



## 6. AGENDA ITEMS

### 6.1 CHIEF & DEPUTY CHIEF FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS

Name of Applicant:	Internal Staff Report
File Ref:	5.1.3.1
Officer:	Felix McQuistan
Officer Interest	Nil
Policy:	Bush Fire Administration Procedure Manual
Voting:	Simple Majority
Date:	30th July 2012

#### PURPOSE

To consider recommending to Council the appointment of nominated Volunteers to the position of Chief and Deputy Chief Fire Control Officer in accordance with the *Bush Fires Act 1954*.

#### BACKGROUND

In keeping with the Harris report Recommendations to Council the officer position of Chief and Deputy Chief Fire Control officers are to be appointed for a period of two (2) years Brigades were notified that the Shire of Northam was calling for nominations for the position of Chief and Deputy Chief Fire Control Officer accordingly the following nominations were received:

CBFCO                      Garry Shepherdson  
DCBFCO EAST:         Robert Herzer  
DCBFCO WEST:        Mathew Macqueen (incumbent 2011-2013)

As with Councils appointment last year the Deputy Chief and Chief Fire Control Officer positions are to be appointed for a period of two year terms however with the requirement to appoint a new Chief Fire Control Officer there is a potential that this may result in a position being unfilled, accordingly the Shire of Northam has accepted nominations for All positions to ensure that no positions remain vacant.

#### STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Council are Responsible for the appointment of Fire Control Officers in accordance Section 38 of the *Bush Fires Act 195* -

#### **38. Local government may appoint bush fire control officer**

- (1) *A local government may from time to time appoint such persons as it thinks necessary to be its bush fire control officers under and for the purposes of this Act, and of those officers shall subject to section 38A(2) appoint 2 as the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and the Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer who shall be first and second in seniority of those officers, and subject thereto may determine the respective seniority of the other bush fire control officers appointed by it.*

#### 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

Minor advertising cost associated with the appointment of the Positions.

### **OFFICER'S COMMENT**

As the appointment of the Chief Fire Control Officer with previous years, the Positions of Chief and Deputy Chief are put forward to Council after endorsed by BFAC. Accordingly, BFAC is requested to make a recommendation for the following positions:

Chief Fire Control Officer: Gary Shepardson

Deputy Chief Fire Control Officer West      Matt MacQueen  
Deputy Chief Fire Control Officer East      Robert Herzer

***BFAC Voted for Garry Sheperdson as Chief Fire Control Officer and Robert Herzer as Deputy Chief Fire Control Officer (East) with Mathew MacQueen remaining incumbent for another year.***

### **BFAC RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

1. That Council appoint the above-nominated Fire Control Officers to the Position of Chief Fire Control Officer Deputy Chief Fire Control Officer (East and West) (where necessary) for a two (2) year term.

## 6.2 BRIGADE FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS

Name of Applicant:	Internal Staff Report
File Ref:	5.1.3.1
Officer:	Felix McQuistan
Officer Interest	Nil
Policy:	
Voting:	Simple Majority
Date:	30 <sup>th</sup> July 2012

### PURPOSE

To consider recommending to Council the appointment of nominated Volunteers to the position of Fire Control Officer in accordance with the *Bush Fires Act 1954*.

### BACKGROUND

As with previous years, all Brigades have nominated members for the position of Fire Control Officer at their Annual General Meetings in addition to the election of other brigade officers.

The nominations for the position of Fire Control Officer are forwarded via BFAC to Council for their endorsement for the pending Fire Season.

### STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Council are Responsible for the appointment of Fire Control Officers in accordance Section 38 of the *Bush Fires Act 195* -

#### **38. Local government may appoint bush fire control officer**

- (1) *A local government may from time to time appoint such persons as it thinks necessary to be its bush fire control officers under and for the purposes of this Act, and of those officers shall subject to section 38A(2) appoint 2 as the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and the Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer who shall be first and second in seniority of those officers, and subject thereto may determine the respective seniority of the other bush fire control officers appointed by it.*

### 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

Minor advertising cost associated with the appointment of the Positions.

