



# BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

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## Minutes

Tuesday 24 March 2020

**MEETING CONDUCTED VIA EMAIL DUE TO  
COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS**

## 1. DECLARATION OF OPENING

## 2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

**Apologies**  
**Grant Hansen**

## 3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES –

The minutes of the Shire of Corrigin Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting held on 10 October 2019 were not confirmed due to the cancellation of the in person meeting and will be confirmed at the next meeting.

## 4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

NIL

## 5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

**Recommendations 1-8 accepted by email correspondence.**

### ***Recommendation 1***

***Moved           Seconded***

*That Greg Evans be appointed Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for 2020/21.*

### ***Recommendation 2***

***Moved           Seconded***

*That Andrew Szczecinski be appointed Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for 2020/21.*

### ***Recommendation 3***

***Moved           Seconded***

*That Steven Bolt be appointed Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for 2020/21.*

### **Fire Control Officers**

#### ***Recommendation 4***

***Moved           Seconded***

*That the following people be appointed as Bush Fire Control Officers for 2020/21:*

#### **Bilbarin Brigade**

Sandow Jacobs	PO Box 37, Corrigin	9065 2042	0427 652 042
Bruce Mills	Post Office, Corrigin	9062 9012	0428 956 779
Steven Bolt	PO Box 226, Corrigin	9065 2043	0427 652 043
Paul McBeath	PO Box 87, Corrigin	9062 9024	0427 629 024

#### **Bullaring Brigade**

Andrew Szczecinski	PO Box 124, Corrigin	9065 7014	0429 657 014
Greg Evans	Post Office, Bullaring	9065 7021	0429 657 021
Greg Doyle	PO Box 109, Corrigin	9880 9048	0427 809 044
Craig Jespersen	PO Box 18, Yealering	9888 7075	0427 887 075
Bryce Nicholls	PO Box 71, Corrigin	9063 7014	0429 883 799

#### **Bulyee/Kunjin Brigade**

Ray Hathaway	PO Box 90, Brookton	9642 7045	0488 138 904
Tony Guinness	PO Box 35, Corrigin	9065 7079	0429 657 004
John Hewett	PO Box 239, Corrigin	9063 2480	0427 632 480
Braden Grylls	PO Box 115, Corrigin	9065 8006	0428 658 048

### **Corrigin East Brigade**

Tim George	PO Box 159, Corrigin	9065 5045	0427 655 045
Kim Courboules	PO Box 79, Corrigin		0427 632 624
Bruce Talbot	PO Box 75, Corrigin	9063 2132	0427 632 224

### **Central Brigade**

Garrick Connelly	PO Box 26, Corrigin	9063 2956	0488 632 107
Adam Rendell	PO Box 200, Corrigin	9063 2291	0427 632 291
Natalie Manton	PO Box 221, Corrigin	9063 2203	0427 425 727

### **Fire Weather Officers**

#### ***Recommendation 5***

***Moved            Seconded***

*That the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer, the two Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officers and Sandow Jacobs be appointed as Fire Weather Officers for 2020/21.*

### **Harvest Ban Officers**

#### ***Recommendation 6***

***Moved            Seconded***

*That Council appoint Natalie Manton, Adam Rendell, Garrick Connelly (if Adam Rendell unavailable), Sandow Jacobs, Steven Bolt (if Sandow Jacobs unavailable), Paul Baker, Andrew Szczecinski (if Paul Baker unavailable), Ray Hathaway, Braden Grylls (if Ray Hathaway is unavailable) as authorised Harvest Ban Officers for 2020/21.*

### **Training Officer**

#### ***Recommendation 7***

***Moved            Seconded***

*That that Greg Evans be appointed as training Officer for 2020/21.*

### **Dual Fire Control Officers**

#### ***Recommendation 8***

***Moved            Seconded***

*That the following people be appointed as Dual Fire Control Officers for 2020/21:*

### **Dual Fire Control Officers**

Quairading Shire	Bruce Mills, Ray Hathaway
Wickepin Shire	Craig Jespersen, Greg Doyle
Bruce Rock Shire	Sandow Jacobs, Tim George
Narembeen Shire	Tim George
Kondinin Shire	Bruce Talbot, Tim George
Kulin Shire	Greg Doyle, Bryce Nicholls
Pingelly Shire	Greg Evans, Braden Grylls
Brookton Shire	Ray Hathaway, Braden Grylls

