



Shire of Tammin

Department of Fire and Emergency Services
ATTN: Jeremy Willis
Area Officer Central Wheatbelt
79 Newcastle St
Northam WA 6401

17/11/2023

Dear Jeremy,

We are writing to request your assistance in acquiring a second-hand fire truck for the Shire of Tammin. We recently applied for a new fire truck through the Local Government Grant Scheme, but unfortunately, we were informed that budget constraints and a lack of capacity to build new trucks have made it impossible to fulfil our request. We understand the financial limitations of a new appliance, and we are aware that there may be second-hand options available from the replacement fleet that could address our urgent need for essential firefighting equipment.

The Shire of Tammin is deeply committed to the safety and well-being of our residents and volunteers, as well as the protection of their properties. Currently, we face a significant challenge due to our limited firefighting capabilities. Our existing resources consist of small 500-liter private fire units, which lack essential equipment such as WAERN Radio equipment, Essential Fire Equipment such as hoses and hydrants, Thermal Imaging Cameras, Crew Welfare, Burn over Protection, Foam, First Aid, and Defibrillators. These shortcomings have hampered our ability to respond effectively and safely to emergencies. We also acknowledge that we are one of the very few shires without a dedicated Bushfire Brigade Appliance.

The Shire of Tammin currently has a population of around 390 people, it is 180kms East of Perth, and is located in the Central Wheatbelt Region of Western Australia. Tammin has a Gazetted Fire District (GFD) Area of less than 1km², with the Shire of Tammin being 1,087 km², that leaves 1,086 km² managed by the Local Government under the Bushfire Act 1954 authority to act. This means the Local Government relies very heavily on the farmer response brigade and other Local Governments to assist (usually Quairading or Kellerberrin). This can mean waiting for assistance for 30-45 minutes as well as leaving large gaps in the surrounding areas.



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Tammin have the following Infrastructure and Risks:

Within the Gazetted Fire District: (Fire Brigade Act)

Houses – Approximately 100 Houses

Building – CBH, Shire Building, Town Hall, Rural Supplier, Op Shop, Motel/Hotel, Post office, Church, Bowling/Tennis Club, Football Club

Schools – Tammin Primary School up to 30 Pupils

Fuel Station – Tammin Road House

Risks – Independent living seniors village

Outside the Gazetted Fire District: (Bushfires Act)

Houses – Approx 40 Residential Structures and at least 50 Out Building/Sheds.

Building – Shire Depot, CBH Yorkrakine, Great Eastern Abattoir, Minerva Foods, Tree Nursery, Small Hall – Yorkrakine.

Schools – Nil

Fuel Station – Shire Depot

Risks – Tammin Railway Reserve (2.6 km²), Tammin Tip, Bungulla Nature Reserve, Charles Gardner Reserve, Yorkrakine Rock Nature Reserve, North Bungulla Reserve, North Tammin Nature Reserve, Noonying Nature Reserve, Wyola Nature Reserve, Moulien Nature Reserve.

With the following list, as the majority of the risks fall outside of the Gazetted Fire District, the Local Government is responsible, however, the only resources they have are private fire units. Tammin has a lot of potential risks and having a dedicated Bushfire Brigade Appliance would help mitigate this risk. A fire appliance would also enable the brigade to ride on the back of an appliance at a fire ground with a monitor to ensure quick knock down of running fire, this would reduce the risk of farm response members riding on the back of farmer built fire units, which will increase the overall safety at an incident.

As the region becomes more proactive, we are seeing more and more air assets being used at incidents. This is a welcomed sight and a great step forward in controlling crop fires. With this brings some challenges for the Local Brigades, as Tammin BFB are farm response, all members are running a UHF Radio. If the Tammin BFB had a fire



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appliance they would have a Hi Band VHF WAERN Radio, enabling them to communicate on the WAERN Network as well as being able to act in important functions such as Ground Controller, Sector Commander or Incident Controller.

A purpose built vehicle will ensure there is always a fire appliance ready to protect the community of Tammin and surrounds. Having a fire appliance will also ensure crew safety in the event of a burn over. It will also ensure there is somewhere to store emergency/additional PPE if required on the fire ground. It will also serve as a vehicle to store an AED in the event one of our members suffers from a sudden cardiac arrest on a fire ground. We can also ensure there are bottles of water and basic welfare on board.

We have identified a suitable location at the Shire Works Depot to house the second-hand fire truck, ensuring its proper maintenance and readiness for immediate use. Acquiring a second-hand fire truck would significantly enhance our community's safety, as it would provide the essential equipment and capacity needed to protect our residents and properties.

Furthermore, having a dedicated fire truck would greatly boost community morale and provide assurance to our residents that we are prepared to respond to any emergency effectively. We are fortunate to have 40 dedicated volunteer firefighters who are enthusiastic and ready to crew this truck, which would enable us to improve our emergency response capabilities. These volunteers have completed the essential training required to crew this appliance, underscoring their dedication and preparedness.

The Shire of Tammin would be willing to crew a High-Season Appliance before receiving a second-hand appliance to prove we have the volunteers and community willingness to crew this appliance.

We are prepared to meet any reasonable terms and conditions for the acquisition of a second-hand fire truck. We pledge to adhere to your guidelines for maintenance, operation, and safety standards to ensure the vehicle remains in excellent working condition.

We understand the complexities involved in resource allocation and appreciate your consideration of our request. We believe that by working together, we can enhance the safety and readiness of the Shire of Tammin and protect our community.



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If you require any further information or would like to discuss this matter in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact our Community Emergency Services Manager - Ben Davies on 0448 008 653 or email benjamin.davies@dfes.wa.gov.au. We are committed to providing any necessary documentation or information to facilitate this process.

Thank you for your attention to our request and your commitment to the safety and well-being of our community. We look forward to hearing from you regarding acquiring a second-hand fire truck that will be instrumental in protecting the Shire of Tammin.

Sincerely,

Charmaine Thomson

**SHIRE PRESIDENT
SHIRE OF TAMMIN**

Joanne Soderlund

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SHIRE OF TAMMIN**