 in the 2026-2027 Budget for repairs required to Strategic Water Tank on Thompson Road and alternatively have the tank removed from both property and Water Tank Asset Register."

Moved: **Thomas Muir, Manjimup East Zone**
Seconded: **Bradley Wren, Manjimup West Zone**

CARRIED: 9/1
Remo Pessotto, CBFCO voted against

10.7 General Matters from Members without Notice - Nil

11. Next Meeting

Date	Venue
3 June 2026	Venue TBA
4 November 2026	Venue TBA

12. Declaration of Close of Meeting

Chairperson Shire President Donelle Buegge closed the meeting at 9.14pm.

Remo Pessotto - CBFCO

Report for BFAC Meeting held on 24 February 2026

No of Fires

- We have had twenty two bushfires so far this season with the majority being caused by unattended or previous burn piles and vehicle fires.
- We have also had a “Hot Load” rubbish truck delivery to the Manjimup Refuse site. Unsure of the particular item that cause the small fire but most likely a battery / vape / electronic item.

Regulation Burning Times – Period we are in

- We extended Prohibited in Zones 6 due to dry weather conditions.
- The Restricted Period for both Zone 6 and Zone 8 will be reviewed prior to the 14 March 2026.

No of Permits Issued

- Eighty-five Permits to Burn were issued between 9 November 2025 and 31 December 2025. With the majority of the permits being for burning green waste on small blocks.

Weather Conditions

- It has been a reasonable mild fire season so far, however some areas have not received any rain.

Brigade Business / Issues

- Nil

Brigade Deployments

- Nil

Vehicle Maintenance / Issues

- Major repair on the Northcliffe 2.4 with the pump needing to be replaced, just a reminder for those appliances with PTO’s to make sure they are disengaged.

Communications

- Mobile phone coverage is still an ongoing issue throughout the Shire of Manjimup, however we have tested a Cel-fi unit and will be using the Election Funding Commitment grant to upgrade some appliances and shed.

General Business

- There are more plantations being planted throughout the Shire. We will need to work with the Shire on a strategic way to handle the risk.

Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting
Community Emergency Services Manager Report
February 2026

General Matters

Sheds Maintenance

- All gutters have been cleaned on the sheds.
- Water tanks have been checked, there is an Item regarding the Thomson Road Tank.
- Sheds were sprayed for pests in January.

Appliance Maintenance

- All appliances were serviced in November / December other than a couple that required major works.

Radios

- We have applied to DFES for a third-party Arrangement so the Shire of Manjimup can purchase High Band Radios. We are still waiting on a response. The Shire does not currently have a budget allocation for this and it will need to be considered during the upcoming budget period.

Training

- All training was completed prior to summer with a full four-day mid-week trial that allowed members to complete both courses through Monday to Friday. This was well received and we will run another session in this format over winter.

- I'll be conducting a Fire Control Officer course throughout winter to accommodate several members who have nominated to complete the training.

Bush Fire Mitigation

- Bush fire mitigation started in November 2025, slightly later than usual as we were waiting for the weather to break.
- Planned burn meetings with Brigades commenced this week.
- We have started the process of applying for a 3-year grant through the Bush Fire Mitigation Funds. This will secure funding for a 3-year period rather than the current 1 year cycle provided by the State Government.

Emergency Services Levy

- The ESL budget is tracking as expected for this time of year other than a large amount to repair a pump on an Appliance.

- A reminder to all brigades that ESL small capital grants are based on items identified in your AGM minutes each year. Larger items such as appliances and sheds are governed by Council policy.

Government of Western Australia
Department of Fire & Emergency Services

DFES
Department of Fire & Emergency Services

Shire of Manjimup BFAC
DFES Report – February 2026

Operations

- Moderate bush fire season experienced to date within the LSW.
- Several task force requests to assist in the Great Southern and Upper Great Southern during December /January.
- DFES deployed teams to Victoria and South Australia to assist with their major bushfire activity.
- Personnel from the Lower South West (LSW) region were sent interstate to perform Incident Management Team (IMT) and fire line roles, supporting large-scale coordinated operations.

Community Preparedness

- Ongoing promotion of My Emergency Plan, accessed through Emergency WA app or website. The WA community has completed 12,269 emergency plans in just 2 months. The Emergency WA app hit 362,949 downloads as of 27 January 2026.

Mitigation

- DFES is bringing some of the mitigation services ‘in house’ for the treatment of UCL/UMR
- Work as carried out on reserves in February 2026 across the Shire by DFES State Mitigation Branch
- Planned burn areas are identified and waiting for suitable conditions in Northcliffe and Pemberton.

Chris Sousa
District Officer Nelson
0447 362 006

Department of **Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions**

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Warren Region
Update for Manjimup BFAC meeting Tuesday 24th February 2026

Prescribed Burning

Spring achievements

14,400 hectares in Donnelly.

14593.81 hectares in Frankland. Across 10 burn areas.

Drying rates among other incidents/priorities and some interference from interest groups pulled up prescribed burning for the Spring.

Currently in fire response and planning mode until sufficient rain drops soil dryness.

Autumn program – focus on areas that provide strategic protection to townsites and private property as well as a range of landscape risk reduction burns that give low fuel buffers to reduce intensity and provide suppression options in the event of larger wildfires. (see attached fuel age map with burn plan overlay)

DON_156 Northcliffe – collaboration burn Shire/DBCA. (map attached)

Campaign against prescribed burning continuing – DBCA maintains bipartisan Govt support and acknowledgement that PB is a key tool in bushfire risk management in WA.

