



# Shire of Tammin

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## *Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes*

30<sup>th</sup> September 2024

# Notice of Meeting

30/09/2024

Dear Members,

The Tammin Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting was held at the Shire of Tammin, Sports Grounds on Monday 30th September 2024 commencing at 5pm.

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## Disclaimer

Members of the public should note that in any discussion regarding any planning or other application that any statement or intimation of approval made by any member or officer of the Shire of Tammin during the course of any meeting is not intended to be and is not to be taken as notice of approval from the Shire of Tammin. No action should be taken on any item discussed at a Council meeting prior to written advice on the resolution of the Council being received.

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## SHIRE OF TAMMIN

### ITEM 1 OPENING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the Meeting and declared the Meeting open at 5:10 pm.

### ITEM 2 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

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#### **2.1 Members**

Nick Caffell – DCBFCO  
David Thomson – FCO  
Gavin Charlton – CBFCO  
Don Thomson  
Char Thomson  
Brad Jones – FCO  
Laurie Shan  
Clinton Nicholls  
Tanya Nicholls  
Dustin McCrery  
Corey Dixon  
Steele Anderson  
Geoff Christison  
Graham Dixon  
Oscar York  
Tim York – FCO  
Steve Dyer  
Toby Cundy  
Terry Walker  
Tyler Caffell  
Narelle Caffell  
Richard Daniels  
Ben Davies – FCO/CESM

#### **2.2 Administration**

Not in Attendance

#### **2.3 Observers / Visitors**

Nil

#### **2.4 Apologies**

Chris Tompson  
Mick Packham  
Luke Button

### ITEM 3 DEPUTATIONS / PRESENTATIONS / SUBMISSIONS

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Pre-season Briefing Note Attached to Agenda.- CESM

## ITEM 4      CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING

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### 4.1      **Confirmation of Minutes – 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 (Copy Attached)**

MOVED Nick Caffell

SECONDED Corey Dixon

That the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting Held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that Meeting.

**CARRIED**

### 4.2      **Business Arising**

Weather Station – Question raised regarding weather stations, Shire is working to get grant funding for a weather station, no funding available yet.

Appliance for BFB was brought up – LGGS is where the funding comes from, we have submitted applications the last few years, to no avail, we will keep trying. A smaller tanker was asked about, We have been trying to get a small tanker as it is cheaper and more likely to be approved.

## ITEM 5      REPORTS

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### 5.1      **CBFCO Report**

Early Season Start, was a good attendance to fires started by storms. Yorky Rock reserve was well attended, thanks to everyone who assisted. Parks and Wildlife assisted as well as it was their fire. Thanks to the shire for assisting with food for breakfast etc. Would be good to have a truck to help with mop up and to hang around.

### 5.2      **DCBFCO Report**

Nothing to Add.

Had a Shire Meet at WALGA, WAERN Radios, do we have any in Tammin? – CESM Answered yes, there is one in the Shire and 2 in FCO vehicles. Tammin uses UHF so they do not get used. If Ground controller training is completed, we can organise more WAERN Radios.

### 5.3      **CESM Report**

- Thank you for everyone's efforts last year.
- Training – 36 out of 45 members have been trained, CESM to provide competency report
- Ground Controller training to be conducted on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October at 4pm in Quariading (4 hours, Dinner Provided) , this training allows for water bombers to be used when CESM is unavailable.
- Basic training can now be done online. Link on Whats App
- FCO course to run 3<sup>rd</sup> of October in Cunderdin Rec Centre 0830-1600
- FCO Preseason Briefing Notes Attached to this Agenda.
- Fire Protective Clothing/PPC has been restocked, Please ensure Farm Response and Brigades are wearing PPE/C at fires. Those that don't have PPE/C can get them from the Shire office or contact CESM.
- Grain Harvest Waterbombers are going to continue this year due to all the positive feedback. This will start on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November in Cunderdin. If you require Air Support, Please contact CESM or RDC to mobilise if required.

