



Heritage, Commerce and Lifestyle

SHIRE OF NORTHAM

MINUTES OF THE

BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING HELD ON

THURSDAY 28 JANUARY 2010



**SHIRE OF NORTHAM
BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
Thursday 28th January, 2010 at 6.12pm
Shire of Northam Council Chambers, 395 Fitzgerald St, Northam**

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DISCLAIMER

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1. OPENING AND WELCOME

Councillor Steven Pollard declared the meeting open at 6.12pm and welcomed all those present.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Parts of Division 6 Subdivision 1 of the Local Government Act 1995 requires Council members and employees to disclose any direct or indirect financial interest or general interest in any matter listed in this agenda.

The Act also requires the nature of the interest to be disclosed in writing before the meeting or immediately before the matter being discussed.

NB A Council member who makes a disclosure must not preside or participate in, or be present during, any discussion or decision making procedure relating to the disclosed matter unless the procedures set out in Sections 5.68 or 5.69 of the Act have been complied with.

All of the Attendees declared that they had no interest in any of the items that are to be discussed at this meeting.

3. ATTENDANCE

DELEGATES (VOTING RIGHTS)

Bakers Hill Brigade	Mr S Peters
Clackline/Muresk Brigade	Mr R Russell
Grass Valley Brigade	Mr R Marris
Inkpen Brigade	Mr S Neilsen
Irishtown Brigade	Mr R Herzer
Jennapullin Brigade	Mr L Smith
Northam Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service	Mr G Montgomery
Southern Brook Brigade (Arrived at 7.32pm)	Mr P Antonio
Wundowie Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service	

(Arrived at 6.17 pm)
Shire of Northam

Ms A Brucciani
Cr S Pollard

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS (NON – VOTING RIGHTS)

Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (East)
Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (West)
FESA
Shire of Northam

Mr P Gentle
Mr G Ashman
Mr L Mincherton
Mr C Hunt
Mr F McQuistan

PUBLIC GALLERY

There were 6 members of the public in the gallery.

4. APOLOGIES

Mr Eric Fox Shire Communications Officer
Mr Robert Herzer Irishtown Bush Fire Brigade
Mr Kevin Pollack Department of Environment and Conservation

5. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Moved: Mr Ray Russel (Clackline/ Muresk Delegate)
Seconded: Mr Chris Barrington (Bakers Hill Delegate)

That the minutes of the Meeting on the 26 October 2009 be received.

CARRIED 8/0

6. AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 SHIRE OF NORTHAM BUSH FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN DRAFT

Name of Applicant:	Internal Staff Report
File Ref:	5.1.3.1
Officer:	Chadd Hunt / Felix McQuistan
Officer Interest	Nil
Policy:	
Voting:	Simple Majority
Date:	14/01/2010

PURPOSE

For this Committee to consider the proposed “Shire of Northam Bush Fire Management Plan” for endorsement by Council.

BACKGROUND

Council are the Hazard Management Agency for Bush Fire outside a gazetted fire districts and DEC managed Estate, subsequently Council is responsible for the preparation of Hazard management plans for Bush Fire. This Committee is requested to endorse the proposed Bush fire Management Plan.

The Shire of Northam bush Fire Organizational review as adopted by Council recommendation 2,12 and 19 have impact upon this document.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Council has the responsibility as the hazard management Agency for bushfire outside of gazetted fire districts and DEC estate under SEMC policy Statement 7 “Western Australian Emergency Management Arrangements.

To prepare, test and maintain local Emergency arrangements for Bushfire.

CONFORMITY WITH THE PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

Key Result Area – Land Use & Infrastructure – Outcome 6 – Adequate provisions for Bush Fire protection are provided, monitored and maintained.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

N/A

OFFICERS COMMENT

The document required to be considered by this Committee is:

➤ Shire of Northam Bush Fire Management Plan

The proposed Bush Fire Management Plan is a document that outlines Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery steps taken by the Shire of Northam in relation to overall Bush Fire Management.

The Aim of the Fire Management Plan is to formalize and document current practices being undertaken by the Shire of Northam bush Fire Brigades.

The Proposed Bush Fire management plan Conforms to recommendation 2, 12 and 19 of the bush Fire organizational review as adopted by Council which states:

Recommendation 2

That procedures for the callout of backup resources be contained in the Shire of Northam bush Fire Response Plan which is to be developed in consultation with BFAC prior to endorsement by Council.

Recommendation 12

That FCO's and Brigade Officers undergo training in sectorisation of wildfires and that development of communication plans be instigated.

Recommendation 19

That FESA and the Shire of Northam clearly define the purpose of the Bush Fire Response Plan that it is a strategic document supported by Standard Operating procedures.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That this Committee recommends to Council that the attached Fire management Plan be adopted for the 2010 fire season.
2. That Council maintain records of Fire Fighting Resources and Contacts as an accurate appendix to this document.

RECOMMENDATION/COMMITTEE'S DECISION

Moved: Mr Richard Marris (Grass Valley Delegate)
Seconded: Mr Chris Barrington (Bakers Hill Delegate)

1. That the Committee recommends to Council that the attached Bush Fire Management Plan be adopted.

CARRIED 9/0

6.2 Shire of Northam Harvest Ban Policy

Name of Applicant:	Internal Staff Report
File Ref:	5.1.3.1
Officer:	Chadd Hunt / Felix McQuistan
Officer Interest	Nil
Policy:	
Voting:	Simple Majority
Date:	26/10/2009

PURPOSE

For this Committee to consider the proposed “Shire of Northam Harvest Ban Policy” for endorsement by Council.

