



BUSHFIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

26 MARCH 2024

These minutes were confirmed by Bushfire Advisory Committee as a true and correct record of proceedings by the Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting held on/...../.....

Presiding Member:..... **Date:**

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1.03.24 DECLARATION OF OPENING/ATTENDANCE

The Presiding Member Cr de Lange opened the meeting at 7:05pm and welcomed Councillors, Committee members and Staff.

On behalf of Council, I would like to acknowledge that this meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the Nyoongar People and pay respect to all Elders, past, present, and emerging. I wish to acknowledge and respect local people's continuing culture and the contribution they make to Country and its life.

Elected Members (Voting)

Cr de Lange Deputy President
Cr McCabe

Committee Members (Voting)

Murray Hall Chief Bushfire Control Officer
Travis Eva Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer
Blair Montague Central Brigade
Anton de Lange Central Brigade
Ashley Hobbs Central Brigade
Bevan Walters East Brigade
Darrell Turner East Brigade
Jarrad Turner East Brigade
Tim Evans West Brigade
Len Simmons West Brigade
Cullem Pech West Brigade
Holly Blechynden West Brigade

Staff (Non-Voting)

Gary Sherry Chief Executive Officer
Sandie Spencer Executive Governance Officer
Jason Carrall Community Emergency Services Manager

Other Agencies

Adam Whitford Department of Fire and Emergency Services Area Officer

Apologies

Troy Bassett Central Brigade

2.03.24 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**BFAC 03.24-01****BFAC RESOLUTION****MOVED M Hall****SECONDED B Montague**

That the minutes of the Bushfire Advisory Committee meeting held in the Shire of Brookton Council Chambers, on 29th August 2023, be confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings.

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE**3.03.24 PRESENTATIONS**

Nil

4.03.24. APPOINTMENT OF FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS

For 2023/24 the Shire of Brookton made the following appointments.

Position	Appointment
Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	Murray Hall
Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	Travis Eva
FCO's – Central Brigade	Troy Bassett, Andrew Pike, Ashley Hobbs, William Wilkinson, Neville Messenger, Blair Montague, Anton de Lange, Brad Bassett.
FCO's – East Brigade	Bevan Walters, Darrell Turner, Dennis Wilkinson, Michael Eva.
FCO's – West Brigade	Tim Evans, Ross Evans, Len Simmons, Mark Whittington, Jamie Blight.
FCO – Shire of Brookton	Jason Carrall

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the BFAC recommend that the Shire of Brookton make the following appointments for the 2024/25 fire season.

Position	Nominee(s)
Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	To be advised
Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	To be advised
FCO's – Central Brigade	Anton de Lange, Troy Bassett, Andrew Pike, Ashley Hobbs, William Wilkinson, Neville Messenger, Blair Montague, Brad Bassett
FCO's – East Brigade	Bevan Walters, Travis Eva, Darrell Turner, Dennis Wilkinson, Michael Eva
FCO's – West Brigade	Tim Evans, Ross Evans, Len Simmons, Mark Whittington, Toby Blechynden, Tristan Guinness
FCO – Shire of Brookton	Jason Carrall
Dual FCO – Shire of Beverley	To be advised
Dual FCO – Shire of Corrigin	To be advised
Dual FCO – Shire of Pingelly	To be advised
Dual FCO – Shire of Wandering	To be advised

BFAC 03.24-02**BFAC RESOLUTION****MOVED B Montague SECONDED Cr McCabe**

That the BFAC recommend that the Shire of Brookton make the following appointments for the 2024/25 fire season.