- Ground Controller Course in Quairading, This is a vital role to be able to utilise Waterbombers and Aircraft at incidents. Without a ground controller, we will not get water bombers. Currently the CESM is the only qualified person. If the CESM is at another incident or away, Water bombers will not be able to operate. The Ground Controller course is 4 hours and is mainly a practical course with a Theory Based component as well. Anyone happy to complete this training please let CESM know so we can schedule a course or book in the Quairading Course, FCOs should complete this course.
- Foam Hotspots are now available, this would work great for Farm Response vehicles wanting to use foam. Ratio is 100ml to 1000l for 1% Foam mix.
- Looking at funding a kit for the CBFCO, including Defibrator, a Burns and Trauma Kits.
- Please ensure you are wearing PPE/C at all fires and please don't work on the back of Utes. Work from the cab as it's the safest option.
- Please ensure you have a fire unit with a UHF radio in it. Channel 5 will be the designated channel as usual.
- 2" Camlock (Male) is standard for tanks, and All Farm Fire units should have coupling for this.
- Please ensure you are calling 000 as soon as possible to get help on the road.
- Please push information up on the whats app, ie fire size, location, property at risk, fuel type. So we can made decisions early such as air support/additional resources.
- Thanks again to everyone's dedication, time and effort, please stay safe and have a good harvest and season.

#### **5.4 FCO's Reports**

Nil

#### **5.5 Shire Councillor / Staff Report(s)**

Not in attendance.

#### **5.6 DFES Report**

Not in attendance.

### **ITEM 6 CORRESPONDENCE**

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#### **6.1 Inward**

No Correspondence has been received.

#### **6.2 Outgoing**

The Shire sent a Letter to DFES requesting a second hand or stand-by appliance for BFB  
No response as yet.

Submission to LGGS for Station and Appliance – Rejected

## ITEM 7 ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

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As per the 2020 BFAC Meeting, all those nominated for positions will hold them for a period of 2 years.

As per 2022 Meeting, CBFCO and DCBFCO will be rotated this year.

### **7.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer**

Mr Gavin Charlton stood down from the CBFCO Position.

Nick Caffell was voted in as Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and will hold the position until September 2026.

Nominated by David Thompson, Seconded by Dustin McCrery  
Elected Unopposed.

### **7.2 Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer**

Mr Nick Caffell stood down from the DCBFCO Position.

Brad Jones was voted in as Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and will hold the position until September 2026.

Nominated by Gavin Charlton, Seconded by Steele Anderson  
Elected Unopposed.

### **7.3 Fire Control Officers**

Current FCO's: -

Mr D Thomson, Mr G Charlton, Mr H Dixon, Mr T York, Mr N Caffell (CBFCO), Mr B Jones (DCBFCO), and Mr B Davies (CESM)

FCO Elected this meeting:

Corey Dixon – Nominated Nick Caffell, Seconded Brad Jones

Lewis York – Nominated Tim York, Seconded Gavin Charlton

All FCO's

Mr D Thomson, Mr G Charlton, Mr H Dixon, Mr T York, Mr C Dixon, Mr L York, Mr N Caffell (CBFCO), Mr B Jones (DCBFCO), and Mr B Davies (CESM)

## ITEM 8 DISCUSSION POINTS

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### **8.1 Pre-Season Synopsis**

Fuel loading is high, Fuels will also be dry due to the late rain, be prepared for fires to run hard if one starts.

Weather Outlook Document Attached.

### **8.2 Restricted Burning Period/Prohibited Burning Period (RBT/PBT)**

Listed for discussion on current Restricted and Prohibited Burning times for the 2024/25 firebreak notice.

Restricted Burning Period:

15<sup>th</sup> October 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024

Prohibited Burning Period:

1<sup>st</sup> November 2024 to 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Restricted Burning Period:

15<sup>th</sup> February 2025 to 15<sup>th</sup> March 2025

The above dates can be modified by up to a maximum of 14 days as required should seasonal conditions warrant.

Dates Confirmed.

### **8.3 Burning Restrictions**

#### **7.3.1 Prohibited Burning Easter Period**

Recommendation for the Prohibition of burning during the Easter weekend.

- Good Friday – 15<sup>th</sup> April
- Easter Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April
- Easter Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April

#### **7.3.2 Prohibited Burning before 12pm, 25<sup>th</sup> April**

Recommendation for the Prohibition of burning between the hours of 12:00am (midnight) and 12:00pm (midday) while ANZAC day ceremonies are taking place.

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## **ITEM 8 FURTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

Bungulla North Property – Consistently starting Fire, Shire to complete firebreaks, once property owner neglects to adhere to fire break notice.