*Note: Bruce Rock does not appoint Dual Fire Control Officers. The Shire of Corrigin Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC) considers it appropriate to continue to recommend to Council that Dual Fire Control Officers be appointed to all neighbouring local governments.*

## 6. GENERAL BUSINESS

### 1. Fire Reports

The Shire of Corrigin experienced a relatively quiet bush fire season this year with only three fires (based on the number of reports received back from BFCO's). The very hot and dry weather conditions, combined with numerous Total Fire Ban days, proved challenging for our Wheatbelt neighbours who experienced some large fires. Thank you to our volunteer fire fighters who assisted the Shire of Kondinin with large fires in Kondinin and Forestania during December 2019.

Bulyee fires debrief was held on 20 Feb 2020.

### 2. Corrigin Bush Fire Brigade Policies and Procedures

Would we like to develop something like Quairading has developed?  
This could be worked on in the coming months and hopefully presented at the October meeting.

### 3. Delegated Authority

Road closures handout from DFES  
Bush fire control officers have the delegated power to close a road but must ensure it is safe and seek permission from Main Roads before opening the road.

Communication is important, especially if the road is impacted by heavy smoke and when operating between shires.

### 4. Fuel Cards

Volunteer fuel cards for the 2019/2020 financial year have been available at the Great Southern Fuels Corrigin Office since 31 October 2019.

Each Bushfire Control Officer's allocation is as follows. This allocation has changed due to the amalgamation of the Bulyee and Kunjin brigades.

#### **Bushfire Control Officers -2019/2020 Volunteer Fuel Card Distribution List**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Greg Evans	\$ 950.00
Andrew Szczecinski	\$ 450.00
Steven Bolt	\$ 450.00
Sadow Jacobs	\$ 210.00
Bruce Mills	\$ 210.00
Paul McBeath	\$ 210.00
Greg Doyle	\$ 210.00
Craig Jespersen	\$ 210.00
Bryce Nicholls	\$ 210.00
Ray Hathaway	\$ 210.00
Tony Guinness	\$ 210.00
John Hewett	\$ 210.00
Braden Grylls	\$ 210.00

Tim George	\$	210.00
Kim Courboules	\$	210.00
Bruce Talbot	\$	210.00
Garrick Connelly	\$	210.00
Adam Rendell	\$	210.00
		<hr/>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>
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The preferences for collection are as follows:

1. Bulk pick up using personal fuel trailer/jerry cans/vehicles/boats
2. As part of a bulk delivery – please note that Great Southern Fuels will not be offering special deliveries for the allocated amount as it's not financially viable for them for such a small amount
3. Bulk drop – Great Southern Fuels are willing to do a 'drop' to the most central farm in each brigade where BFCO's can meet and collect their allocated amount. This is to cater for those BFCO's that do not have road worthy/licenced fuel trailers to collect their allocated amount in Corrigin. This will need to be pre-arranged.

The fuels cards will expire in June 2020 so if you haven't already, please try to collect your allocation as soon as possible.

**5. Firebreak Order 2020/2021**

Please review the firebreak order for 2020/21 and notify Kirsten Biglin [eso@corrigin.wa.gov.au](mailto:eso@corrigin.wa.gov.au) of any required changes.

**6. Fire Brigade Lists**

Fire brigade membership lists and contact details were reviewed and notify Kirsten Biglin [eso@corrigin.wa.gov.au](mailto:eso@corrigin.wa.gov.au) of any required changes.

**7. Bush Fire Radios**

Some radios were serviced by P K Technology in November 2019 to fix problems identified during the November call up.

The following bush fire control officers were having trouble with their radios during the call up test:

- Greg Evans
- Paul McBeth
- Craig Jespersion
- Bryce Nicholls
- Tim George – Receives but couldn't transmit. This one is the most urgent.
- Ray Hathaway
- Adam Rendell – transfer to new vehicle
- Shire office - Need to change from the green WAERN to the yellow WAERN
- Garrick Connelly – installation required
- Tony Guinness

The remaining radios to be serviced in April 2020.

Stocktake of bush fire radios within the shire. Please refer to the attached report and notify Kirsten Biglin [eso@corrigin.wa.gov.au](mailto:eso@corrigin.wa.gov.au) if any details need updating.

