



## BUSHFIRE BRIGADE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AGENDA FOR THE SHIRE OF MINGENEW BUSHFIRE BRIGADES' ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
TO BE HELD AT THE SHIRE CHAMBERS ON 25 MARCH 2019 COMMENCING AT 6PM.

### 1.0 DECLARATION OF OPENING

The meeting was declared open at 6.10pm

### 2.0 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES ATTENDEES

Cr Robert Newton – Shire of Mingenew  
Nils Hay – Shire of Mingenew  
Jeremy Clapham – Shire of Mingenew  
Vicki Booth – DFES  
Neal Boonzaaier – Mingenew Police  
Michael Krizanek – Mingenew Police  
Murray Thomas  
Jon Holmes  
Jared Heitman  
Alex Pearse  
Nick Duane  
Ben McTaggart  
Phil Soullier  
Bernie Soullier  
Anthony Smyth  
Bob Bolton  
Ben Cobley  
Rocky Brennan

#### APOLOGIES

To be confirmed

Cr Justin Bagley  
Tim Dempster  
Noel Page  
Jamie McTaggart  
Daniel Michael  
Jarrod Kupsch  
Trevor Anderson

### 3.0 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

3.1 BUSHFIRE BRIGADES' MEETING HELD 02 OCTOBER 2018

**BRIGADES' DECISION – ITEM 3.1**

Moved: Alex Pearse

Seconded: Anthony Smyth

That the minutes of the Bushfire Brigades' Annual General Meeting of the Shire of Mingenew held 02 October 2018 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

VOTING DETAILS: Carried unanimously

**4.0 OFFICERS REPORTS**

**4.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Report- Murray Thomas**

- Overview of the 2018/19 Fire Season
  - Large fuel load as a result of a good season
  - Few fires, and those which arose were put out fast
  - Two pole-top fires (Holmes' and Elsegood's)
  - One lightning strike (Smart's)
  - Two fires on 23 March as a result of blown embers (on Cobley's and Mingenew Football Club) taking out approximately 5ha and 10ha respectively
- Volunteer numbers have been strong
- Gazetted change in Shires Restricted Burning Times- now changed from the 17<sup>th</sup> September to the 1<sup>st</sup> October. All other timeframes remain the same (Prohibited- 1 November-31 January, Restricted 1 October-31 October and 1 February to 15 March, open season 16 March- 30 September). This means that the CBFCO can now shorten or lengthen that new restricted date by 14 days depending on seasonal conditions (so restricted timeframe can potentially be pushed out to 17 September-31 October or shortened to 14 October-31 October).
- Attended recent DOAC meeting in Carnamah

**4.2 Captains Reports-**

All Captains to remark on level of training of its volunteers and any identified gaps in training and training requirements

4.2.1 Yandanooka

Echo BFCO comments

4.2.2 Lockier

Echo BFCO comments; responded to fire at Smart's

4.2.3 Guranu

Echo BFCO comments

4.2.4 Mingenew North

Echo BFCO comments; was not called upon much during season

4.2.5 Mingenew Town

Member numbers are still good; responded to a small grass fire started by the motorcycle crash on 17 March 2019

**4.3 Shire Chief Executive Officer Report**

- 2017/18 Operating Grant has been fully expended and acquitted.
- ESL Grants- Have missed out in submission period for this Applications for Capital Expenditure Grant close 30/03/19, however applications needed to be accompanied by quotations and endorsed by the Regional Superintendent prior to with the Shire not submitting an application.

## MINGENEW BUSHFIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA – 25 March 2019

- Schedule for meetings now changed, with the AGM in March and then a later planning meeting during the course of the year so we do not miss opportunities for capital grant funding.
  - Discussion held around shed extension; noting that the land is believed to belong to one of the churches and is provided with a peppercorn rental agreement
- Shire has been approved for a replacement Rapid Response Vehicle/Light Tanker this year- will be received in 2020.
  - Request to investigate ability to put current vehicle up for tender
  - Request to investigate ability to service current vehicles on-site, rather than having them sent away
- Have received \$ from DFES for operational expenditure over the next year – general discussion to be had about equipment supply levels, new equipment requirements and expenditure of the grant.
  - Requests for:
    - Improved lighting on firetruck
    - Firebugs
    - Hose nozzles
    - 40-channel in truck
    - Chainsaw (although this is not eligible under ESL funding)
- Nominations for Chief and Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for the 2018/19 fire season- appointment information will be sent out via the rates notices.
- Controlled burning discussion with DPAW for reserves.
  - Agreement that some slashing in/around Depot Hill (rather than burning) would be desirable.
  - Discussion around firebreaks in/around the Water Corporation infrastructure, reserves south of the Golf Course and around the rubbish tip
- Volunteer Numbers- would the brigades like to hold an open/information day for recruitment- Shire can do advertising / bbq?? Suitable date?
  - Numbers good; this is not currently required
- SJA First Aid Training for the BFB on 18 May 2019- covered by ESL so no cost. Need approximate numbers.
  - Discussion held around dates – with view to moving it to sometime between late July and September, depending upon season

