



**COMMITTEE ATTACHMENTS
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2020**

REPORT NUMBER	REPORT TITLE AND ATTACHMENT DESCRIPTION	PAGE NUMBER(S)
COM01-11/20	Chittering Bush Fire Advisory Committee: Scheduling of 2021 Meeting Dates Attachments 1. CBFAC 'Unconfirmed' Meeting Minutes 13 October 2020	1 – 21



**Chittering Bush Fire Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
13 October 2020**

Commencement: 7:00PM Closure: 8:48PM

MEMBERSHIP AS AT 9 JUNE 2020

Members	Deputies
Shire of Chittering Councillor Cr Carmel Ross	Shire of Chittering Councillor Cr John Curtis
Chief Executive Officer Matthew Gilfellon	Nil
Community Emergency Services Manager / Chief Bush Fire Control Officer David Carroll	Nil
Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Southern Region David Wilson	Nil
Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Central Region Phillip Humphry	Nil
Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Northern Region Kim Haeusler	Nil
Bindoon Brigade representative Peter Watterston	Bindoon Brigade representative Nic Walter
Lower Chittering Brigade representative Graham Furlong	Lower Chittering Brigade representative Johan Rossouw
Muchea Brigade representative Shelly Pannell	Muchea Brigade representative Shane Robertson
Upper Chittering Brigade representative Aaron Cover	Upper Chittering Brigade representative Gordon Carter
Wannamal Brigade representative Richard Rose	Wannamal Brigade representative Clayton Smith
Chittering Incident Support Brigade representative Peter Hall	Chittering Incident Support Brigade representative Paulette Embling

Objectives

To make recommendations and advise Council on all matters relating to the Bush Fires Act 1954, Section 67(1).

To liaise with other emergency organisations and relevant bodies with regard to Fire and Emergency Management within the Shire of Chittering. The Committee will advise the local government all matters relating to:

- (a) Preventing, controlling and extinguishing of bush fires
- (b) The planning of the layout of fire-breaks in the district
- (c) Prosecutions for breaches of the Bush Fire Act 1954
- (d) The formation of bush fire brigades and the grouping thereof under group brigade officers
- (e) The ensuring of co-operation and co-ordination of bush fire brigades in their efforts and activities
- (f) Any other matter relating to bush fire control whether of the same kind, as, or a different kind from, those specified.

Tenure of Membership

Shall be in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995, Section 5.11*.

Attendance by Government Agencies

The following are invited (non-voting) to attend meetings of the CBFAC:

- (a) DFES District Officer – North East Metropolitan
- (b) Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions / Parks and Wildlife Service

Delegated Authority

Nil

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Preface

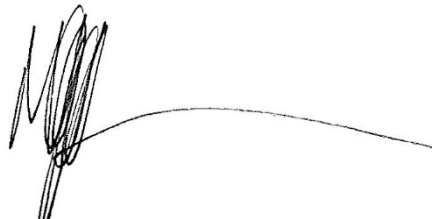
When the Chief Executive Officer approves these Minutes for distribution they are in essence *“Unconfirmed”* until the following Ordinary Meeting of Council, where the minutes will be confirmed subject to any amendments.

The *“Confirmed”* Minutes are then signed off by the Presiding Member.

Attachments that formed part of the agenda, in addition to those tabled at the Ordinary Meeting of Council are put together as an addendum to these Minutes.

Unconfirmed Minutes

These minutes were approved for distribution on 20 October 2020.



Matthew Gilfellon
Chief Executive Officer

Confirmed Minutes

These minutes were confirmed at a meeting held on 9 March 2021.

Signed

Note: The Presiding Member at the meeting at which the minutes were confirmed is the person who signs above.

1. DECLARATION OF OPENING OF MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS OF VISITORS

The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 7:02PM

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, we wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on, the Yued people. We would like to pay respect to the Elders of the Nyoongar nation, past and present, who have walked and cared for the land, we acknowledge and respect their continuing culture, and the contributions made to this region.