Tanks and Water points brought up, Map available, will be sent out – Please ensure personal tanks have a 2" Male Camlock.

Shire to develop and distribute a map with water points on it.

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## **ITEM 9 NEXT MEETING DATE**

Date to be decided closer to the Meeting, Meeting to be held in April 2025

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## **ITEM 10 CLOSURE**

There being no further business, the Chairperson closed the Meeting at 5:51pm.

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## **ITEM 11 ATTACHEMENTS**

1. Weather Outlook
2. FCO Preseason Briefing Notes
3. Tammin Training Report
4. Rural Fire Awareness Training



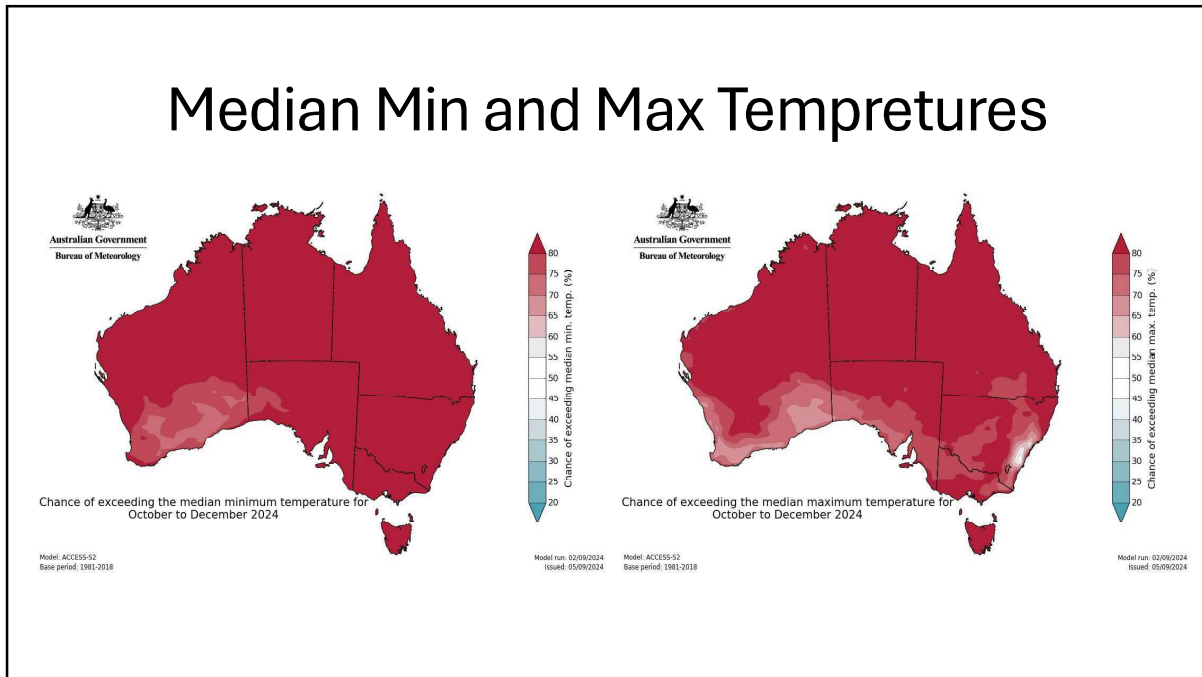
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## Overview