Bushfire

No notable bushfires to date in the Region. Large contingent assisted with fires on the South Coast in December/January. Along with Perth Hills, Blackwood and Wellington. Deployments to Victorian bushfires in January combined DFES/DBCA.

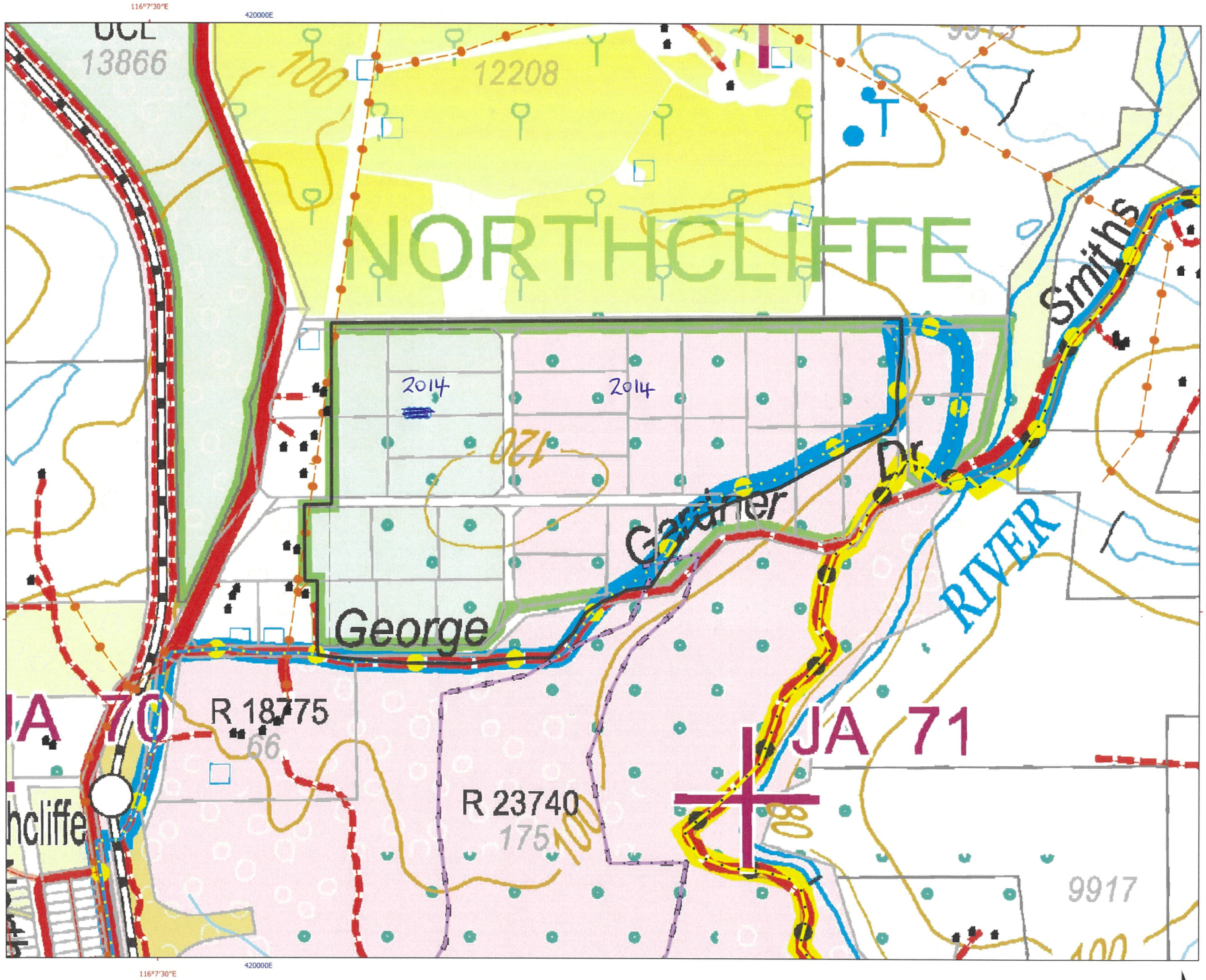
Preparedness – all resources able to respond.

Ben Farquhar,

A/Regional Leader Fire Management,

DBCA Warren Region.

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



Operations Map
DON_156 1 km NE of Northcliffe

411DJ1600
59.4ha
3.4km

- Burn Boundary
- Fuel Age
- Donnelly_Buildings
- Powerlines
- Plantation
- DonnelllyRoads_Feb2020
- Bibbulmun Track
- Munda Biddi Trail
- Walk Trail