2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

2.1 Attendance

The following members have confirmed their attendance (Quorum – 6 Members):

Members:	Cr Carmel Ross	Council Delegate (Chairperson)
	Matthew Gilfellon	Chief Executive Officer
	Dave Carroll	Chief Bushfire Control Officer
	David Wilson	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer – South
	Shelly Pannell	Muchea Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
	Peter Watterston	Bindoon Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
	Johan Rossouw	Lower Chittering Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
	Kim Haeusler	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer – North
	Aaron Cover	Upper Chittering Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
	Peter Hall	Chittering Incident Support Brigade

Observers:	Jodie Connell	Development Services Support Officer (Minute Secretary)
	Graham Furlong	Bushfire Risk Officer
	Cr John Curtis	Council Deputy
	Paulette Embling	Chittering Incident Support Brigade
	Will Lee	Upper Chittering Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
	Scott Ormsby	Chittering Training Coordinator

2.2 Apologies

Murray McBride	Department of Fire and Emergency Services
Richard Rose	Wannamal Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Shane Robertson	Muchea Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

2.3 Approved leave of absence

Nil

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil

4. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

4.1 Chittering Bushfire Advisory Committee meeting: 9 June 2020

4.1 OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

Moved Peter Watterston/ Seconded Peter Hall

That the minutes of the Chittering Bushfire Advisory Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 9 June 2020 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS WITHOUT DISCUSSION

5.1 Community Emergency Services Manager / Chief Bushfire Control Officer

Dave Carroll spoke to the following:

The spring restricted burning time commenced on 1 October and the prohibited burning time will commence at midnight on 31/11/20, unless conditions dictate that we bring prohibited forward.

COVID-19 and Brigades – currently in Phase 4 restrictions, phase 5 is due to commence on 24 October with the lifting of remaining restrictions.

Spring/Summer Weather Outlook (BoM)

- November to January is likely to see above average rainfall across nearly all of Australia, except west coast Tasmania.
- Days during November to January are likely to be warmer than average for parts of the northern and western coastal fringe, and across parts of south-east Australia.
- Nights during November to January are very likely to be warmer than average across nearly all of Australia.
- The Bureau's ENSO Outlook is at La Niña, meaning La Niña is underway in the tropical Pacific.
- The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) index value is currently neutral, though models suggest negative values may return in October and persist in November.
- La Niña and a negative IOD typically increase the likelihood of above average rainfall across much of Australia during spring and early summer.

Soil Dryness Index and Drought Factor conditions, 13 October (BoM)

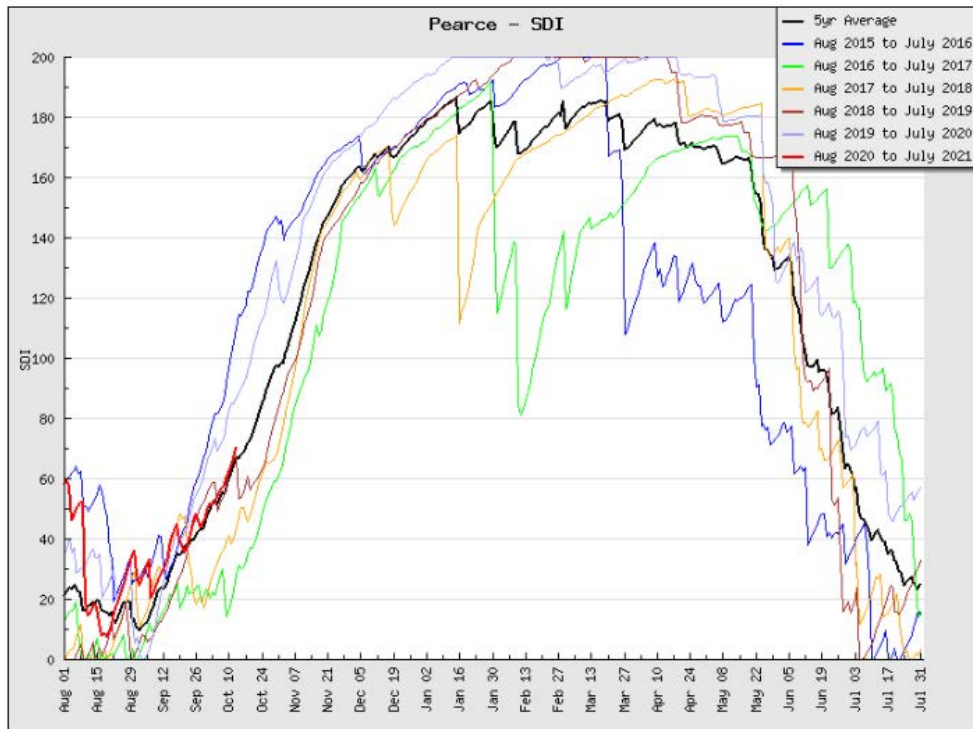
- Pearce – SDI 70, DF 6.2 (peaks at 10)
- Bickley – SDI 24, DF 6.1
- Badgingarra – SDI 96, DF 7.3