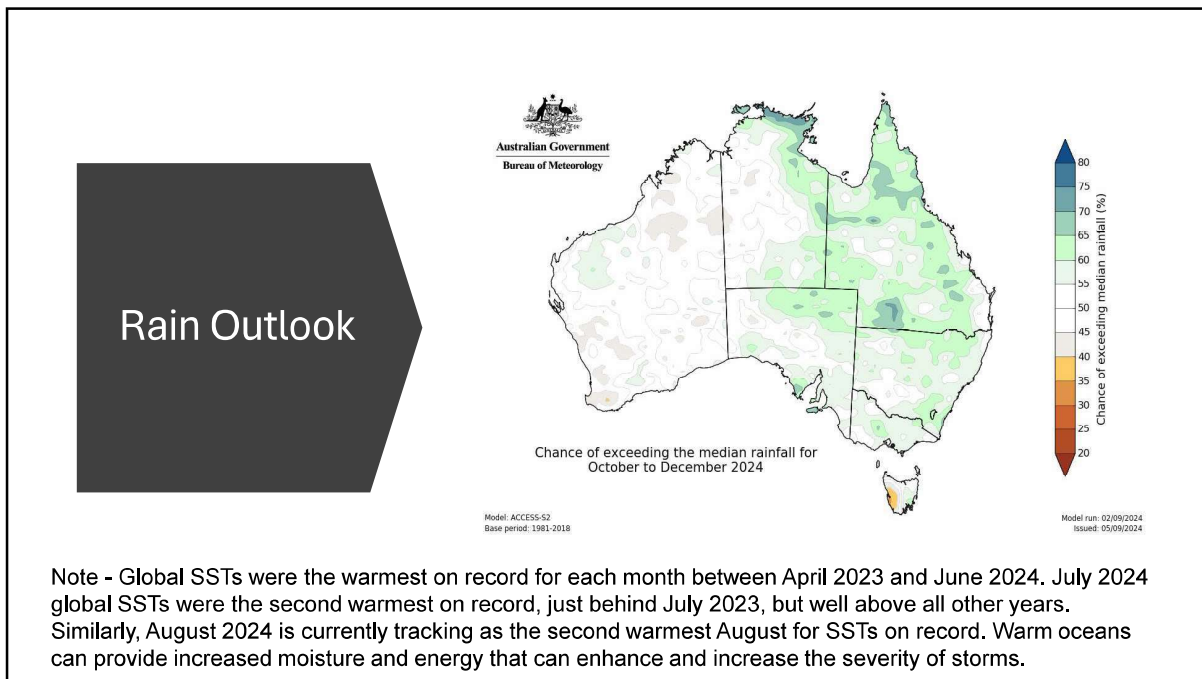
- **Increased chance of unusually warm days and nights for most areas**
- **October to December**
- Above average maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to very likely (60% to greater than 80% chance) across most of Australia.
- Parts of eastern NSW are likely to have maximum temperatures in the typical seasonal range for October to December.
- There is an increased chance of unusually high maximum and minimum temperatures<sup>1</sup> for most of Australia, with highest chances across much of northern WA, the southern NT, northern Queensland, and Tasmania. As we approach the warmer months, the risk of heatwaves increases.
- <sup>1</sup> Unusually high maximum and minimum temperatures are those in the warmest 20% of October to December days and nights, respectively, between 1981 and 2018.