Position	Nominee(s)
Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	Murray Hall
Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	Travis Eva
FCO's – Central Brigade	Anton de Lange, Troy Bassett, Andrew Pike, Ashley Hobbs, William Wilkinson, Neville Messenger, Blair Montague, Brad Bassett
FCO's – East Brigade	Bevan Walters, Travis Eva, Darrell Turner, Dennis Wilkinson, Michael Eva
FCO's – West Brigade	Tim Evans, Ross Evans, Len Simmons, Mark Whittington
FCO – Shire of Brookton	Jason Carrall
Fire Weather Officers	Murray Hall, Travis Eva, Tim Evans
Dual FCO's – Shire of Beverley	Ashley Hobbs, Troy Bassett, Blair Montague
Dual FCO's – Shire of Corrigin	Bevan Walters, Darrell Turner
Dual FCO's – Shire of Pingelly	Travis Eva, Tim Evans, Neville Messenger
Dual FCO's – Shire of Wandering	Tim Evans

CARRIED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTE

5.03.24 REPORTS

5.03.24.01 CHIEF BUSHFIRE CONTROL OFFICER – MURRAY HALL

- Low incidence of fire within the Shire this season. Couple of potential large fires shut down miraculously by fast response. Literally cut off fire metres from massive fuel loads and looming protracted bad weather.
- Supported Pingelly, Corrigin and Beverley fires. Lightning and header fires.
- Ongoing mitigation work. Ranging from forestry mulching, breaks, cool burning, spraying, as per Shire planning. Thank you to Shire & CESM.
- Recommended railway corridor to be better mitigated.
- More mitigation planned for Autumn in risk areas north of town.
- Been a slight increase in new volunteers joining brigades.
- Still advocating for improved communication between our region and Wheatbelt Goldfields Region.
- One shed for West Brigade currently being build and soon to be finished.
- East shed going to tender and expected before next fire season.
- Now moved into Restricted Season. Permits restricted with due to Fire Danger Rating / FBI index.
- Reporting to DFES Comsen to register burn.
- ROAC – focus on safety and procedure to prevent injuries.
- Uniforms – Captains to report back to Chief & Deputy regarding uniform requirements.

5.03.24.02 DEPUTY CHIEF BUSHFIRE CONTROL OFFICER – TRAVIS EVA

Nil.

5.03.24.03 WEST BRIGADE – CAPTAIN: TIM EVANS

Brigade Changes:

Captain – Tim Evans

Vice-Captain – Cullem Pech

Secretary – Holly Blechynden

FCO's – Tim Evans, Ross Evans, Len Simmons, Mark Whittington.

- Jamie Blight has moved down south. Radio to be moved from Jamie's vehicle to Cullem's.
- 8 fires
- BIC to 2" camlock fittings.
- Prescribed burn – Lupton Reserve.
- 4 to do FCO course.
- Request for the Shire to write a letter to landowners regarding the padlocked gate on Beecroft road.
- Lack of firebreaks – Buckingham Road.

5.03.24.04 CENTRAL BRIGADE – CAPTAIN: ANTON DE LANGE

Fires reported within central brigade 23/24 Fire season:

- Youraling Rd / Roses Rd – Travis Eva's – 13th January 24
- White St fire towns s/w corner - 19th December 23
- Tiller St near school – 21st November 23
- Smart Rd / Mattingly Rd – Pine plantation - Troy Bassett's – 22 October.

The Brookton Central Bridge attended the above fires.

The Brookton Central Brigade also attend fires outside its brigade including:

- Corrigin Airport Fire – 17th October 23
- Young Rd Fire - Chris Mallick – 4th November 23
- York Williams / North Wandering Rd – Hardie's – 23rd November 23
- Bennett Rd Fire – 27th November 23
- Lange's Fire Pingelly - 20th December 23

Brigade Changes:

- Anton de Lange replaces Troy Bassett as Captain.
- Blair Montague replaces Andrew Pike as Vice-Captain.
- Nic McCabe is removed from BFAC Proxy.
- Brad Bassett, Anton De Lange and Blair Montague are added to BFAC Proxy.
- Central drivers list has been reviewed and can be found in minutes below.

Business Arising from Meeting:

- There are high levels of timber on roadsides after recent storms, Corberding Rd has high levels of dry timber. Central brigade suggests that this timber should be removed by the shire prior to next fire season.

- BP Volunteer fuel cards are now in use, Account at Nola's roadhouse has been cancelled.
- We have one member enrolled in the FCO course (Anton) to be held on the 26th April at the Aldersyde hall.