BACKGROUND

Council have a policy in relation to the implementation of harvest, Hot Works and Vehicle Movement bans which make reference to the Fire Danger Rating and Fire Danger indexes which have recently been changed to come into line with a national standard.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Council has the responsibility as the Hazard management Agency for bushfire outside of gazetted fire districts and DEC estate under SEMC policy Statement 7 `Western Australian Emergency Management Arrangements.
To prepare, test and maintain Local Emergency arrangements for Bushfire.

CONFORMITY WITH THE PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

Key Result Area – Land Use & Infrastructure – Outcome 6 – Adequate provisions for bush fire Protection are provided, monitored and maintained.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

N/A

OFFICER’S COMMENT

The document required to be considered by this Committee is:

- Shire of Northam Bush Fire Management Plan

The proposed amendments to the Harvest Ban Policy bring Councils current policy into line with the definitions which are now in use nationally.

RECOMMENDATION/COMMITTEE'S DECISION

<p>Moved: Mr Chris Barrington (Bakers Hill Delegate) Seconded: Mr Ray Russell (Clackline/Muresk Delegate)</p> <p>1. That the Committee recommends to Council that the attached Harvest Ban Policy be adopted with amendments.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td> <p>Amendments: Moved Richard Marris Seconded Ross McKenzie “Include within item 5 Australia Day in the attached policy</p> <p>The recommendation with the proposed amendment become the motion and was carried. CARRIED 9/0</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Amendments: Moved Richard Marris Seconded Ross McKenzie “Include within item 5 Australia Day in the attached policy</p> <p>The recommendation with the proposed amendment become the motion and was carried. CARRIED 9/0</p>
<p>Amendments: Moved Richard Marris Seconded Ross McKenzie “Include within item 5 Australia Day in the attached policy</p> <p>The recommendation with the proposed amendment become the motion and was carried. CARRIED 9/0</p>	
<p>CARRIED 9/0</p>	

6.3 LATE ITEM – Bush Fire Report (as at 27/01/2010)

Name of Applicant:	Internal Staff Report
File Ref:	5.1.3.1
Officer:	Felix McQuistan
Officer Interest	Nil
Policy:	Nil
Voting:	Simple Majority
Date:	27/01/2010

PURPOSE

For this Committee to receive a brief report on recent fires within the Shire of Northam.

BACKGROUND

The following significant fires have occurred within the Shire of Northam over the 2009/2010 bushfire season -

Fire on Northam Toodyay Road (Max Kings) (20 acres)

Fire Reported 8.20pm Friday 4th December
Fire District Irishtown
Cause Backfire of vehicle in paddock
Suppression Method hose reel - machinery
Crews Irishtown 2.4 & L/T (x 2)
Bakers Hill 2.4
Grass Valley 3.4
Northam VFRS 2.4 & L/T
Private L/T (x 3)
Grader
Contained 11.00pm Friday
Mop Up Clackline 2.4
Made Safe 8.00am Saturday

Horton Road Inkpen: (2 acres)

Fire Reported 4.00pm Wednesday 2nd December
Fire District Inkpen/Shire of Mundaring border
Cause Powerlines
Suppression Method Hose reel - Air attack
Crews Inkpen 2.4 & 1.4
Chidlow 4.4 & L/T
Wooroloo 3.4 & L/T
Mt Helena 3.4
Contained 5.00pm
Mop Up Chidlow 4.4
Chidlow L/T
Made Safe 7.00pm Friday

Great Southern Highway (DEC Reserve) (2 acres)

Fire Reported 3.30pm Friday
Fire District Inkpen/Shire of York border
Cause Suspicious
Suppression Method Hose Reel – Air Attack – Machinery
Crews Inkpen 2.4 & 1.4
York 3.4
Private L/T (x 3)
DEC heavy unit (x 3)
DEC light unit (x 3)
DEC Dozer
Fixed wing water bombers (x 3)
Contained 5.00pm
Mop Up DEC
Made Safe 6.00pm Friday

Spencers Brook Fire Mokine (10 acres) 19th December

Fire Reported 11.30am Saturday

Fire District	Clackline/Muresk
Cause	Lightning
Suppression Method	Hose Reel –Air Attack – Machinery
Crews	Clackline 2.4 & L/T (x 2) Bakers Hill 2.4 & L/T Private unit (x 4) Helitacs (x 2) Grader Front End Loader
Contained	3.00pm
Mop Up	fire was monitored by Clackline units
Made Safe	Tuesday

***Toodyay Fire (3000Ha)**

Fire Reported	13:00 Tuesday 29 th December
Fire District	Toodyay Central
Cause	Formally Undetermined (possibly powerlines)
Suppression Method	Hose Reel– Machinery-Air support
Crews	Numerous 200+ volunteers
Contained	Wednesday morning still with minor flare-ups'
Mop Up	On going for 4 weeks
Made Safe	Monday January 4 th
Note	* Closure of numerous roads and destroyed infrastructure including houses

RECOMMENDATION/COMMITTEE'S DECISION

Moved: Mr Ray Russell (Clackline/Muresk Brigade Delegate)
Seconded: Mr Greg Montgomery (Northam volunteer Fire & Rescue Services Delegate)

- 1. That the Committee recommends to Council that the attached Bush Fire Report be adopted.**

CARRIED 10/0

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

During general business delegates discussed a number of issues however, no formal motion or recommendations were made.

Issues discussed included UXO procedures and mapping, introduction of Standard Operating Procedures, the existing PPE Policy, compliance with existing firebreak order, advisory note on compliance with firebreak notice, updating of information on fire weather warnings, signs, proposed stickers for harvest ban hotline, local ward requirements, implementation of Harvest Ban and Zone 4 & Zone 5, Inkpen 1.4 new

vehicle performance, Irishtown Debriefing for Toodyay fire being held on Wednesday 3 February 2010, 6.30pm

8. **NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED**.....TBA

9. **DECLARATION OF CLOSURE**.....8.00PM