Projection: GDA2020 / MGA zone 50
Datum: GDA2020 / MGA zone 50



Produced by,
Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

Department of **Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions**

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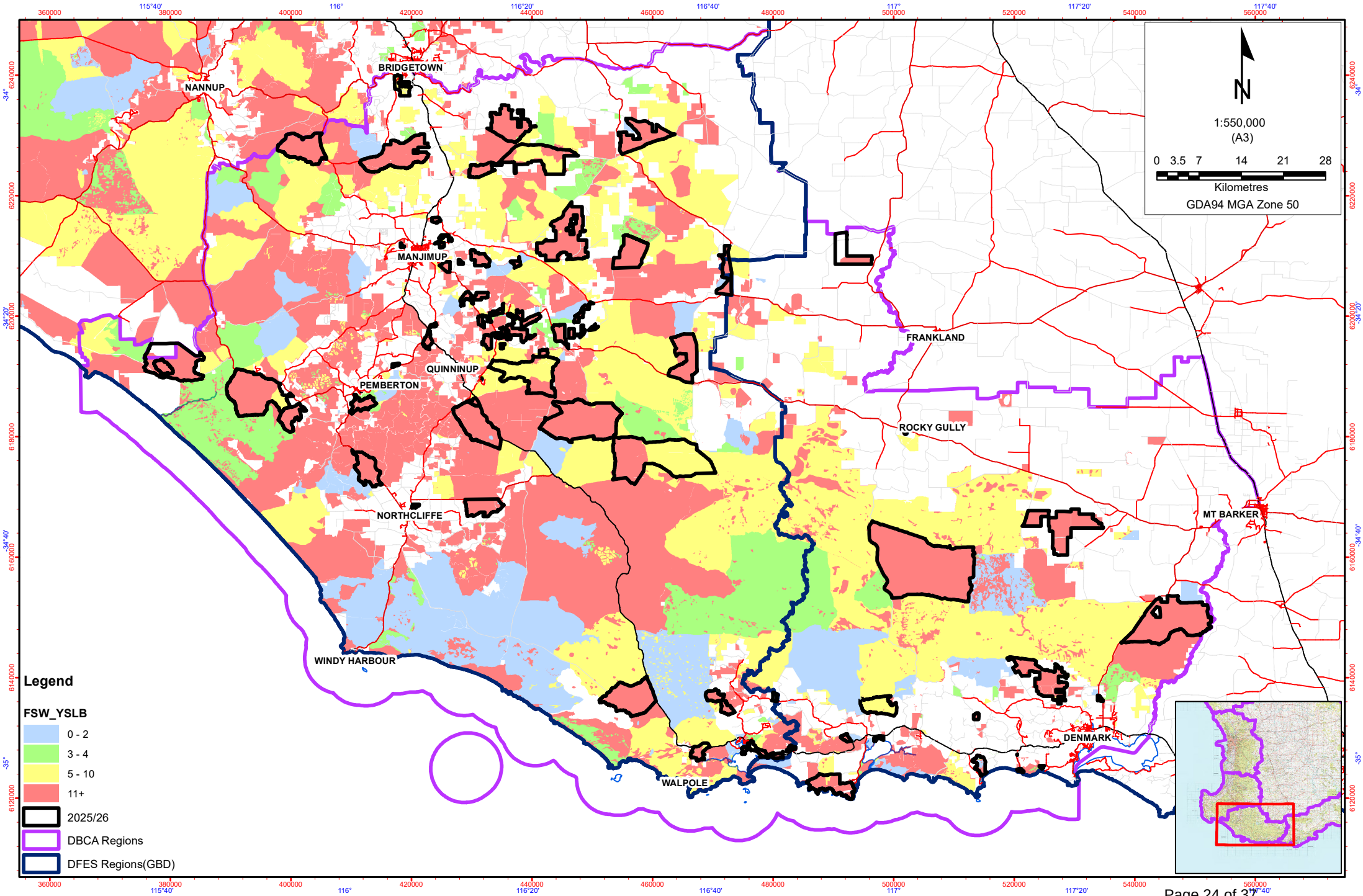
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Job Ref: NA
Produced at 02:59 PM on July 17, 2024

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Warren Region Burn Options Program 2025/2026 - Fuel Age DBCA Managed Tenure



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

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Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ITEM 10.1 ATTACHMENT

Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC) Report

REPORT:	**Australian Fire Danger Rating System, Fire Weather District Review Summer 2026**
OFFICER:	Todd Ridley
DATE:	9 February 2026

BACKGROUND:

The current Australian Fire Danger Rating System (the System) has been in place since 2022 and is the standard Fire Danger Index tool used across Australia, managed by the Bureau of Meteorology. The system boundaries have not been reviewed since the initial rollout.

The Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) has written to local governments requesting a review where required, based on the following principles:

1. Align with local government area (LGA) boundaries wherever possible.
2. Where an LGA must be split, use localities, major infrastructure, or landscape features.
3. Group areas with similar climate, land use, and vegetation characteristics.
4. Scale Fire Weather Districts (FWDs) in proportion to population and property exposure to bushfire risk.

In 2022, the Shire of Manjimup was included in a Fire Weather District with the Augusta–Margaret River and Nannup local governments. The Shire of Manjimup requested that only Manjimup and Nannup be included in the same FWD, as these areas have similar vegetation types and weather patterns, which became “Southern Forest”.

The correspondence from WALGA states that Local Governments are to contact DFES if changes are recommended.

COMMENT (Includes Options):