### OFFICER'S COMMENT

As with previous years the Positions of Fire Control Officer are put forward to Council for endorsed by BFAC. Accordingly, BFAC is requested to make a recommendation for the following positions:

Inkpen	Sim Kuiper
	Sorren Nielsen
	Clive Owen
Bakers Hill	Simon Peters
	Gordon Ashman
	Ulo Ramjantsev
	Steven Grey
Clackline	Mathew MacQueen
	Mathew Letch
	Blair Wilding
	Sue Brooker
	Ray Russell
Grass Valley	Richard Marris
	Phil Gentle
	Paul Reynolds
	Alf Brown
	Garry Shepherdson
Jennapullin	Aaron Smith
	Trevor Smith
	Brett Smith
Southern Brook	Paul Antonio
Irishtown	David Russell
	Robert Herzer
	Ross Mackenzie
	Don French
Wundowie	Martin Beaumont
Shire of Northam	Felix McQuistan
	Craig Highlands

#### **BFAC RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

- 1. That Council appoint the above-nominated People to the Position of Fire Control Officer for the Shire of Northam.**

**Moved Richard Marris and Seconded Sim Kuiper  
Carried 10/0**

### 6.3 FIRE BREAK ORDER

Name of Applicant:	Internal Staff Report
File Ref:	5.1.3.1
Officer:	Felix McQuistan
Officer Interest	Nil
Policy:	Fire Break Order
Voting:	Simple Majority
Date:	30 <sup>th</sup> July 2012

#### PURPOSE

To consider recommending to Council the attached fire Break Order for the 2012-13 fire season.

#### BACKGROUND

As with previous years, all Brigades have been provided the opportunity for input into the development of the Shire of Northam Fire Break Order.

The draft Fire Break Order is as attached to this document.

#### STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

Council are Responsible for the development and enforcement of Firebreak requirements in accordance with Section 33 of the *Bush Fires Act 195* -

#### 33. *Local government may require occupier of land to plough or clear fire-break*

- (1) Subject to subsection (2) a local government at any time, and from time to time, may, and if so required by the Minister shall, as a measure for preventing the outbreak of a bush fire, or for preventing the spread or extension of a bush fire which may occur, give notice in writing to an owner or occupier of land situate within the district of the local government or shall give notice to all owners or occupiers of land in its district by publishing a notice in the *Government Gazette* and in a newspaper circulating in the area requiring him or them as the case may be within a time specified in the notice to do or to commence to do at a time so specified all or any of the following things —
  - (a) to plough, cultivate, scarify, burn or otherwise clear upon the land fire-breaks in such manner, at such places, of such dimensions, and to such number, and whether in parallel or otherwise, as the local government may and is hereby empowered to determine and as are specified in the notice, and thereafter to maintain the fire-breaks clear of inflammable matter;
  - (b) to act as and when specified in the notice with respect to anything which is upon the land, and which in the opinion of the local government or its duly authorised officer, is or is likely to be conducive to the outbreak of a bush fire or the spread or extension of a bush fire, and the notice may require the owner or occupier to do so —

- (c) as a separate operation, or in co-ordination with any other person, carrying out a similar operation on adjoining or neighbouring land; and
- (d) in any event, to the satisfaction of either the local government or its duly authorised officer, according to which of them is specified in the notice.

### **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**

Minor advertising cost associated with the appointment of the Positions.

### **OFFICER'S COMMENT**

As with previous years the BFAC is provided with an opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed firebreak order accordingly, BFAC is requested to make a recommendation for the adoption of the attached draft firebreak order:

### **BFAC RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

1. That Council adopt the attached firebreak order for the 2012 - 2013 fire season.

**Move Richard Marris and Seconded Dave Russell  
Carried 10/0**

### **7. DISCUSSION TOPICS**

#### **7.1 Oxi-Viva & Defibrillator (Irishtown)**

David Russell from the Irishtown discussed the aging status of the brigade members and the importance of ensuring their safety, it was discussed that the BFAC consider it appropriate for the Shire to purchase an Oxi viva (or Oxi Sock) and a portable defibrillator for supply to the CESC as he is most likely to be in attendance at fire's throughout the district.