5.03.24.05 EAST BRIGADE – CAPTAIN: BEVAN WALTERS

East Brigade Position appointments for 2024

Captain – Bevan Walters

Vice – Captain – Jarrad Turner

FCO's – Bevan Walters, Travis Eva, Darrell Turner, Dennis Wilkinson, Michael Eva (Pending due to awaiting training)

BFAC Proxy – Jarrad Turner

East Tender Drivers - Bevan Walters, Travis Eva, Rodney Bowring, Shane Bowron, Brad Mills, Dennis Wilkinson, Gavin Whittington, Paul Wilkinson, John Bowring, Geoff MacInnes, Gary Eva, Don Eva, Grahame Sudholz, Ben Sudholz, Suzanne Turner, Jarrad Turner, Michael Eva, Sarah Walters, Luke Blechynden, Tyrone Fulwood, Andrew Craig.

Incident Report

Attended 3 fires over the summer.

1. 17th October 2023 – East Truck assisted at Corrigin Fire – had 2 shifts.
2. 22nd October 2023 – Troy Bassett/Peter Meeres location
3. 20th December 2024 – Crew went to assist a shift/relieve Central Brigade Truck

General

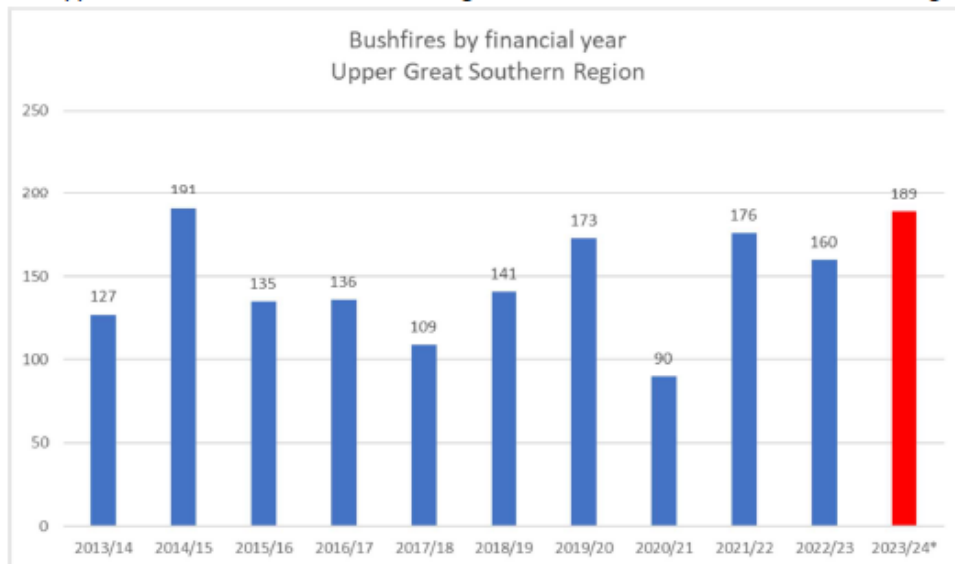
- East Brookton Brigade shed project finally underway. The pad and surroundings need to be significantly raised due to low lying water.
- Water tank at CBH – fire and community use.



Brookton BFAC Report – 27th March 2024

Bushfire Season Summary

- There have been 3757 bushfires across the State since October, an increase of 33 per cent for the same period last season (2816 bushfires between 1 October 2022 – 24 Feb 2023).
- In Our Region we had some early significant fires at Corrigin, Shire of Pingelly and Cuballing including a run of deliberately lit fires commencing early in October 2023.
- Grain Harvest Strategy with forward basing of fixed wing bombers in Geraldton, Cunderdin, Narrogin and Esperance during harvest. These and other water bombers have been deployed to over 30 bushfires across the Upper Great Southern Region.
As many people know, water bombers can't operate without trained ground controllers on site and firefighters understanding the importance of clearing the drop zone. We strongly encourage shires to have more trained ground controllers and let their firefighters know about clearing the drop zone.
- Header Fires record through Incident Reporting System this season in Upper great Southern stand at 15 with a further 11 from other machinery. A correlation to a brand or cause is not evident in our data
- The regional staff and volunteers supported many deployments (currently we are at Nanga Brook fire in Waroona) during this season. These include deployments to fires within the region and outside including Wyndham, Halls Creek, Forrestania, Toodyay, Esperance and Balladonia.
- State Operational Support Fleet (SOSF) - This season there has been 15 SOSF appliances out to shires and brigades. This program has meant that shires have additional resources available for fires within their shire. These firefighting appliances are also available to be deployed as per need as they remain state resources. It is important to ensure that they are well used and fire reports are completed to assist the business case for future use. These appliances are sent to the areas with the greatest need and can be moved around the region.