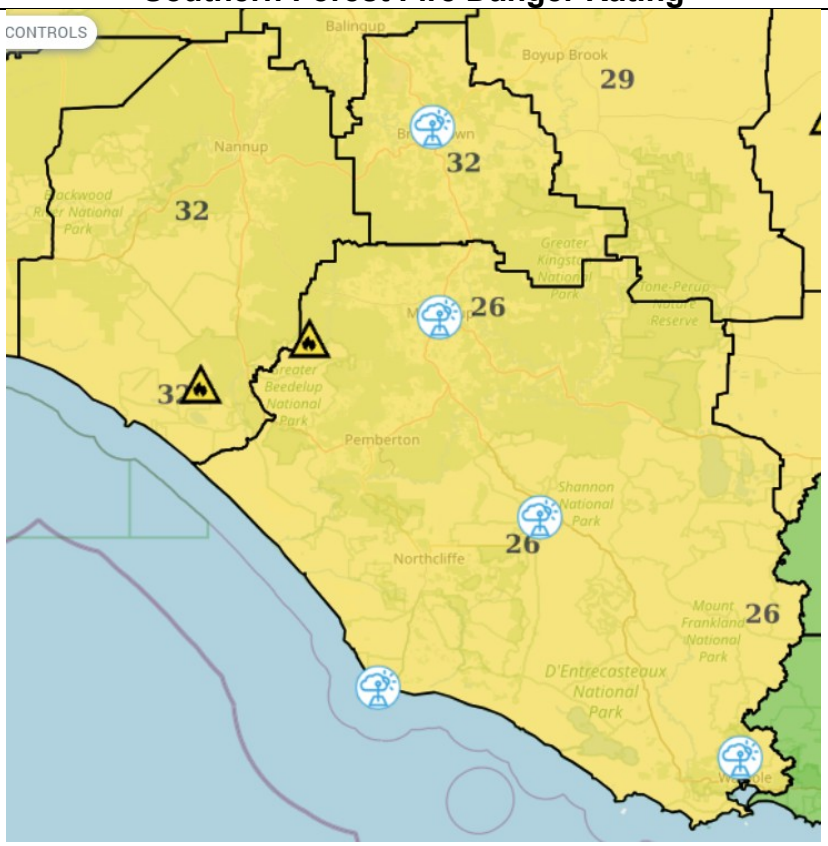
There has been considerable discussion about whether the current “Southern Forest” Fire Weather District (FWD) boundary provides an accurate and representative Fire Danger Rating across the entire district. Evidence suggests that Manjimup and Nannup can experience differing ratings on any given day due to variations in local weather conditions.

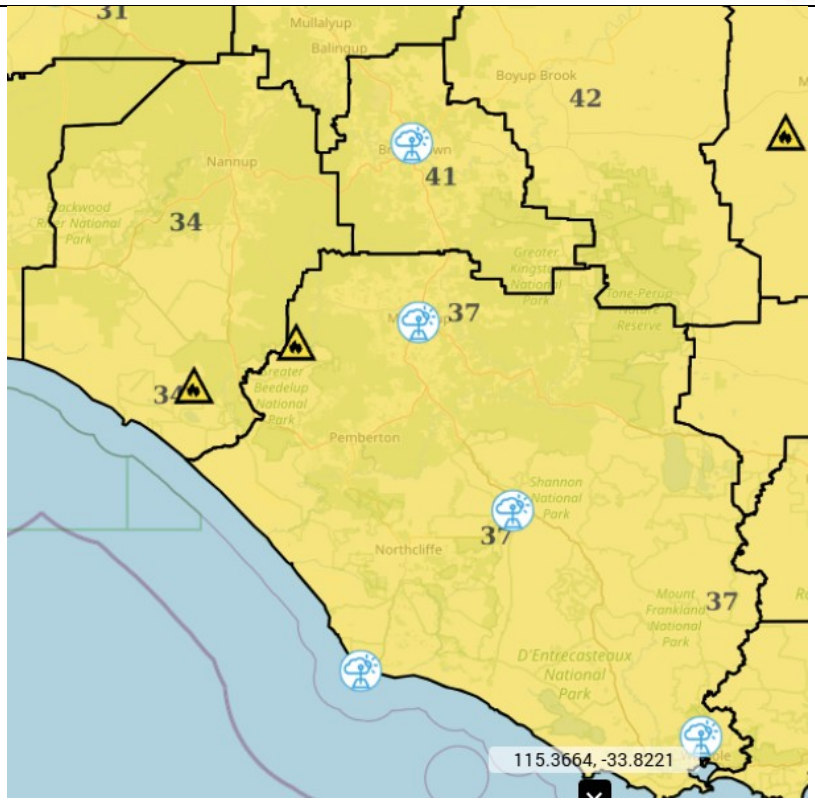
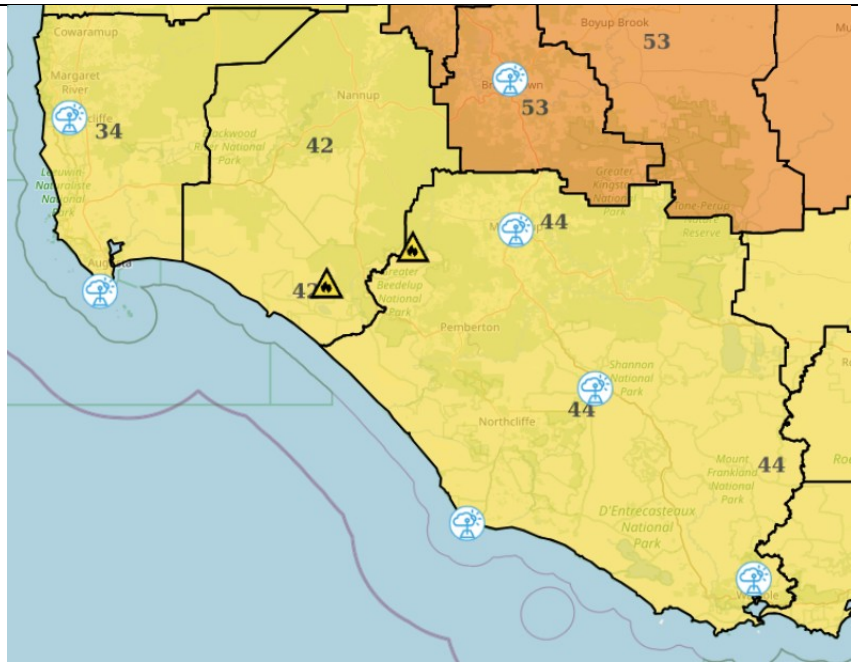
Below are excerpts of the two local government boundaries and examples of the occasionally differing Fire Danger Ratings.