2

# Median Min and Max Tempretures

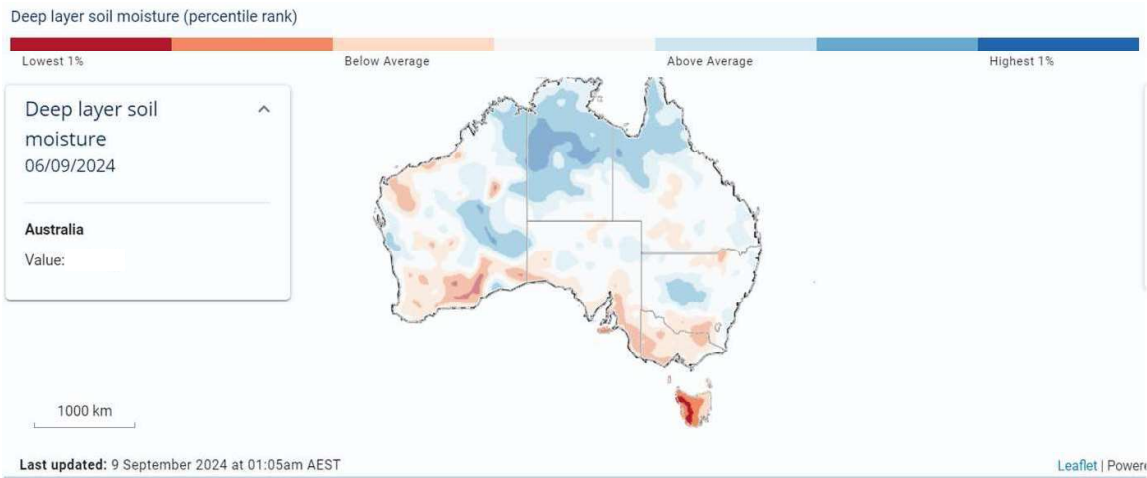


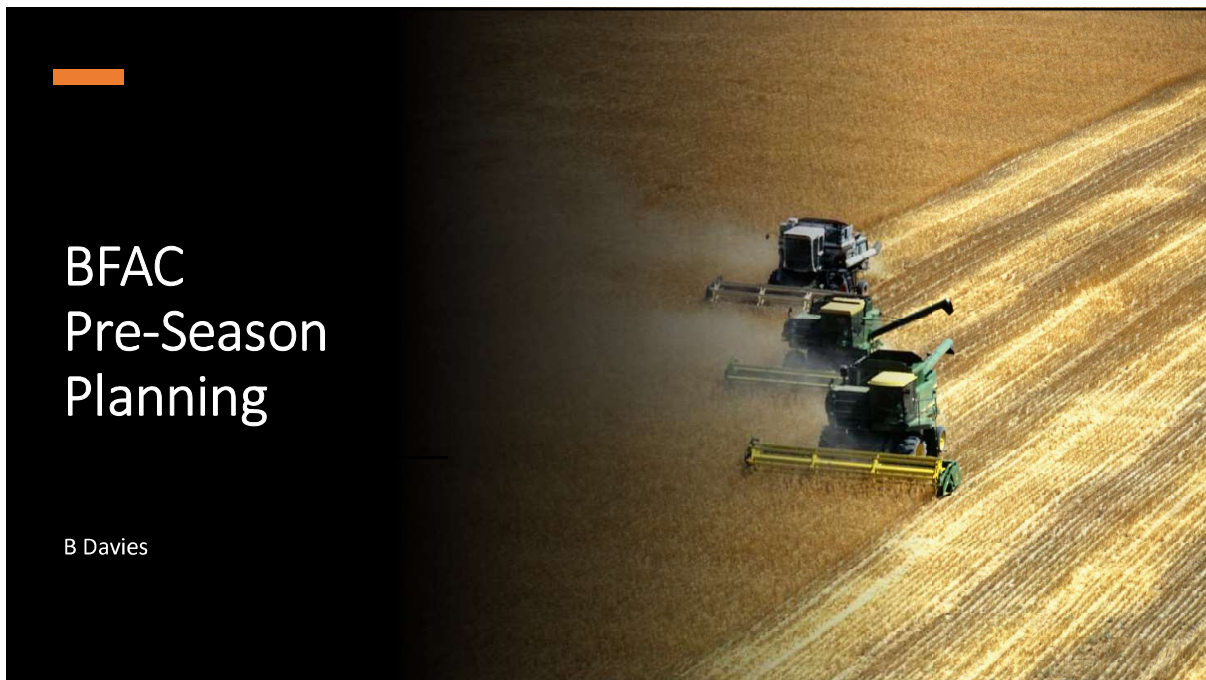
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# Soil Moisture





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## Discussion Points

Harvest Vehicle  
and Movement  
Ban

Incident Response  
and Mobilising

Incident Arrival

Aviation and Air  
Support  
Mobilisation and  
Use

Bulk Water and  
Fuel Support  
Mobilisation

Shire Machinery  
Mobilisation

Public Information  
and Warnings

DFES Assistance  
and Support

2

## Harvest Vehicle and Movement Ban

FDR Trigger? 40 is the DOAC recommendation.

### Process for Imposing

- Weather reading taken
- Trigger met (Discussion with CBFCO/DBCFO/CESM)
- Message sent out via Whatapp

### Process for Lifting

- Weather conditions checked throughout HVMB
- Conditions ease
- Discussion with CBFCO/DBCFO/CESM
- Message sent out via Whatapp

### Imposing during an Incident

- Contact CESM 0448 008 653

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## Incident Response and Mobilising

It is imperative we are calling 000 and reporting all fires ASAP.

Closest BFB Appliance will be mobilised for all incidents

### During Harvest mobilising

- 000 call received
- All BFB truck to be mobilised based on risk.
- CESM will be mobilised (if Available)
- Response to be escalated or de-escalated appropriately

### Outside of Harvest mobilising

- 000 call received
- Closest BFB truck to be mobilised (unless further details arise). First FCO or BFB onsite to provide sitrep
- Response to be escalated or deescalated appropriately
- CESM will be mobilised only if required

4

# Assume Control

FCOs and BFBs when arriving to a fire, need to assume control of the incident. So they can request assistance and manage the incident appropriately.