SDI – The Soil Dryness Index is a numerical value reflecting the moisture content of soils, forest litter, logs and living vegetation. The scale ranges from 0 when soils are saturated to 200 when soils and fuels are completely dry. This provides us with an indication of when and what fuels will burn. Below 50 only fine fuels will be dry enough to burn and larger fuels will not ignite due to the moisture they contain, making ideal conditions for Hazard Reduction Burning, above 100 all fuels including logs stumps, living vegetation and bark will be dry and available to burn, making for a



more intense fire with much greater chance of escape, spotting, reignition and requiring a much greater degree of black out to a much higher standard.

DF - The Drought Factor is also an indicator of fuels available to burn (0 to 10), calculated using the McArthur Forest Fire Danger Meter (Mark 5) using the number of days since rain and the rainfall amount at that time as inputs, The DF is an input in calculating the Forest Fire Danger Index (FFDI) Bush Fire Volunteers numbers are currently at 214 across the six brigades, actual regular turnout numbers are lower than this.



2020 Calendar Year Brigade	Personnel	Appliances, ICV, FSV		Total Incidents
		Light	Heavy	
Muchea VBFB	26	1	2.4R, 1.4R	26
Lower Chittering VBFB	51	2	3.4U	36
Upper Chittering VBFB	28	2	2.4R	38
Bindoon VBFB	39	1	2.4R, 3.4U	44
Wannamal VBFB	53	1	2.4B	12
Incident Support Brigade	17	1	ICV	1
Fire Support Vehicle		2		
Incident Support Trailer & collar tank		1		
Total	214	11	8	

Graham Furlong entered the room at 7:06PM

All Brigade Training Occurrences

- 29 August; Huw Davies Day, Lower Chittering
- 19 Sept; Comms testing and area familiarisation at the Army's Bindoon Training Area
- 31 Oct; Rural Urban Interface exercise in the Rosa Park area.

Appliances

- All appliances have been serviced including the deluge and crew protection systems, which will be serviced by the Shire prior to and following the fire season.
- Please note and be aware (Lower & Upper LTs); Light tanker firefighting petrol fuelled water pumps with new re sited fuel tanks fitted; Report of fuel leaking from petrol tank breather when the appliance is parked on a steep angle. This has been reported to DFES fleet for a solution. I will seek further advice on this issue and email Captains as soon as more information comes to hand.

Capital Works

- \$13,000 provided by the Shire for Upper VBFB Station relocation of green tank and installation of concrete pad, double standpipe and pump.

Mitigation burns progressed at:

- Heron Hill, Hart Drive, Chittering
- Dampiera Court, Lower Chittering
- Wannamal townsite UCL
- Bindoon-Dewars Pool Road 3km of road verge burning has commenced
- Shire strategic and reserve firebreaks have been sprayed and upgrade maintenance has commenced. Trees and branches will also be pruned back.

Aaron Cover stated that further correspondence has been had with contractors with regard to the Water Tank Project at Upper Chittering Fire Station.

5.2 Chief Executive Officer

Matthew Gilfellon stated that he had no report and had items for General Business.

5.3 Chittering Fire Services Training Coordinator

Scott Ormsby spoke to the following:

- We've transitioned from Intro to Firefighting (IFF) & Bushfire Firefighting (BFF) to the new Bushfire Safety Awareness & Bushfire Skills.
- Course run since last BFAC:
 - Bushfire Safety Awareness & Bushfire Skills x 2
 - FCO Refresher
 - Ground Controller
 - Structure Firefighting
 - Advanced Fire / Crew Leader
- Upcoming Course
 - First aid
 - WAERN

- Machinery Supervision
- Currently looking for members who may be interested in training and willing to apply for course TRK's

Peter Hall offered that he would be interested in speaking to Scott about helping out in this space.

5.4 Bushfire Risk Officer

Graham Furlong spoke to the following:

June – September

- Focus on Mitigation Activity Funding application which closed 29 September 2020.
- We have submitted 42 jobs (treatments) for consideration. This includes Chemical Works, Firebreak Construction, Mechanical Works and Prescribed Burning.
- We have spent 220 hours on Hazard Reduction Burns in Shire of Chittering reserves including Heron Hill and Dampiera Court during this period.
- All Strategic Fire Break Inspections by Shire of Chittering Fire Control Officers and Chemical Works complete, Overhang and Slashing started with mechanical work on drains and wash always to follow. If brigades find issues Graham requested that they send in information.