Shire of Brookton BF Report (attached)



Key Learnings/ Considerations

Three areas of learning for us as an BFAC to consider post this season

- **Safety** – There was a tragic incident resulting in loss of life in Esperance and in our own region several injuries. The importance of good training, PPE and safe practise to keep all responders safe is continued to be significant.
- **Weather Event – Power disruption** – there was a significant event earlier this year that caused us to consider emergency communications and their importance when power and comms are lost for long period of time and how that plays on service delivery. What are your contingencies on the outbreak of a fire?
- **Fire Risk season continues:** It is probable that April 2024 is hotter than normal, and likely that it is drier than normal based on seasonal outlook even though we have had some patches of rainfall in the UGSR.

Key Reminders

There are some important reminders for the effective operations;

- **Machine costs:** If requesting DFES to meet contractor costs you need to have this confirmed before engaging the contractor. Calling the Regional Duty Co-ordinator 1800 865 103 and confirming the rate and length of time is best way to do this and invoices get emailed to rocqsnar@dfes.wa.gov.au
- **Reporting all fires (as they are happening or as close to):** This is key to activate you under the Bushfires Act and allows coverage for your insurance and for the expenditure of money. 000 is how the community do it but for FCO's and brigade members calling COMCEN. Attached to this is a useful sheet for all FCO's and Captains. This sheet helps you give a sitrep (in the first 15 minutes of arrival) and get public information out or support.
- **Fire Bombing:** Importance of requesting water bombers early (you will need to give a sitrep PAFTAC) and having ground controllers available at the fire to direct water bombers. We strongly encourage shires to have more trained ground controllers and let their firefighters know about clearing the drop zone
- **Training:** Is well underway – make use of the regional calendar and eAcademy to support your shire training.

Thank you for your support of your communities and your neighbouring communities.

Thanks,

Adam Whitford
Area Officer Narrogin West
0475 397 201
aowestuppergreatsouthern@dfes.wa.gov.au

OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS (Checklist for first arriving Firefighters)

The checklist below is a list of operational **considerations** for the first arriving fire crew when giving the first SITREP to COMCEN (first **15 minutes** then every 1hour afterwards). COMCEN can get you Incident Weather also.

P	POSITION AND PROPERTY THREATENED <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the situation – where is it? Nearest cross road? Exposures at risk/critical infrastructure? House? Shed? Tower?
A	AREA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Size of fire (Length x Width) – estimate only
F	FUEL DENSITY AND TYPE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is burning? And estimate how fast it is moving (ROS)
T	TIME TO CONTROL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish IMT (Who is IC, what Sectors?) Decide on strategies to extinguish/ make safe Delegating key functions – get help from others How many hours to get it contained? Roughly?
A	ASSISTANCE REQUIRED <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic Management & Road closures? Regional Manager to assist? What do you need help with? Additional resources (ask early as it takes time to arrive)?
C	COMMUNICATIONS AND CONTROL POINT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Radio frequencies/Communications plan Location of control point Media and public advice/warnings – 1800 718 288
S	SURFACE WIND STRENGTH AND DIRECTION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send SITREP Safety is first priority