### **BFAC RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

1. That Council investigate purchasing an Oxi Viva and Defibrillator to be carried in the CESC vehicle.

**Move David Russell and Seconded Richard Marris  
Carried 10/0**

#### **7.2 Detention Centre Preparedness**

Syd Bignall FESA DM discussed the level of preparation at the IDC, from a BFB perspective there is limited worries, hydrants are on site for emergency water, FRS will lead the combat for structures.

From a Bushfire perspective there are 2 area's of concern one near the staff parking area and the other adjacent to the waste water treatment plant. the area adjacent to the treatment plant is being grazed by the adjacent property owner and this is generally keeping the grasses down, the area adjacent to the staff car park is a concern as there are few ways that mitigation can be done, brigades are reminded if they are attending the IDC for a fire they will need to keep these two area's in mind.

### **7.3 ESL Budget Received \$90k for the 2012-2013 season**

The Shire has received a budget of \$90,000 for the operating budget for the Bush Fire Brigades, and a further \$5500 has been secured to assist the Grass Valley Brigade in completing their extensions. Unfortunately there was insufficient funding for the following: Phone installation: (Irishtown and Grass Valley) Hot Water system (Bakers Hill & Grass Valley) Fire Shed (Inkpen).

### **7.4 Update on FESA proposal post Keelty report**

Currently Legislation is before the State Parliament to make FESA a Government Department which will have implications on the state budget, and there will be an insignificant change in name (DES?).extended to January 2013

FESA are minimising any direct impact on Brigades due to this imminent change.

### **7.5 Southern Brook Fire Shed update**

A copy of the floor plan of the Southern Brook Fire Shed was circulated to the BFAC, the site works have been completed, and the shed has been ordered.

It is anticipated that the shed will be completed September and there will be an "Opening" after completion.

## **8 GENERAL BUSINESS**

**8.1** BFAC discussed with DEC hazard reduction burn re: Clackline Wundowie and Mokine.. Processes being implemented by DEC to remove the restriction for DEC to burn new townsites or subdivisions. Aiming to be in place by Spring. DEC asked that Brigades liaise through the CESC regarding areas of concern and Brigades are welcome to assist or conduct the burns in accordance with the DEC prescription when available.

### **8.2 Bakers Hill BFB future involvement with Breathing Apparatus support for the Wundowie VFRS**

FESA DM Syd Bignell mentions that initial discussions have been held with Bakers Hill regarding providing training for breathing apparatus. Bakers Hill, FESA and CESC will work to improve Brigades skill base to enable Bakers Hill to become BA capable in the interest of increased community safety.

### **8.3 Communicating risk Communities**

FESA DM Syd Bignell discussed with BFAC Community preparedness and volunteer retention strategies including FIFO workers with the interest of expanding volunteer base and increasing community awareness of fire and emergency safety. A forum is proposed for August 28<sup>th</sup> 2012.

## **BFAC RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL**

- 1. The Shire Representative organise a meeting with the Brigades Central on Tuesday August 28<sup>th</sup> commencing at 6.00pm at the Shire Administration Building.**

**Move Sim Kuiper and Seconded Dave Russell  
Carried 10/0**

**8.4 Richard Marris Outgoing Comments**

Richard Marris thanked everyone for his support over his term as Chief and reminded everyone that the role is not an easy job, he reminded the BFAC that there is a strong need to move forward and remain productive. Advised the BFAC that he does not support the removal of Standpipes, however there is a need for all members of the community to ensure water is not stolen and standpipes not damaged.

Richard also aired concerns that the hazard reduction by burning in townsites is still one of the most efficient methods of ensuring fire safety.

**8.5** Chairperson said an Informal vote of thanks to Richard Marris for his service as the Chief in the past.

**9. NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED**

The next meeting will be held on the 23/10/2012 at the Northam Council Chambers Commencing at 6.00pm

**10. DECLARATION OF CLOSURE**

This meeting was closed at 7.35 pm.

Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_