October – December

- Prescribed Burns as long as weather permits.
- Complete BAL Assessors training.
- Issue and monitor progress with permits as we encourage hazard reduction.
- Shire of Chittering firebreak inspections starting Friday, we expect to have 80% of work orders completed by 1 November 2020 so we can quickly move to infringements where needed.
- Attendance at the Shire of Chittering Community Forums with Bush Fire Brigades and deliver community resilience message.

Matthew Gilfellow provided information to the Committee about the Community forums being held by the Shire in different localities. Graham will be attending to inform and educate attendees about Bushfire Risk. There is an opportunity for members of brigades to attend also with their appliances and assist in education.

Johan requested information about the inspections of the water tanks and hydrants in the Shire and if this was up to brigades to complete these. Graham responded that it is good practice for brigades to inspect them and to familiarise themselves with these resources. Graham added that all issues with hydrants and tanks are being reported to Technical Services for remediation as they are uncovered.

Dave Wilson offered his congratulations to Graham Furlong on his efforts in submitting the Mitigation Activity Fund Grants Program 2020-21 Round 2 Application.

6. BRIGADE REPORTS

6.1 Bindoon

Peter Watterston spoke to the following:

Membership

Nil

Brigade incidents

- 18 since last CBFAC
 - Eight in July
 - One in August
 - Seven in September
 - Two so far in October

Brigade Training

- Huw Davies Day
- Army Camp
- Two weekly Friday training
- Skills refresher being completed by 1/11/20

Community Engagement

- Farmers Markets last month
 - May have a potential new member from that.

Critical information

- Our Santa lolly run and water pistol fight will be held 19 December. Peter offered to other brigades to sync with Bindoon Brigade to also hold their Lolly Run on this day.

6.2 Lower Chittering

Johan Rossouw spoke to the following:

Membership

Since the previous meeting we have applications from three new members with one onto our auxiliary and two who have also now completed the induction training and onto their probationary period.

We have one resignation Rebecca Hodge who has moved out of the area but also worth noting a couple who have dropped off turning out to fires but will join the Auxiliary Team.

Brigade incidents

Since last meeting the period June – September there were 15 turnouts.

- June - Five turn outs for 17 members totalling 89 hours most being private burns not registered and left unattended.
- July - Two turn outs for five members spending five hours on the fire ground.
- August - No turnouts
- September - Eight turn outs for 17 members totalling 71 hours once again private burns not registered, stand downs and false alarms

Brigade Training

Solid improvement with loosening of COVID-19 restrictions back up above 100 hours a month. This has been achieved with a focus on Drafting, Radio, Driving emergency vehicles and First Aid. We have maintained weekly vehicle and station maintenance and monthly VPower checks. Vehicle repairs and broad range of servicing appears to be much better under Bindoon Mechanical. Filled the seats for Huw Davies Day and Bindoon Army Camp exercise.

Community Engagement

Have completed several prescribed burns after planning them earlier in the year. These are mostly for elderly but also people with high risk properties. We have two further prescribed burn plans current and ready to do and six more requests to assist the community with burning. Our social media has been busy updating residents on restricted burning rules, permits and tips for clearing hazards around their property. We still need more volunteers to meet community needs.

Critical information

Has there been any progress with improved phone coverage therefore Wi-Fi in Lower Chittering as due to the removal of the pager network it is extremely critical to our Response?

Matt Gilfellow responded that the only new tower is the Bindoon tower and soon to be followed by the NBN Tower on Hereford Way in Lower Chittering (NBN only). David Wilson gave information about correspondence with Martin Aldridge on this issue and the potential issues it could cause for Emergency Services in the future. Matt provided further information about towers and funding available for blackspots. David Wilson also added that the blackspots located throughout the Shire of Chittering prevent members from getting call out messages

Carmel added about the potential of speaking with Christian Porter on this issue. Matt asked that any feedback about black spots be given to David Carroll.

6.3 Muchea

Shelly Pannell spoke to the following:

New members

Mark Berry

Members Resigned

Jo and Shane Johns

Brigade incidents

- Call-outs to Incidents within the Shire –
- Three in June. All false alarms.
- July – two callouts, including one false alarm.
- September – four callouts, including one “malicious alarm”.