COMCEN: 1800 198 140

UGS RDC 1800 865 103

DFES Communication Centre (ComCen)	1800 198 140
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 000 to report bushfire Email: dfescomcen@dfes.wa.gov.au Provide an incident update / situation report (see below) Request Incident Weather Forecast Request DFES assistance / to attend. Contact WA Police, Main Roads, Western Power 	
DFES Regional Duty Coordinator	1800 865 103
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request water bombers Request DFES assistance / to attend. Request DFES to meet machinery costs before engaging contractors 	
DFES Public Information	1800 718 288
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issue Community Warning (Advice, Watch & Act, Emergency Warning) Update or change an existing Community Warning 	Email: statepublicinfo@dfes.wa.gov.au
Telephone Warning System	1300 566 588
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sends alerts to home phones & mobiles. Must be used for Emergency Warnings 	



Shire of Brookton Bushfire Ignitions

For all Bushfires, of any size.

This report shows the number of Bushfire incidents recorded in IRS within the Locality shown. A bushfire is uncontrolled fire to bush, grass, scrub, forest or any other vegetation; of any size.

The information contained within this report has been provided by the Operational Information Systems Branch of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (WA). Contact: reports@dfes.wa.gov.au

Data Date: 26/03/2024

	2023/2024
Total Number of Bushfires:	12
Weather Conditions - Lightning	5
Unreported	4
Vehicles (incl. Farming Equipment/Activities)	2
Undetermined	1

Locality	Incident No	Date / Time	Suburb	Street
BROOKTON (S)	644339	22/10/2023 36:14	BROOKTON	MATTINGLY RD
BROOKTON (S)	644480	23/10/2023 22:12	JELCOBINE	WOODS LOOP
BROOKTON (S)	646761	04/11/2023 39:08	JELCOBINE	BUCKINGHAM RD
BROOKTON (S)	646778	04/11/2023 20:10	ALDERSYDE	BROOKTON-KWEDA RD
BROOKTON (S)	646812	04/11/2023 54:11	JELCOBINE	YOUNG RD
BROOKTON (S)	646814	04/11/2023 56:11	ALDERSYDE	ALDERSYDE-PINGELLY RD
BROOKTON (S)	648887	21/11/2023 15:13	BROOKTON	TILLER ST
BROOKTON (S)	649433	25/11/2023 55:09	BROOKTON	CUMMING ST
BROOKTON (S)	651494	14/12/2023 30:15	BROOKTON	WALWALLING RD
BROOKTON (S)	652004	19/12/2023 41:13	BROOKTON	WHITE ST
BROOKTON (S)	654578	13/01/2024 05:23	BROOKTON	ROSES RD
BROOKTON (S)	659482	02/03/2024 57:05	JELCOBINE	YORK-WILLIAMS RD



Shire of Brookton Bushfire Ignitions

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The information contained within this report has been provided by the Operational Information Systems Branch of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (WA). Contact: reports@dfes.wa.gov.au

Data Date: 26/03/2024

Ignition Cause	Size (hect)	Latitude	Longitude	Location Description
Weather Conditions - Lightning	48	-32.26967	117.06811	
Weather Conditions - Lightning	< 1	-32.42271	116.75754	
Weather Conditions - Lightning	< 1	-32.37610	116.61804	
Unreported	< 1	-32.36488	117.33149	MILLBROOK HOMESTEAD ALDERSYDE
Weather Conditions - Lightning	20	-32.47848	116.78604	
Unreported	< 1	-32.34860	117.27500	
Vehicles (incl. Farming Equipment/Activities)	< 1	-32.37393	117.00818	
Vehicles (incl. Farming Equipment/Activities)	< 1	-32.37133	117.00675	
Unreported	Unknown	-32.40135	117.01510	
Undetermined	< 1	-32.37522	117.01196	
Unreported	2	-32.31157	116.98487	
Weather Conditions - Lightning	< 1	-32.39749	116.81922	

6.03.24 COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICES MANAGER (CESM)

- Support provided to surrounding Shires for fires.
- Mitigation – golf course, waiting on rain before this can commence.
- 5 escape burns in surrounding Shires. Wind conditions of 25km/hr on permits is too high.
- No issue with permits issued with Shire of Brookton.
- Sheds - Fitted out by next fire season.
- Applying for next round of mitigation funding.