### 4.4 DFES A/Area Officer for Midwest Gascoyne- Vikki Booth

- It was a quiet season
- Reminder to take care as we are now in an unrestricted burning period
- Thanks to brigades and volunteers for their hard work
- Current contract likely to be extended to end of 2019
- Reminder that when a Total Fire Ban is called, a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban must be put in place for the entire Shire when the FDI reaches 35

## 5.0 ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE 2018/19 FIRE SEASON

### 5.1 Election of Captain and Deputy Captain for Shire of Mingenew Brigades'

#### BRIGADES' DECISION – ITEM 5.1

Moved: Ben Coble

Seconded: Alex Pearse



Midlands/Mingenew-Mullewa Road was raised, as was utilising the Brigade areas; although there were concerns that the latter may not be clear enough to residents.

Ultimately, the matter was left as it was the prevailing view that there were relatively few harvest and vehicle movement bans and – with the advent of the text message service – the upside of being able to selectively declare bans over portions of the Shire was relatively small.

#### 7.1.2 Cross Border Cooperation – give out any updated UHF radio details, maps etc.

Everyone was provided information regarding access to this information.

#### 7.1.3 Messaging Services

Discussion was held regarding messaging brigade members to notify them of attendance at fires, including the merits of systems like Swift Works. Support was given to WhatsApp as a platform, potentially with each Captain having access to a messaging list for each brigade.

Concerns regarding long message chains and the potential for notifications to turn into long conversations (and be utilised for means other than simply alerting people to fires) were also discussed.

#### 7.1.4 Road Closures and Access

Vicki Booth from DFES discussed road closures/partial road closures and the need for vehicles to be appropriately authorised to enter closed road areas for fire-fighting purposes. There is a sticker/permit system which the Shire should administer. It was agreed that the Shire would investigate further and obtain the relevant Vehicle Identification stickers.

#### 7.1.5 Block Clearing

The untidy blocks in the townsite were discussed, with a view to ensuring that they are better maintained and that owners are both made aware of their obligations and – where appropriate – penalised for failure to appropriately maintain their lots.

#### 7.1.6 Community Water Tanks

It was suggested that a community water tank (or series of tanks) be investigated to assist with fire-fighting operations. The Mingenew Airstrip was raised as one site which would benefit from this infrastructure (potentially a bore and tank of 240,000L or more). It may be advantageous to speak to DCBA (Parks and Wildlife) about whether they would ever station a water bomber in Mingenew – as this would provide additional support to a funding application.

As an aside to this conversation, it was also requested that the Shire investigate the potential of access Scheme water tanks for fire-fighting purposes.

#### **BRIGADES' DECISION – ITEM 7.1.6**

**Moved: Ben Coble**

**Seconded: Bob Bolton**

**The Brigades request that the Shire of Mingenew investigate the installation of improved water infrastructure, such as a bore and water tank, to assist with firefighting at the Mingenew Airstrip.**

**VOTING DETAILS: Carried unanimously**

7.1.7 Cel-Fi Purchase with ESL Funding

As the Cel-Fi units are not hands-free or messaging devices, but aerial boosters which assist with fireground communications and improve volunteer safety, it was requested that the Shire – with support from Vicki Booth – make contact again with DFES to seek inclusion of last year's Cel-Fi purchase in their ESL acquittal.

**BRIGADES' DECISION – ITEM 7.1.7**

Moved: Ben Cobby

Seconded: Anthony Smyth

The Brigades request that the Shire of Mingenew, with support from Acting Area Officer Vicki Booth, request that previous Cel-Fi purchases with ESL funds be granted eligibility due to their impact on improving fireground communications and volunteer safety.

VOTING DETAILS: Carried unanimously

7.1.8 Volunteer Training

The Volunteer Training calendar was shared, and all were encouraged to consider courses which could be of value. The 'Bushfire 101' course was discussed as a good entry point for new workmen/staff on farms so that they become familiar with bushfire fighting operations should they ever be required to participate.

**8.0 TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Next Bush Fire Brigades' Meeting to be held on Monday 14 October 2019 commencing at 6.00 pm.

**9.0 CLOSURE**

The meeting was closed at 8.00pm