Incidents out of Shire –

Nil

Reduction Burns

Four completed between July and September. We are using these opportunities to allow trainee Hazard Reduction Officers to plan and execute a burn under supervision.

Brigade training

- Fortnightly maintenance along with fortnightly training or reduction burning.
- Our members have also attended the Huw Davies exercise and the Communications/Familiarisation exercise at Bindoon Army Camp. Thanks given to David Carroll and Lower Chittering VBFB for organising.

Community engagement

Nil

Critical information

All Brigade Captains and Fire Control Officers please note that the Brand Highway as it runs from the Muchea traffic lights, past Muchea Station to where it bisects with the new underpass is called Granary Drive now.

6.4 Upper Chittering

Aaron Cover spoke to the following:

New members

One new member

Member resignations

Nil

Incidents

Upper Chittering station responded to 13 incidents since the last BFAC meeting on the 9 June 2020 -

- 490156 – Vehicle Fire – Great Northern Highway, Bindoon
- 490409 – TGS Fire – Humphreys St, Muchea – Stood Down
- 490660 – TGS Fire – Spice Rd, Bindoon – Stood Down
- 493529 – Report of Smoke – Bindoon Moora Rd, Mooliabeenee – Stood Down
- 494057 – TGS Fire – Great Northern Highway, Bindoon
- 494736 – TGS Fire – Muchea East Rd, Muchea
- 494938 – TGS Fire – GNHW, Muchea – Stood Down
- 495652 – TGS Fire – GNHW Lower Chittering – Stood Down
- 495911 – TGS Fire – Hart Dr, Chittering
- 496017 – TGS Fire – Bindoon Moora Rd, Mooliabeenee
- 497357 – Rubbish Fire – Patens Dr, Lower Chittering – Stood Down
 - Diverted to Gray Rd, Bindoon.
- 498346 – TGS Fire – Blue Plains Rd, Chittering

Training

- Training has recommenced under COVID-19 guidelines on the last Sunday of every month
- Annual refresher training has been run with the bulk of the first responder members
- 29 August - Huw Davies Day
- 19 September – Bindoon Army Camp

Critical information

Nil

Community engagement

19 September – Paul Arrowsmith memorial

6.5 Wannamal

Kim Haeusler spoke to the following:

New members

Five new members currently getting paperwork organised.

Members resigned

Nil

Brigade incidents

29 July 2020 - Linfox truck caught fire on Bindoon fire hill, attended with light tanker.

12 September 2020 - An Isuzu ute caught fire on Great Northern Highway near North Road. A number of members attended with the light tanker and farm units.

25 September 2020 - Escaped burn off on Bindoon Moora Road, Kim attended with light tanker.

Brigade training

- Two brigade members attended Huw Davies day at Lower Chittering. Many thanks to Lower Chittering brigade for hosting the event.
- Two brigade members attended the Comms training/ Familiarisation exercise at Bindoon training area. Feedback from one Wannamal brigade member, next year please organise for us to see a tank blow up.
- Brigade conducted a road verge burn on North Road as hazard reduction and training exercise. 17 members attended in brigade appliances and farm units

Community engagement

Nil

Critical Information

Nil

6.6 Chittering Incident Support

Peter Hall spoke to the following:

Current Membership Numbers

15

New Member

Laureen Aylward

Resigned Member

Raylene Groves

Attendance

Nil

Training

- 10 July 2020 – ICV Attended Binda Place, Bindoon - to conduct communications training for the area. 7 members participated in conjunction with the FSV.
- 25 July 2020 – ICV Attended the Wannamal Fire Stn – to conduct communications training for the area. Assisting on this day was the Wannamal Captain – Richard Rose – who showed our members through the Wannamal Station. Also, in attendance was Wannamal FCO Kim Haeusler in the Wannamal LT who was able to check various locations for Communication.
- Once again, the ISB has a very good turnout of 7 members. The FSV was also used on this training day.
- 21 August 2020 – ICV ATTENDED Santa Gertrudis Dve in Lower Chittering to conduct communications within the area. Lower Chittering LT1 was in attendance and a big thank you to Graham Furlong and the crew that assisted us on this day.
- The ISB had 6 members in attendance together with the FSV in support.
- 26 August 2020 – Two of our Lieutenants – Heather Salter and Paulette Embling – attended the DFES facility at Belmont – called the “Bunker”. This training was at the invitation of the Wanneroo ISB to further and improve our training, knowledge and co-operation at incidents.
- 29 August 2020 – ISB attended the Huw Davies Training Day at Lower chittering fire station. A terrific turn out by all of the Chittering Fire Services teams. A great learning experience was gained by all.
- ISB attendance at this event was 10 members.