A fire that has no leader or one that has too many leaders can escalate quickly.

Note - All fire outside of town are the FCOs/BFBs responsibility.

Generally the structure works as follows: (in Hierarchy)

- CBFCO
- DCBFCO
- FCO
- BFB Captain
- BFB Members
- Farm Response

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# Incident Arrival



The first arriving FCO or BFB Truck should provide information about the fire so the incident response can be escalated or de-escalated.



This is to ensure the appropriate resources are on the way and arrive in a timely matter. Or they are stood down if not required so we don't waste peoples time.



It means if air support are required, it speeds this process up, instead of waiting an additional period of time before the CESM or CBFCO arrives.

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# Incident Arrival

## What Information is required:



Is life or Property at risk?



What is the size of the fire?



What it's burning in? Fuel type (Wheat, Pasture etc)



Where it's heading? It's Direction and Speed?



Weather conditions

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# Aviation and Air Support Mobilisation

## Mobilising Air Support

- Contact CESM 0448 008 653
- If No Answer from CESM – Contact Regional Duty Coordinator on 1800 966 077 and request air support.
- They will ask for a reason why you need air support:
  - Public Safety at Risk
  - Fire Crews in Imminent Danger
  - Assets at Imminent Risk
  - Known high fuel loads and likelihood of excessive ROS and/or extreme fire danger
- They will also ask for a nominated ground controller.

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## Bulk Water and Fuel Support Mobilisation

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The Shire have Water Cart and a Fuel Pod available if required.

### Considerations:

- Shire water cart can't be put in the line of fire and should remain on a road where possible. Ensure they are safe and out of the way of fire.
- DFES also have Bulk Water Appliance able to be used on a fire ground the Toodyay 12.2 (12,000L).
- The CESM or Works manager can mobilise Shire appliances – this should be done by the Incident Controller.
- The CESM or RDC can mobilise the 12.2 and DFES contractors (Bulk Water and Fuel Truck) if long duration incident or the Shire is unavailable.

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## Shire Machinery Mobilisation

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- What is available:
  - Front End Loader
  - Grader
  - Water Cart
  - Fuel Pod
- How to mobilise Shire Machinery
  - Contact CESM 0448 008 653

### Considerations:

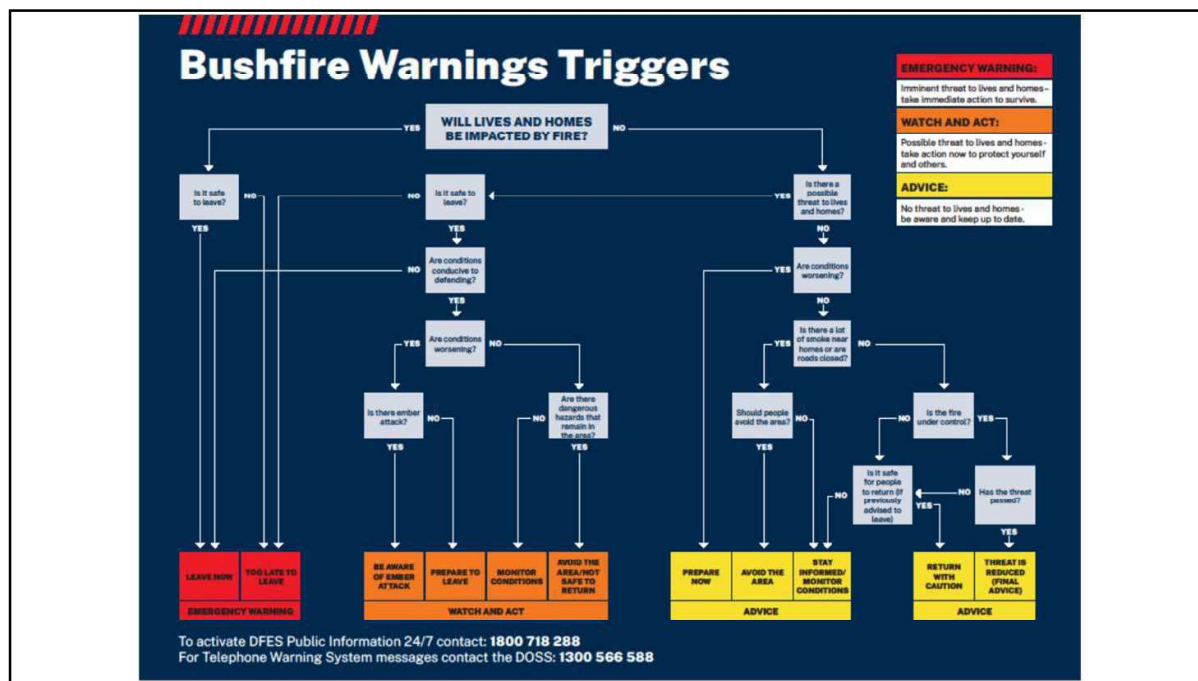
- Shire Machines may be anyway in the Shire. Mobilise Early if required.
- DFES are able to support LG incidents with Machinery if Shire are unable to provide machines, however, expect 3-5 hour turnaround times.