## **8. Training**

It is pleasing to see that 52 new members have joined brigades in the Shire of Corrigin in the past three years. Many of these new members have not had any training and it is important that they are as prepared for the task of firefighting as possible to be an effective fire fighter and ensure their own safety.

## **9. Burning Permits**

For early permits please tick box on permit requiring landholder to notify shire on the day they are burning. This is very helpful when we receive calls from members of the public asking if help is required at a fire.

## **10. Text Messages**

Shire staff will continue to maintain the Telstra SMS messaging service and have been encouraging SMS recipients to opt out if the service is no longer required.

Brigades may wish to set up their own What's App messaging groups but this will not be maintained by the Shire.

## **11. Bush Fire Brigade Insurance**

As we head into autumn it is a good time to reflect on how prepared we are for the bush fire season and check our emergency plans are up to date. While the Shire of Corrigin takes a leading role in emergency management planning and response, we rely on the invaluable support provided by our volunteer bush fire brigade members. These committed volunteers turn out at a moments notice and are often required to work in high risk environments to protect our community assets and private property.

The Shire of Corrigin recognises the vital service provided by our volunteer bush fire brigades and takes out comprehensive insurance to protect volunteer bush fire brigade members who are fighting fires under the direction of the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer.

### **What's covered?**

#### **Personal Injury Protection**

Applies when a volunteer firefighter (or anyone acting under the control of the local government's Bushfire Control Officer) suffers an injury caused by undertaking normal brigade activities. The entitlements mirror the Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act (1981) and follow the prescribed amounts as gazetted by WorkCover WA every year. In the event that a volunteer is injured, priority should be given to seeking medical treatment. Once the volunteer or their representatives are able to, they can lodge a personal injury claim with the Shire, which is then forward to our insurer, LGIS, for processing.

#### **Motor Vehicle and Plant Damage**

Insurance protection applies when there is loss or damage to appliances, equipment and apparatus owned by a bushfire brigade or privately owned.

### **Personal Property**

Volunteers who are members of a local brigade may sustain accidental damage to or loss of their personal property whilst they are actively engaged in duties designated to them and deemed “normal brigade activities”. Personal property is generally considered to be clothing and items normally worn or carried on or kept with the person. This includes items such as glasses and mobile phones which can be lost or damaged whilst the volunteer is performing their duties. The Shire of Corrigin insurer will consider claims for personal property under these terms and should loss or damage occur volunteers should report the matter to their supervisor, CEO or Bushfire Control Officer for advice around submitting a claim to LGIS.

### **Third Party Liability**

Whilst conducting activities during fire control and fire control management practices there may be instances where volunteers need to act decisively in order to reduce or mitigate risk of the spread of fire. As a result there may be occasions where damage to property or injury to third parties could occur and a volunteer may be considered personally responsible.

There are immunities under relevant and appropriate legislation available and the Shire of Corrigin insurance will also provide cover for volunteers who are acting in accordance with the duties assigned to them and in accordance with the Bush Fires Act 1954 (as amended). Should any volunteer be made aware of any likely action against them personally, they should report the matter to their supervisor, CEO or Bushfire Control Officer regarding any claims.

To ensure our volunteer fire fighters are covered by the Shire of Corrigin bush fire insurance they must be:

- Register as a member of a bush fire brigade,
- Be over 16 years of age,
- Acting under the direction of a Bush Fire Control Officer.

## **12. Water Supplies for Fire Fighting**

Water Corporation have issued the following reminder that people cannot rely on public water supplies in the event of a fire:

*While we make every effort to maintain supply, loss of electricity may cause pumps that transfer water to our storage tanks to fail and we may not be able to respond to system failures in areas that are deemed by DFES or Western Power to be unsafe for our crews to enter. For those residents who choose to stay and defend their homes, it's imperative that they have an independent water supply as well as their own pumping capability.*

### ***Scheme water cannot be guaranteed during a bushfire***

*Water Corporation is prepared for bushfire season. However, we cannot guarantee that water pressure or water supply will be maintained in the event of a bushfire. Extreme demand, fire damage and power cuts can all result in a total loss of water.*

*If you plan to stay and defend your property during a bushfire, you must have your own independent water supply and pumping capability, and must not rely on scheme water.*

*Full details about how to prepare for the bushfire season can be found at [firechat.wa.gov.au](https://www.firechat.wa.gov.au)*

**7. OTHER BUSINESS**

**8. MEETING CLOSURE**