General Meeting Of The Brigade held 12 September 2020.

- Peter Hall the Captain had leave for several weeks and Heather Salter and Paulette Embling were Acting Captain during this period.
- 19 September 2020 – Bindoon army camp training day – The ICV was in attendance together with 13 fire trucks from the chittering Fire Services. Radio communications checks on the Base were conducted via Channel 150 and channel 110.
- Also in attendance were the Captains of the other three Incident support brigades in the North and North East areas of the Perth Region. They were Wanneroo, Swan and Darling Range.
- Wanneroo ICV attended and worked in conjunction with the Chittering ICV to monitor and assess the quality of reception at the army base.
- A big thank you to the fire fighters from Chittering who did a terrific job on the day.

ISB Reunion Event

- Scheduled for 28 November 2020 at the Chinkabee complex. The brigade is honouring the past and current members who have put in enormous amounts of time over two decades to get the Brigade to where it is today.
- At this event in particular - we will honour several members with life membership and acknowledge Don and DJ Baum for their amazing initiative in setting up the incident support team way back in 1998.

Critical

When as the last time that the DFES manager for the area attended one of our BFAC meetings? I am offended and disappointed not to see either him or his representative attend our meetings. His continued absence does not go well for communication and developing a rapport with one another.

7. GENERAL BUSINESS

7.1 Setting of 2021 Committee Meeting Dates

In accordance with clause 1.12.3.11 Meetings in the “Council Committees and Advisory Group” booklet the Chittering Bushfire Advisory Committee are to determine the meeting dates for 2021.

The dates are to be discussed by Committee Members and agreed upon.

The dates that are suggested for 2021 are as follows:

- a. Tuesday 9 March
- b. Tuesday 7 June
- c. Tuesday 12 October

7.1 OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That:

1. *The Chittering Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting dates for 2021 are as follows:*
 - a. *Tuesday 9 March;*
 - b. *Tuesday 7 June; and*
 - c. *Tuesday 12 October.*
2. *The Chittering Bush Fire Advisory Committee meetings will be held in the Council Chambers, 6177 Great Northern Highway, Bindoon commencing at 7pm.*

David Carroll opened discussion with the Committee around the amount of meetings held a year. The Committee the dates, changes of dates, number of meetings and meetings coinciding with Annual General Meetings of brigades.

Shelly Pannell requested from Councillor Carmel Ross what information Council would like out of the meetings. Councillor Ross stated that most reports currently presented at the Chittering Bushfire Advisory Committee meetings were information only and occasionally lead to other discussions arising. Councillor Ross added that only significant issues arising from the Committee were considered at Council.

Councillor Ross went on to ask the Committee if they would lose anything by reducing the content or number of meetings held.

Matthew Gilfellow described how a Committee is structured with regard to the Local Government Act 1995 and Bush Fires Act 1954.

Councillor John Curtis added that the meetings held were important to inform Council in order for them to update their constituents.

The Committee then discussed the format of the meetings, content, deadlines and what the Terms of Reference are. Members agreed that the content of meetings need to be more strategic in future and align with the Terms of Reference.

Following discussion, the below recommendation was made:

7.1 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Moved Peter Hall / Seconded David Wilson

That:

- 1. The Chittering Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting dates for 2021 are as follows:
 - a. Tuesday 9 March;**
 - b. Tuesday 7 June; and**
 - c. Tuesday 12 October.****

- 2. The Chittering Bush Fire Advisory Committee meetings will be held in the Council Chambers, 6177 Great Northern Highway, Bindoon commencing at 7pm.**

- 3. The agenda of the meetings will no longer include operational information, but will focus on strategic issues. Agenda items must be submitted one fortnight in advance.**

- 4. A minimum of two meetings will be held each year – one in March following the season and one in October before the season**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7.2 Other General Business

Aaron Cover detailed the two incidents that were determined to be illegal burns on the previous weekend. Aaron stated that if the brigade had been delayed five to ten minutes, it would have been detrimental due to the severity of the fire. Aaron described what was witnessed when he attended the property and his discussion with the owner. Aaron suggested that a sign on Great Northern Highway would be useful for the advertising of Fire Danger Ratings, Permits and other related messages. This would be especially useful for new residents and visiting members of the public. The two owners that were responsible for the illegal burning were absentee owners. One of these owners had accessed the DFES website to obtain information.