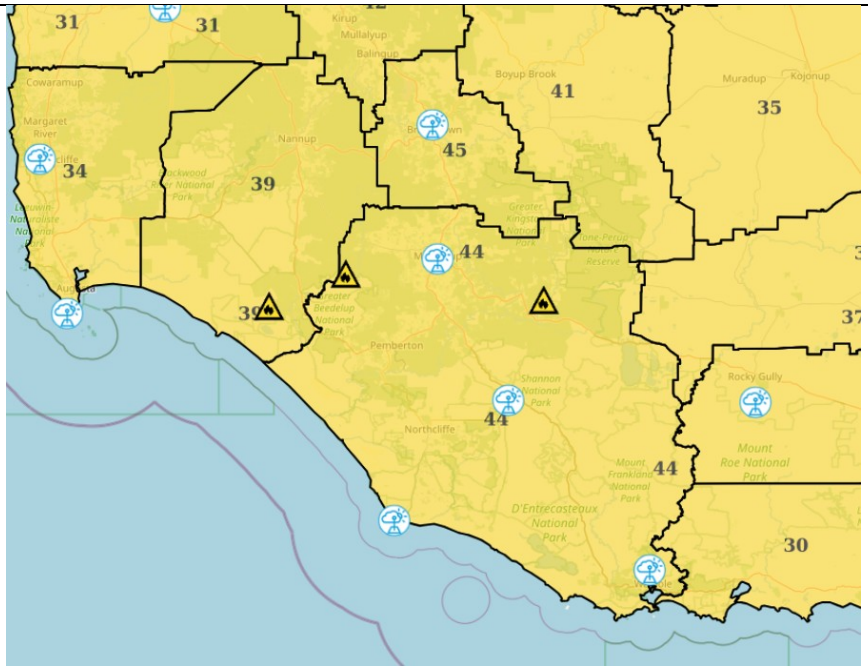
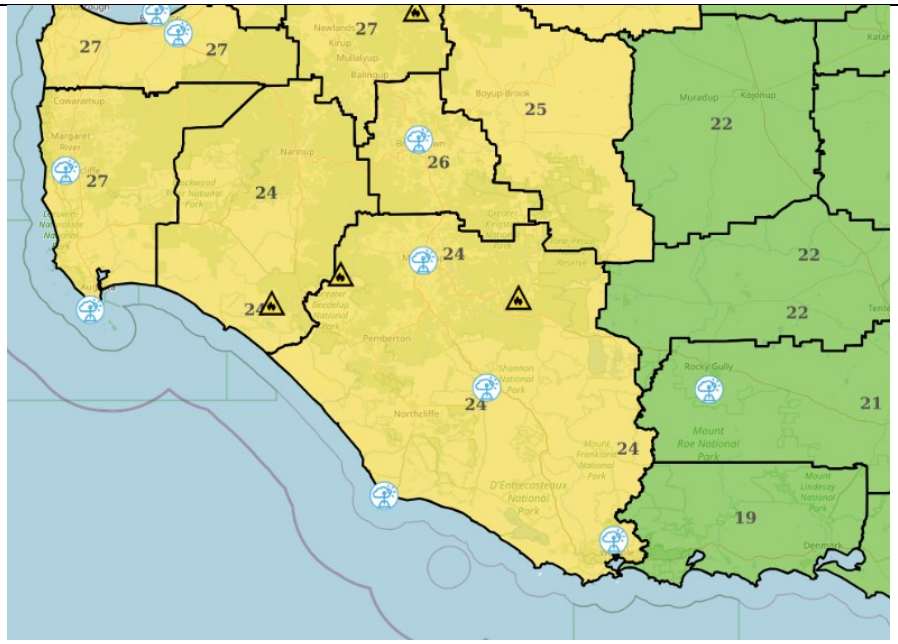
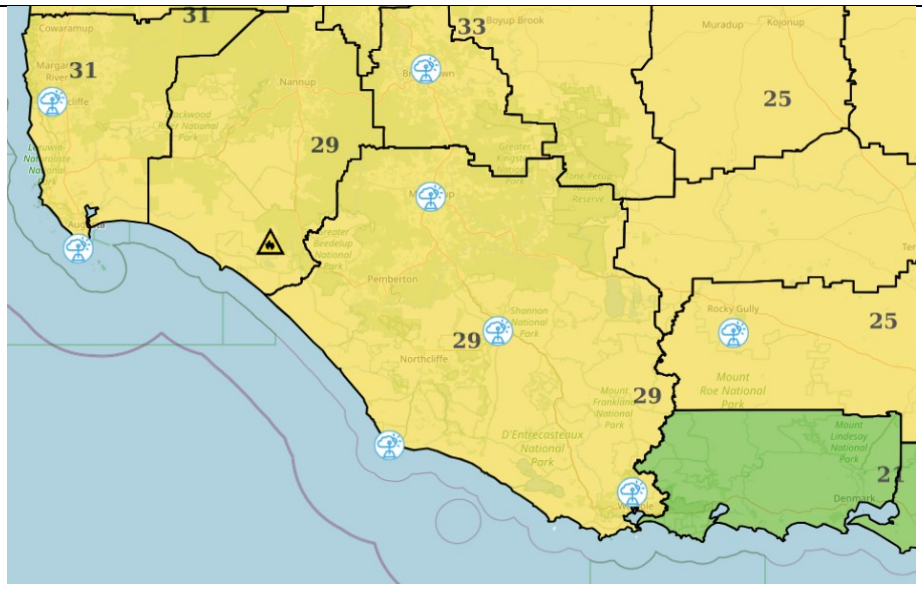
However, it is estimated that if an average were applied between the Shires of Manjimup and Nannup, the two sub-districts would predominantly experience the same rating throughout the Restricted and Prohibited Burning Seasons.

