



# Shire of Tammin

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## *Bushfire Advisory Committee Minutes of Meeting*

11<sup>th</sup> October 2023

# Minutes of Meeting

11<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Members,

The Tammin Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting was held at the Tammin Sporting Club on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023 commencing at 6pm.

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## Disclaimer

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# SHIRE OF TAMMIN

## ITEM 1 OPENING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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The Chairperson – CBFCO Mr Gavin Charlton opened the Meeting at 6:10 pm.

## ITEM 2 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

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### 2.1 Members

Mr G Charlton	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Mr N Caffell	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Mr R Uppill	Fire Control Officer
Mr T York	Fire Control Officer
Mr H Dixon	Fire Control Officer
S Anderson	BFB Member
L Button	BFB Member
S Coetzer	BFB Member
B Jones	BFB Member
M Packham	BFB Member
C Thomson	BFB Member
C Dixon	BFB Member
S Dyer	BFB Member
L Shaw	BFB Member
C York	BFB Member
Z Christison	BFB Member
S Uppill	BFB Member
C Wilkans	BFB Member
R Pimlott	BFB Member

### 2.2 Administration

Mrs J Soderlund	Chief Executive Officer
Mr B Davies	Community Emergency Services Manager

### 2.3 Observers / Visitors

Nil

### 2.4 Apologies

Mr D Thomson	Fire Control Officer
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## ITEM 3 DEPUTATIONS / PRESENTATIONS / SUBMISSIONS

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Nil.

## ITEM 4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING

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### 4.1 Confirmation of Minutes – 29<sup>th</sup> September 2022 (Copy Attached)

#### **RESOLUTION: BFAC1– 23/24**

MOVED Mr G Charlton

SECONDED Mr N Caffell

That the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting Held on 22<sup>th</sup> September 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that Meeting.

**CARRIED**

### 4.2 Business Arising

#### **ITEM 5.3**

Nil

### 5.1 CBFCO Report

One major fire at Ben Wilsons, Good Attendance, Helicopters, Canola Stubble and River pulled it up. Big thanks to Dennis Heppel and Nate for working multiple shifts.

Second fire – Started Early before there was too much wind, luckily got on top of it before the wind picked up. However it did get into tree. This meant lots of Mop up. Thanks to every who attended.

Please ensure you stay in attendance until released.

Still having a lot of issues with Bungulla North, excessive calls for fires on the property. Solutions were discussed – Fire breaks or completing a burn off each year. Left for discussion.

Whatsapp seems to be going well for the brigade, everyone informing of permit burns even when unrestricted burning.

Thanks to the Shire for catering at incidents.

### 5.2 DCBFCO Report

Nil

### 5.3 CESM Report

Just a reminder regarding PPE/PPC – the gear is there please use it for your own safety.

Respirators have been purchased and are here tonight, please take one per person for bushfire members. Please use it when at a fire.

Aircraft at incidents are becoming more and more likely, please make sure if you are on a fire line and aircraft are above you to leave the fire line so aircraft can drop, Planes and Helicopters won't drop if personnel are in the drop zone.

Local Government Grant Scheme Application

The submitted application for the Shire of Tammin included the Operating Grant (used for purchasing PPE/PPC and other items as required) and a capital application for the acquisition of a 4.4 Broadacre Appliance and facility.

- Due to the current replacement program for 4.4B's being significantly behind (some brigade still waiting after 4+ years) no funding was allocated for new appliance acquisitions and as such the facility application was also denied due to not requiring it without an appliance.

The application will be submitted again in March when the next round of applications are due.

The Shire are here to support the BFB in any way they can.

Please have a safe season.

## 5.4 FCO's Reports

Nil

## ITEM 6 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.

### 6.1 Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

As per 2020 BFAC – Mr Gavin Charlton was voted in as Chief Bush Fire Control Officer on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 and will hold the position until September 2024.

### 6.2 Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

As per 2020 BFAC – Mr Nick Caffell was voted in as Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September 2022 and will hold the position until September 2024.

### 6.3 Fire Control Officers

Current FCO's: -

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

Discussion took place on the current FCO's with Mr Brad Jones nominated to become an FCO. It is likely that Mr Roger Uppill will step down as an FCO at the next BFAC meeting in April.

### RESOLUTION: BFAC2– 23/24

MOVED Mr G Charlton                      SECONDED Mr N Caffell

To appoint Mr B Jones as a Fire Control Officer for the Shire of Tammin.

**CARRIED**

## ITEM 7 DISCUSSION POINTS

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### 7.1 Pre-Season Synopsis

Still some pretty high fuel loads, not as heavy as last year but still potential in the area for the coming season. Important to ensure fire breaks are in place.

### 7.2 Restricted Burning Period/Prohibited Burning Period (RBT/PBT)

Listed for discussion on current Restricted and Prohibited Burning times.

Open Burning Period:

16<sup>th</sup> March 2022 to 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Restricted Burning Period:

15<sup>th</sup> October 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022

Prohibited Burning Period:

1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 to 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Restricted Burning Period:

15<sup>th</sup> February 2023 to 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023

### **7.3 Burning Restrictions / Recurring HVMB's**

There are currently no burning restrictions for discussion

The Shire of Tammin will implement Harvest and Vehicle Movement and Hot Works Bans on;

- Christmas Day
- Boxing Day
- New Year's Day

### **7.4 Bush Fire Exercise/Training**

A Bushfire Safety Awareness Course was held with only one participant.

A Fire Control Officer Course will be held next year.

More Courses will be held next year

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

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Water Tanks – The Combination lock on Water Tanks is the Postcode (6409)

Mr H Dixon raised – Having the CESM take control of all fires to protect the CBFCO/DCFCO/FCO from and legal ramifications.

CESM ensured that within the BF Act 1954, FCOs are protected and the CESM will attend as many fires as practical, however, it wouldn't be practical, to take control of every fire as the CESM role is to build resilience in the community. It also couldn't work if there were multiple fires in the shires he services as he would go where needed.

Mr H Dixon raised – If the fire was getting out of hand would the CESM take control.

CESM stated that depending on the situation, yes if the fire was too much for the FCOs, the CESM would take over, however, if that's the case, we would have additional DFES staff coming as well.

Mr H Dixon raised the importance of member staying to assist with the mop up stages of a fire.

## **ITEM 9 NEXT MEETING DATE**

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The next Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting will be held at the Tammin Council Chambers in April 2024 (date to be finalised) commencing at 5pm.

## **ITEM 10 CLOSURE**

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There being no further business, the Chairperson closed the Meeting at 6:50 pm.