Peter Watterston requested as to whether there was confusion with the information on the DFES website. Aaron responded that this had some contribution to the incident.

Scott Ormsby asked David Carroll as to whether there has been any consideration to other signage in the Shire. David Carroll confirmed that it had. David Wilson stated that this has been an issue for a long time. David added that although there are chalkboards around the Shire that are utilised by the fire brigades they mostly went unseen due to their locations.

Will Lee added that at the truck stops in Shire there have been fires lit by people visiting the area.

Discussion was held over the type of burning permitted in the Shire in the restricted burning time and the location of the proposed sign.

7.2 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Moved Aaron Cover / Seconded Peter Hall

That Council purchase and place an electronic sign on Great Northern Highway (near Wandena Road) to notify the public of Fire Danger Ratings in preparation for the 2020/21 Fire Season.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Aaron additionally stated that he believed that permits for recreational use should not be issued and that in his capacity as a Fire Control Officer will not issue permits for this purpose. Aaron stated that he believed that burning is a high risk activity and does not agree that these types of permits should be issued. David Wilson concurred with Aaron Cover stating that burning is for fuel and hazard reduction. David Carroll stated that dealing with members of the public wanting a permit for this purpose could be an opportunity for education.

Discussion was held by the Committee over recreational, camping and cooking fires. David Wilson added that at a recent conference that the Shire of Chittering was mentioned as potentially being a high risk. David Wilson stated that he supports Aaron in his proposal to not issue permits for recreational use.

David Carroll responded that these types of requests can be referred to the Shire Fire Control Officers. Matthew Gilfellon stated that if this type of permit was not acceptable to the Chittering Fire Service, that a stance against this should be made by all parties including Shire employed Fire Control Officers. This would be an opportunity to educate the public that fire and permits to burn were for mitigation purposes only.

Peter Watterston requested as to whether it can be made known to residents and ratepayers that the restricted burning time was made to start on 1 October due to a DFES directive. Peter stated that this would prevent complaints being directed to David Carroll. Peter stated that this feedback was from members attending public meetings. David Carroll stated that he had not received any complaints and that residents have had all winter to burn and reduce fuel.

Peter requested if the fuel cards inside the appliances have the same PIN for use at fuel stations. This could prevent issues if a member from one brigade fills another brigade's truck. Peter asked that if they are not the same across all cards issued to brigades, if they could be made consistent.

ACTION:

David Carroll to follow up with Technical Services as to whether this can be done.

David Wilson requested more information on the repeater from DFES. David Carroll stated that he has not had any correspondence to update.

Matthew Gilfellon provided information about attendance at illegal burns and the Shire's position on this issue. The Shire's position is to fine people if they have committed an offence and the body of evidence provided is sufficient to support the claim.

Matthew discussed some scenarios that have occurred in the past and what action could and couldn't be taken.

ACTION:

Jodie to email documents (Illegal Fire Statement and Process Map) circulated at meeting to all Fire Control Officers.

David Carroll spoke to the following:

- Muceha BP, Muceha General Store and Chittering Road House have been informed of the coming fire season and are prepared for the potential of large meal orders at odd hours.
- Thank you to those who provided feedback for the Firebreak notice, permit to burn and Local Law reviews
- Thanks to Lower Chittering VBFB for hosting the very successful Huw Davies Day.
- Thanks to the Councillors and Matthew for hosting the CARE lunch after the Bindoon, Army Training Range day, special thanks to Michelle Nagel and Lynette Prendergast for their efforts organising the event and preparing the food for all of us to enjoy.
- Thanks to Jodie for doing the minutes and administration for the Chittering Fire Services.
- Thanks to Scott for his work as the Chittering Fire Services Training Coordinator and the great job he did as Fire Control Officer over the last fire season
- Thanks and appreciation from the Shire of Chittering and DFES to Will, Aaron and the Upper Chittering VBFB for providing ongoing support to Dawn and the Arrowsmith family following the loss of Paul Arrowsmith.
- Thanks to everyone for volunteering their time and efforts to support the Shire of Chittering Community.



8. NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, 9 March 2021, at 7pm in Council Chambers.

9. CLOSURE

The Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 8:48pm