The Officer has recommended that the existing Fire Weather District boundaries be amended so that the Shires of Manjimup and Nannup are assigned their own dedicated Fire Weather District. In addition, it is recommended that the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) undertake a review of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* to allow for the creation of Sub-Fire Weather Districts.

This recommendation is based on the significant variation in Fire Danger Ratings (FDR) experienced across the Shire of Manjimup, with notable differences between the northern areas of the Local Government boundary compared to the southern parts. Establishing more accurately defined Fire Weather Districts—and enabling the future option of Sub-Districts—would better reflect localised climatic and fuel-type conditions, and ultimately improve the accuracy and relevance of FDR ratings issued for the region.

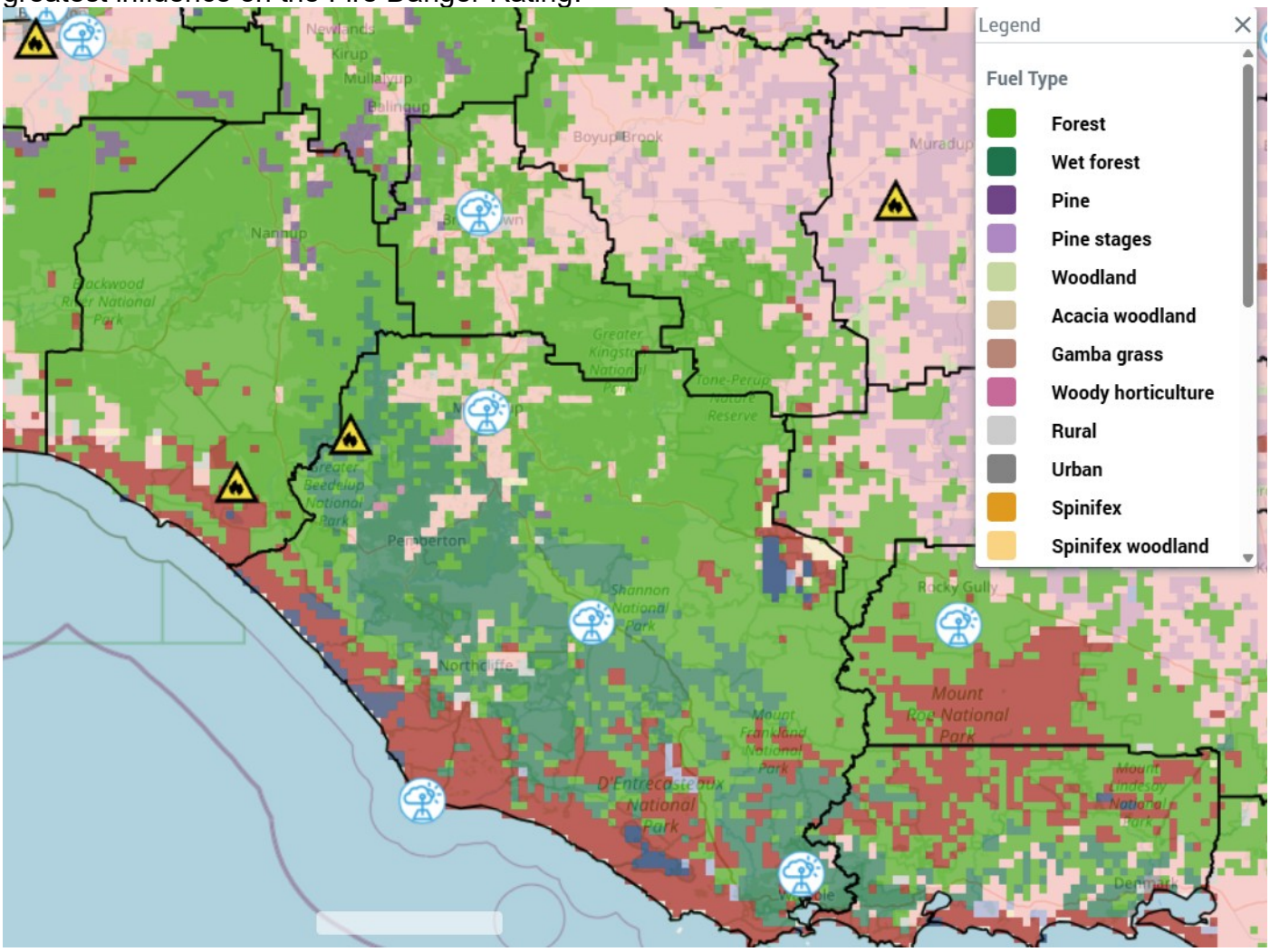
Date	Southern Forest Fire Danger Rating
13 January 2026 Shire of MJP lower by 6 Points	

15 January 2026 Shire of MJP higher by 3 Points	
16 January 2026 Shire of Manjimup higher by 2 Points	

21 January 2026 Shire of Manjimup higher by 5 Points	
23 January 2026 Same	
9 February 2026 Same	

Fuel Type

The earlier conclusion that *Pasture* was the dominant influence on the Shire of Manjimup's Fire Danger Rating (FDR) cannot be substantiated. Pasture represents only a very small portion of the overall landscape. In contrast, the FDR is primarily driven by the prevailing fuel type across the majority of the Shire, which is *Forest* and *Wet Forest*. As shown below, these vegetation classes make up the clear bulk of the land area and therefore exert the greatest influence on the Fire Danger Rating.



STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:
The *Bush Fires Act 1954* prescribes that during the Restricted and Prohibited Buring Periods, on a day or any period of that day when the Fire Danger Rating issued by the Bureau of Meteorology for a FWD is "High" or above certain legal constraints on the use of fire automatically come into force.

POLICY / STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:
NIL

ORGANISATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT:
Local Government, Bush Fire Brigades, residents and landowners are bound by the *Bush Fires Act 1954*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL:
NIL

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council instruct the Shire of Manjimup Chief Executive Officer to write to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services requesting that the Shire's of Manjimup and Nannup be issued their own Fire Weather District.
2. That Council instruct the Chief Executive Officer to request that the Department of Fire and Emergency Services undertake a review of the *Bush Fires Act 1954* to allow for the creation of Sub-Fire Weather Districts.

ATTACHMENTS:
NIL

ITEM 10.2 ATTACHMENT

Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC) Report

REPORT:	**Manjimup Emergency Services Colocation Building – Ownership Review**
OFFICER:	Todd Ridley
DATE:	10 February 2026

BACKGROUND:

In 2004, construction commenced on the Manjimup Emergency Services Co-Location Building. The facility was intended to accommodate the Manjimup Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS), the Manjimup State Emergency Service (SES), and to provide a base and training venue for the Shire of Manjimup's Bush Fire Brigade (BFB) network.

Funding for the facility was provided through a Lotterywest grant, the then Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA), and the Shire of Manjimup. Ownership of the facility (excluding the subsequently built clubhouse) remained with the Shire, with ongoing maintenance costs to be shared between the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) and the Shire.

The facility was designed with a five-bay appliance shed, two bays allocated to VFRS, two bays to SES, and one bay to the Shire's BFB network. The BFB bay originally housed the future Ringbarkers heavy-duty appliance and has since been used for BFB appliances and equipment as required.

The office and training components included offices for VFRS and SES, a communications room, and an operations room. A shared training/meeting room and kitchen were provided for use by all three services. In subsequent years, Manjimup VFRS constructed its own clubhouse at the rear of the property.

Over time, ongoing discussions have occurred regarding whether the building remains fit-for-purpose, particularly for the VFRS, given changes in operational policies and procedures. On several occasions, DFES informally approached the Shire about the use of the facility and the BFB bay, with the Shire requesting strategic direction to ensure future needs—particularly those of VFRS—could be appropriately planned for. To date, no substantive information has been provided to allow the Shire to progress improvements.

In 2025, DFES approached the Shire's Director of Development Services seeking approval to utilise the BFB bay to house both a Walpole SES appliance and a DFES regionally owned appliance. Initial approvals were granted but were later retracted by DFES.

More recently, discussions between the Chief and Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer's, the Director of Development Services and the Community Emergency Services Manager have focused on the relevance of the Shire's ongoing ownership of the facility and the operational need for the

BFB network to maintain its own dedicated space for equipment storage, training, meetings and incident control. Transferring the facility to DFES and establishing a separate dedicated BFB space would support future growth and provide clear separation of agency responsibilities, reducing ongoing confusion.

In November 2025, the Shire formally wrote to DFES expressing interest in relinquishing the management order for the facility. In February 2026, DFES responded favourably, indicating its desire to assume full control of the site under a management order.

The officer's recommendation is for the Shire of Manjimup to transfer ownership and management responsibility for the facility to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and to explore suitable options for a dedicated Shire Emergency Services and Bush Fire Brigade Network facility.

COMMENT (Includes Options):

Co-location facilities have historically been problematic, with one agency often becoming dominant or, alternatively, no agency assuming clear responsibility for the facility. This frequently results in all parties feeling they lack dedicated and functional space. In this instance, one of the occupying agencies also requires additional room to meet current standards and operational needs.

If the Shire of Manjimup Bush Fire Brigade (BFB) network exits the facility, the Manjimup Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service (VFRS) and the State Emergency Service (SES) will have room to expand, supported by Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) funding. Agencies that are not under the care and control of the Shire would also no longer need to seek Shire approval for renovations or improvements to the building.

At present, the Shire uses the facility for Bush Fire Advisory Committee meetings, Bush Fire Brigade training and for housing equipment in one bay. Outside of these functions, the broader BFB network does not generally utilise the facility as volunteers have often not felt comfortable operating within it.

At face value, the option for the BFB network to exit the facility appears beneficial for all parties, provided a suitable alternative is available. Such a facility would need to accommodate volunteer interactions with Ranger and Emergency Services staff, equipment and PPE storage, fitting room, collection, storage of brigade equipment, leadership and brigade meetings (both during and outside office hours), Bush Fire Advisory Committee meetings, and Bush Fire training.

The Shire of Manjimup Ranger and Emergency Services Department currently stores emergency and bushfire-related assets—including fast-fill trailers, communication trailers, mitigation machinery, vehicles and additional trailers—either outdoors or, on occasion, on staff members' private properties. A dedicated facility would significantly reduce risk to these assets and help prolong their operational life.