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## Public Information

- Updated Australian Warning System
- When to issue public warnings ?
  - **Urgent Warning** - Fire is directly threatening life and property (Emergency Warning)
  - **Warning** - Fire may impact life and property (Watch and Act)
  - **Advice** – Fire is in the area and you want them to stay informed (Advice)
  - Long duration incident when there is a lot of smoke in the area (Smoke Alert)
- How to issue a public warning ?
  - Contact CESM 0448 008 653, RDC 1800 966 077, or Public Information Directly 1800 718 288

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## DFES Assistance and Support

### **Regional Duty Coordinator – 1800 966 077**

The RDC can assist you with anything required.

- Resources
  - Water Bombers
  - Public Warnings
  - Machinery
  - Bulk Water
  - Catering
  - Weather Forecasts
- 

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## Important Numbers

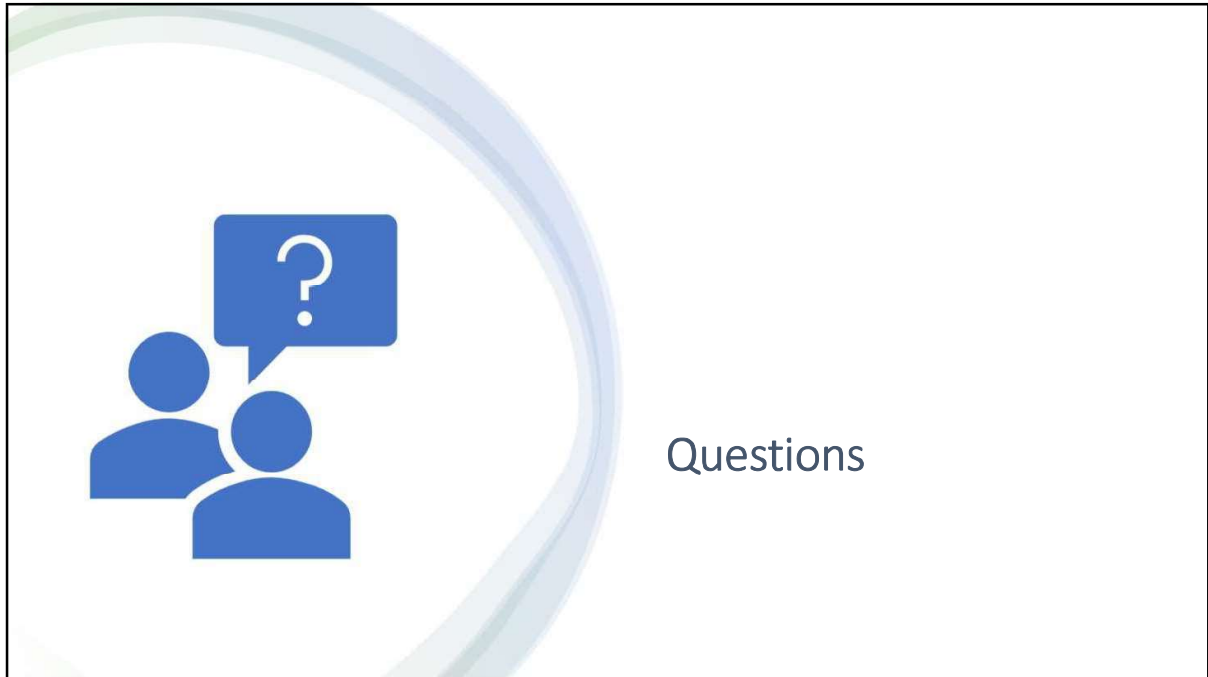
DFES ComCen – 1800 198 140

CESM (Ben) – 0448 008 653

Regional Duty Coordinator (On call DFES  
Manager) – 1800 966 077



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<b>Volunteer ID</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Rank Title</b>	<b>Bushfire Safety Awareness</b>	<b>Fire Control Officer</b>
060939	Frederick	Batchelor	ACTIVE MEMBER	Competent	
062457	Gavin	Charlton	ACTIVE MEMBER	Competent	Competent
			BFB 1ST LIEUTENANT	Competent	Competent
062460	Brian	Fowler	ACTIVE MEMBER	Competent	
062468	Donald	Thomson	ACTIVE MEMBER	Competent	
117676	Haydn	Dixon	ACTIVE MEMBER	Competent	Competent
123041	Timothy	York	ACTIVE MEMBER	Competent	Competent
123054	Roger	Uppill	ACTIVE MEMBER	Competent	Competent
123055	Scott	Uppill	ACTIVE MEMBER		
123062	Rodney	Stokes	ACTIVE MEMBER	Competent	
123064	James	Stokes	ACTIVE MEMBER	Competent	
123066	Kimberley	Rogers	ACTIVE MEMBER	Competent	
123069	David	Thomson	ACTIVE MEMBER	Competent	Competent
			CAPTAIN	Competent	Competent
123075	Nicholas	Caffell	ACTIVE MEMBER	Competent	Competent
123076	Gary	Caffell	ACTIVE MEMBER		
