



Shire of Tammin

Bushfire Advisory Committee Minutes of Meeting

29th September 2022

Minutes of Meeting

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Dear Members,

The Tammin Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting was held at the Tammin Sporting Club on Wednesday 29th September 2022 commencing at 5.30pm.

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

The Chairperson opened the Meeting at 5:40 pm.

ITEM 2 ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

2.1 Members

Mr D Thomson	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Mr G Charlton	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Mr R Uppill	Bush Fire Control Officer
Mr B Humfrey	Bush Fire Control Officer/ Tammin VFES Captain
Mr T York	Bush Fire Control Officer
Mr N Caffell	Bush Fire Control Officer
C Nicholls	Member
C Thomson	Member
O York	Member
L York	Member
S Uppill	Member
K Rogers	Member
D Heppell	Member
F Batchelor	Member
D Thomson	Member
G Christison	

2.2 Administration

Mrs J Soderlund	Chief Executive Officer
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2.3 Observers / Visitors

2.4 Apologies

Mr H Dixon
Mrs G Batchelor

ITEM 3 DEPUTATIONS / PRESENTATIONS / SUBMISSIONS

Nil.

ITEM 4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING

4.1 Confirmation of Minutes – 5th April 2022 (Copy Attached)

RESOLUTION: BFAC1– 22/23

MOVED Mr B Humfrey SECONDED Mr G Charlton

That the minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting Held on 5th April 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record of that Meeting.

CARRIED

4.2 Business Arising

ITEM 5.3

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.

ITEM 5 CESM / CBFCO / DCBFCO / FCO REPORTS

5.1 CBFCO Report

Shaping up to be another big fuel load season. Reminder to all to ensure their fire breaks are completed. Had a reasonably busy year, with various fires around the Shire and providing assistance to fires within neighbouring Shires.

Fire brigade courses that were held were well attended, almost 40 members attended over the two courses.

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

Standpipes and tanks have all been inspected and are ready for the season.

The BFB has an order of PPE equipment for all members – if your size is not available here tonight let the Shire know and they can order what is needed.

New fire danger rating system in place for this year with a new fire behaviour calculator to be used to call harvest bans. Data from the DPIRD weather station of Anameka will be used to monitor for harvest bans. New permit books have been ordered to reflected the new rating system.

Thank you to the Shire, the Community Emergency Services Manager, the Deputy CBFCO and the FCO's for all their support and assistance during the year.

5.2 DCBFCO Report

5.3 CESM Report

Updates to the Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS)

- National system
- Fire Behaviour calculators now provide a Fire Behaviour Index (FBI) instead of a Fire Danger index (FDI)
 - Permits will be cancelled at an FBI of 24
 - Harvest Bans are set to an FBI of 40 (local Government can reduce as they see fit)
 - Total Fire Bans (as issued by DFES) will be imposed at an FBI of 50 for the district.
- New Permit books are currently on order as the current ones now have incorrect information.

Mrs J Soderlund advised that the CESM position is currently out for advertising and the Shire is hoping to have someone appointed to the position as soon as possible given it is so close to the start of bushfire season.

The Shire has ordered 2 cell-fi units for the CBFCO and DBFCO to attempt to ensure they always have phone reception. DFES will not fund this expense so the Shire has done it themselves.

Mrs Soderlund also advised that during the year the Council adopted a policy to allow equipment such as its grader and loader to be used at fire's in the shire by any operator deemed suitable by either the CBFCO, DBFCO or one of the Shire's Senior Management team.

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

5.4 FCO's Reports

ITEM 6 ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

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

- Mr B Humfrey nominated Mr G Charlton
- Mr G Christison seconded this nomination
- Mr G Charlton accepted nomination
- There being no further nominations, Mr G Charlton was elected unopposed

RECOMMENDATION: BFAC2– 22/23

MOVED Mr B Humfrey SECONDED Mr G Christison

That the Meeting recommend to Council that Mr G Charlton be appointed as Chief Bush Fire Control Officer until September 2024.

CARRIED

Mr K Rogers thanked Mr D Thomson for his efforts as CBFCO over the last two years and recognised the great job he has done in this role.

Mr G Charlton as the new CBFCO took over the chairing duties of the meeting.

6.2 Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer

- Mr D Thomson nominated Mr N Caffell
- Mr B Humfrey seconded this nomination
- Mr N Caffell accepted nomination
- There being no further nominations, Mr N Caffell was elected unopposed

RECOMMENDATION: BFAC3– 22/23

MOVED Mr D Thomson SECONDED Mr B Humfrey

That the Meeting recommend to Council that Mr N Caffell be appointed as Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer until September 2024.

CARRIED

6.3 Fire Control Officers

Current FCO's: -

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

Mr S Bell to be removed.

Listed for discussion of changes required.

RECOMMENDATION: BFAC4– 22/23

MOVED Mr D Thomson SECONDED Mr C Thomson

That the Meeting recommend to Council that the following persons, subject to their acceptance be elected as Fire Control Officers for the Shire of Tammin until September 2024.

CARRIED

ITEM 7 DISCUSSION POINTS

7.1 Pre-Season Synopsis

High fuel loads 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:

16th March 2022 to 14th October 2022

Restricted Burning Period:

15th October 2022 to 31st October 2022

Prohibited Burning Period:

1st November 2022 to 14th February 2023

Restricted Burning Period:

15th February 2023 to 15th 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

Another course expected to be run by the new CESM sometime next year.

ITEM 8 FURTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

Discussion took place between members regarding the standardisation of tank fittings for farmer response appliances to ensure they are all uniform and have suction ability.

ITEM 9 NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting will be held at the Tammin Council Chambers in April 2023 (date to be finalised) commencing at 4.30pm.

ITEM 10 CLOSURE

There being no further business, the Chairperson closed the Meeting at 6:15 pm.