In the event that a Level 1 fire is being managed in the Community Emergency Services office at the Shire Depot, the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer's are often required to leave and manage the incident from home after hours and on weekends. Having a dedicated Shire of Manjimup Incident Control Room to manage fires would provide significant advantages to the volunteer network and improve operational efficiency.

Initial staff investigations have identified viable options that appear capable of meeting the needs of the Shire of Manjimup Emergency Services and Bush Fire Brigade Network while remaining within an acceptable budget.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:
Bush Fire Act 1954 and Local Government Act 1995

POLICY / STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:
The operation of the Local Emergency Management Committee is consistent with the *Shire of Manjimup Strategic Community Plan 2021-2031*, with specific reference to the following Community Goals and associated Strategies:

Community Goals
3.3 Our whole community participates in strategies to ensure we are minimising risks in regard to bushfire and other natural emergencies.

3.5 Residents feel safe, secure and comfortable at home, work and at play.

Strategies
C22 Prepare for emergencies and natural disasters.

ORGANISATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT:
Shire of Manjimup Bush Fire Brigade volunteer network is one of the largest in Western Australia, providing support and equipment is an essential service and the organisation should at all times acknowledge our 1,300 members strong.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL:
To be provided in the report to Council as per point 4 below. There are no financial implications for Council in releasing the facility under a Management Order.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Council release the Manjimup Emergency Services Co-Location Facility under a Management Order to the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES).
2. That the Shire of Manjimup and the Bush Fire Brigade network exit the facility, including the Bush Fire Brigade Bay.
3. That Council instruct the Chief Executive Officer to investigate options for an appropriate facility to house Shire of Manjimup Bush Fire Brigade equipment and emergency services operations, including consideration of a training/meeting room and capacity to manage Level 1 and Level 2 incidents.
4. That a report be provided to Council prior to the 2026/2027 Shire of Manjimup budget review period, outlining findings and recommendations for a facility that meets the requirements of Point 2.

ATTACHMENTS:

ITEM 10.4 ATTACHMENT

Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC) Report

REPORT:	**Election Funding Commitment $20,000 – Telstra Cel-fi for Bush Fire Brigades**
OFFICER:	Todd Ridley
DATE:	9 February 2026

BACKGROUND:

In the lead-up to the State Government election, the Labor Government committed $20,000 to the Shire of Manjimup Bush Fire Brigade network to improve mobile phone coverage across selected brigade vehicles and sheds.

The Chief and Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officers (C-DCBFCO) and the Community Emergency Services Manager (CESM) have been exploring solutions to improve mobile phone coverage for several isolated facilities and appliances. In some brigade sheds, mobile reception is significantly reduced once inside the building and a number of brigades also experience larger external zones with consistently poor coverage.

The CBFCO has been trialling a mobile booster kit and has reported a noticeable improvement in mobile reception when operating in areas that previously experienced low or unreliable coverage.

COMMENT (Includes Options):

To address these low signal issues in some areas, the intent is to utilise the $20,000 election-committed funding to install Cel-Fi booster kits on both vehicles and in brigade sheds. Based on current cost estimates for equipment and installation, it is anticipated that approximately five mobile (vehicle-mounted) repeaters and five stationary (shed-mounted) repeaters can be purchased and installed.

The Officer recommends that BFAC authorise the C-DCBFCO and CESM to identify and nominate the vehicles and brigade sheds that would most benefit from the installation of these booster units.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:
NIL

POLICY / STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:
NIL

ORGANISATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT:
Boosting the signal in appliances and sheds allows for better communication when required at an incident.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL:
NIL,

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:
That Bush Fire Advisory Committee authorise the Chief and Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and the Community Emergency Services Manager to nominate the vehicles and sheds the Cel-Fi Booster's to be located on.

ATTACHMENTS:
(Enter details)

ITEM 7.1-25/Task ATTACHMENT

Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC) Report

REPORT:	**Strategic Water Tank Repairs - Thomson Road**
OFFICER:	Todd Ridley
DATE:	11 February 2026

BACKGROUND:

The Shire of Manjimup has invested in strategic water points and tanks for firefighting across the district. These assets have been successfully maintained for many years through a dedicated Council maintenance budget.

The Shire currently manages eighteen water points and tanks located at brigade sheds, within subdivisions and at other strategic locations. The tank situated on Thomson Road near Lake Muir was undermined by cattle several years ago and is no longer fit for purpose only holding a small amount of its capable water.



COMMENT (Includes Options):

A quote of $5,870 has been received to repair the Thomson Road tank. Unfortunately, this amount exceeds the current Council allocation for the 2025/2026 financial year.

The Officer's recommendation is for Council to allocate an additional $6,500 to the *"Filling of Fire Water Tanks"* budget line in the 2026/2027 financial year to enable the repair of the Thomson Road tank.

STATUTORY ENVIRONMENT:

Nil

POLICY / STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS:
The operation of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee is consistent with the *Shire of Manjimup Strategic Community Plan 2021-2031*, with specific reference to the following Community Goals and associated Strategies:

Community Goals
3.3 Our whole community participates in strategies to ensure we are minimising risks in regards to bushfire and other natural emergencies.

3.5 Residents feel safe, secure and comfortable at home, work and at play.

Strategies
C22 Prepare for emergencies and natural disasters.

ORGANISATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT:
Not providing fit for purpose firefighting strategic water points could leave the community vulnerable in a bushfire.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL:
$6,500

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION:
That Council allocate an additional $6,500 to the *Filling of Fire Water Tanks* budget line in the 2026/2027 financial year to enable repairs to the Thomson Road strategic water tank.

ATTACHMENTS:
(Enter details)