133951	Michael	Packham	ACTIVE MEMBER	Competent	
146441	Dustin	McCreery	ACTIVE MEMBER	Competent	
150112	Bradley	Jones	ACTIVE MEMBER	Competent	
157498	Clinton	Nicholls	ACTIVE MEMBER	Competent	
157499	Oscar	York	ACTIVE MEMBER	Competent	
157502	Geoffrey	Christison	ACTIVE MEMBER	Competent	
158005	Ashley	Mackin	ACTIVE MEMBER	Competent	
167156	Jonathan	Blemings	ACTIVE MEMBER		
176207	Jack	Charlton	ACTIVE MEMBER	Competent	Competent
188103	Laurence	Shaw	ACTIVE MEMBER	Competent	
188544	Corey	Dixon	ACTIVE MEMBER	Competent	Competent
188545	Lewis	York	ACTIVE MEMBER	Competent	Competent
188546	Alexander	Rogers	ACTIVE MEMBER	Competent	Competent
189140	Christopher	Thomson	ACTIVE MEMBER	Competent	Competent
189141	Scott	Button	ACTIVE MEMBER		Competent
189529	Todd	Rogers	ACTIVE MEMBER	Competent	Competent
190327	Isaac	Stokes	ACTIVE MEMBER	Competent	
190328	Steele	Anderson	ACTIVE MEMBER	Competent	
191508	Cameron	Shaw	ACTIVE MEMBER	Competent	
191510	Steven	Dyer	ACTIVE MEMBER	Competent	
191788	Schaik	Coetzer	ACTIVE MEMBER	Competent	
196558	Zoe	Christison	ACTIVE MEMBER	Competent	



## Online Rural Fire Awareness Training

The **Online Rural Fire Awareness training** course is a **free course** for **farmer response** and **seasonal workers**. It is a **minimum standard for all farm responders** as it gives participants an essential awareness of the fire ground, suppression strategies and maintaining safety when operating on the fire ground.

Access to the course for people who are not DFES volunteers can be found via  
<https://eacademy.dfes.wa.gov.au/?client=externaltenant>



**Scan me for Rural Fire Awareness – Sign Up Online**

**This course takes 2-4 hours**

The course may be access on a computer, tablet or smartphone, however a computer or tablet is recommended for the best training experience.

Please email completed certificates to the CESM – [Benjamin.davies@dfes.wa.gov.au](mailto:Benjamin.davies@dfes.wa.gov.au) if you'd like it to be recorded by the Shire and DFES.

Further instructions are available at:

<https://publications.dfes.wa.gov.au/publications/course-information-online-rural-fire-awareness>