6.03.24.01 TRAINING UPDATE

- Fire Control Officer Course 26 April 2024.
- Fire Weather Officer – 3rd week July

6.03.24.02 STATUS TABLE

Task	Current Status	Comment
Shire of Brookton - New FCO	Current	Provide new FCO with permit book, access to whatsapp, Booked a FCO's course for March 2024 and once completed books will be issued and training given.
Brookton Pingelly Corrigin Training certificates	Current	Certificates organised and received via email. Printed out and will sort out for each shire over next few days. All certificates have now been printed for all three shires. Message sent out to brigade members for collection and to date only have one reply from members. Sandie to look at posting out to members.
Shire of Brookton ESL 2023-2024		Meeting held Friday 19-01-2024 in relation to expenses for rest of the season and plan put in place to have this work completed before 30 June 2024.
Shire of Brookton ESL Budget submission 2024-2025	TBA	Tender B class service forms created for each Tender ready for servicing. Request for quote sent out to Brookton 24/7 Towing for quoting. Request for update with current work orders requested from Brookton 24/7 Towing. Progress 2023-2024 expenditure spreadsheet updated. Meeting with Gary, Sandy and Deanne completed and all relevant required information needed for 2024-2025 submission received. ESL submission now completed for the shire of Brookton and passed onto CEO for signing before I can send off to DFES.
Brookton Mitigation Program	Current	relying on weather at the current time and should have finished by end of October. Site meeting with BRMO from DFES Narrogin office in relation to maintenance works on UCL land in town site. 2022-2023 acquittal completed and sent to CEO for signing. acquittal sent off to DFES. Did drive around with Les to go through UCL works to be completed by end of October
Brookton Mitigation program submission 2024-2025 round one	TBA	
Brookton Golf Club Control Burn	Attending	Waiting for golf events to finish and a time were members are available to carry out burn. Anticipating second week of October Control burn booked in for October 5th and 6th October. Currently have Brookton west sending one truck. Burn Cancelled due to weather

Task	Current Status	Comment
Brookton BFB Thermal Imaging Cameras	Current	Purchase order sent to Frontline Fire and Rescue. Awaiting delivery Spoke to frontline fire and rescue with follow up of where cameras are. they advise me they will look into it and get back to me. Cameras have arrived and will organise contractor to install into fire appliances. Cameras have been marked with identification labels and batteries charged ready for installation.
Maintenance on Fire Trucks Brookton	Current	Arrange for service on pumps of all four fire trucks. Brookton Central has now been serviced and back in the shed. Brookton East and West trucks now finalised. Brookton Central truck off line due to diff issues. Diff has now been looked at and repaired and Mechanic has given the all clear for operational duties again and is back in the shed. all fire tenders have now been serviced.
Maintenance on Fire Trucks Brookton	Current	Arrange for AVL upgrades on all four fire trucks request for purchase order sent to shire with quote for works to be completed. Brookton Central has now been completed. CESM vehicle has now been completed. Brookton Central and Brookton East have been completed.
Brookton West BFB Shed	Current	plans reviewed and suggested changes made through Kevin Project manager Brookton. Meeting with contractor to go over plans and suggested final changes. Construction of shed has started with concrete slab being installed. Shed well underway with all frames installed, roofs completed, and cladding being finalised. Fast fill trailer shed now completed, water tank has been installed.
Brookton East Fire Shed	Current	with shire to continue Site has been cleared.

7.03.24 GENERAL BUSINESS

- Firebreak Notice. 6 infringement notices within townsite.
- Shire to enforce requirements of Fire Break Notice on properties outside the Brookton townsite.
- Restricted period to be reviewed at time, with possible extension.

8.03.24 FOR INFORMATION/CIRCULARS

Nil.

9.03.24 NEXT MEETING & CLOSURE

Tuesday 3rd September 2024 at 7.00pm.

There being no further business, the Presiding Member Cr de Lange declared the meeting closed at 9:21pm.