

# Chittering Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes 14 March 2023

Held in Council Chambers, 6177 Great Northern Highway, Bindoon  
Commencement: 7:00PM      Closure: 8:04PM



## MEMBERSHIP AS ENDORSED 14 DECEMBER 2022

Members	Deputies
<b>Shire of Chittering Councillor</b> Cr Carmel Ross	<b>Shire of Chittering Councillor</b> Cr David Dewar
<b>Chief Executive Officer</b> Melinda Prinsloo	Nil
<b>Community Emergency Services Manager / Chief Bush Fire Control Officer</b> David Carroll	Nil
<b>Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Southern Region</b> David Wilson	Nil
<b>Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Central Region</b> Phillip Humphry	Nil
<b>Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Northern Region</b> Kim Haeusler	Nil
<b>Bindoon Brigade representative</b> Peter Watterston	<b>Bindoon Brigade representative</b> Nic Walter
<b>Lower Chittering Brigade representative</b> Jeremy Tennant	<b>Lower Chittering Brigade representative</b> Max Brown
<b>Muchea Brigade representative</b> Shelly Pannell	<b>Muchea Brigade representative</b> James Marotta
<b>Upper Chittering Brigade representative</b> Aaron Cover	<b>Upper Chittering Brigade representative</b> Gordon Carter
<b>Wannamal Brigade representative</b> Richard Rose	<b>Wannamal Brigade representative</b> Clayton Smith
<b>Chittering Incident Support Brigade representative</b> Paulette Embling	<b>Chittering Incident Support Brigade representative</b> Peter Hall

### Objectives

To make recommendations and advise Council on all matters relating to the Bush Fires Act 1954, Section 67(1).

To liaise with other emergency organisations and relevant bodies with regard to Fire and Emergency Management within the Shire of Chittering. The Committee will advise the local government all matters relating to:

- (a) Preventing, controlling and extinguishing of bush fires
- (b) The planning of the layout of fire-breaks in the district
- (c) Prosecutions for breaches of the Bush Fire Act 1954
- (d) The formation of bush fire brigades and the grouping thereof under group brigade officers
- (e) The ensuring of co-operation and co-ordination of bush fire brigades in their efforts and activities
- (f) Any other matter relating to bush fire control whether of the same kind, as, or a different kind from, those specified.

### Tenure of Membership

Shall be in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1995, Section 5.11*.

### Attendance by Government Agencies

The following are invited (non-voting) to attend meetings of the CBFAC:

- (a) DFES District Officer – North East Metropolitan
- (b) Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions / Parks and Wildlife Service

### Delegated Authority

Nil

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**Preface**

When the Chief Executive Officer approves these Minutes for distribution they are in essence “*Unconfirmed*” until the following Ordinary Meeting of Council, where the minutes will be confirmed subject to any amendments.

The “*Confirmed*” Minutes are then signed off by the Presiding Member.

Attachments that formed part of the agenda, in addition to those tabled at the Ordinary Meeting of Council are put together as an addendum to these Minutes.

**Unconfirmed Minutes**

These minutes were approved for distribution on  
17 March 2023.



**Confirmed Minutes**

These minutes were confirmed at a meeting held on 13 June 2023.

Signed .....

*Note: The Presiding Member at the meeting at which the minutes were confirmed is the person who signs above.*

## 1. DECLARATION OF OPENING OF MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS OF VISITORS

The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 7:00PM.

*Good evening ladies and gentlemen, we wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land within the Shire of Chittering, the Yued and Whadjuk peoples. We would like to pay respect to the Elders of the Nyoongar nation, past and present, who have walked and cared for the land, we acknowledge and respect their continuing culture, and the contributions made to this region.*

## 2. RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

### 2.1 Attendance

The following members have confirmed their attendance (Quorum – 6 Members):

Members:	Cr Carmel Ross	Council Delegate (Chairperson)
	Melinda Prinsloo	Chief Executive Officer
	Dave Carroll	Chief Bushfire Control Officer & Community Emergency Services Manager
	Aaron Cover	Upper Chittering Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
	Kim Haeusler	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer – North
	Jeremy Tennant	Lower Chittering Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Observers:	Shelly Pannell	Muchea Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
	Paulette Embling	Chittering Incident Support Brigade
	Murray McBride	Department of Fire and Emergency Services
	Cr David Dewar	Councillor, Shire of Chittering
	Dennis Badcock	Bindoon Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
	Mike Chan	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions
Paul Groves	Chittering Incident Support Brigade	
Ben Riddle	Lower Chittering Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade	
Jodie Connell	Development Services Support Officer (Minute Secretary)	

### 2.2 Apologies

David Wilson	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer – South
Phill Humphry	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer - Central
Peter Hall	Chittering Incident Support Brigade
Katie Wishart	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions

### 2.3 Approved leave of absence

Nil

### 3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil

### 4. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

#### 4.1 Chittering Bushfire Advisory Committee meeting: 18 October 2022

##### 4.1 OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

Moved Paulette Embling / Seconded David Carroll

That the minutes of the Chittering Bushfire Advisory Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 18 October 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS WITHOUT DISCUSSION

#### 5.1 Community Emergency Services Manager / Chief Bushfire Control Officer

David Carroll spoke to the following:

Incidents attended by Shire of Chittering brigades since 1 July 2022.

OIS Unit Online Reports/Regional Reports/LG Volunteer Listing Summary						
Brigade Turnout Summary with Incident Type						
Brigade		Brigade Profile	Registered Members 2023	Incident Turnout 20/21	Incident Turnout 21/22	Incident Turnout 22/23
1	Muchea VBFB	Settlement Brigade	17	45	36	45
2	Lower Chittering VBFB	Urban Defensive Structural	45	52	40	47
3	Upper Chittering VBFB	Settlement Brigade	23	43	34	45
4	Bindoon VBFB	Urban Defensive Structural	23	51	35	47
5	Chittering ISB	Comms/Support	16	4	6	5
6	Wannamal VBFB	Rural	35	7	6	11
Total			159	202	157	200

Largest Shire of Chittering incident that posed a threat to the community this fire season 46.3ha, 4<sup>th</sup> alarm fire at Hart Drive and GNH caused by a car going off GNH into the verge bush, well attended by Shire and DFES personnel, required 1 week of patrolling and mop up by our brigades and additional recovery works post fire to rectify damage caused on the private properties while containing and controlling the fire.

The Muchea Bushfire commenced on Sat 25 Feb 2023 and was an intense RUI fire burning 7.85 ha through wetland, peat areas of Muchea. Also well attended by Mundaring, Swan, Wanneroo and DFES resources. Mop up continued for more than a week due to the peat.

**Total Fire Ban** declared when the Fire Behaviour Index (FBI) reaches 50 x **20 TFBs to date:** 28 Feb, 24 Feb, 3 Feb, 2 Feb, 26 Jan, 24 Jan, 22 Jan, 21 Jan, 14 Jan, 10 Jan, 9 Jan, 6 Jan, 5 Jan, 4 Jan, 3 Jan, 2 Jan, 24 Dec, 23 Dec, 30 Nov, 11 Nov

**Harvest & Vehicle Movement Ban** declared when the FBI reaches 40 x **8 HVMBs to date:** 28 Feb, 2 Feb, 21 Jan, 3 Jan, 2 Jan, 1 Jan, 26 Dec, 25 Dec,  
Brigade membership is currently at 159 members across the 6 brigades with a recruitment drive in full swing through February and March for all brigades.

<b>Community EOI from the Shire website</b>		
Type of Interest	Total Number	Per Locality
Firefighter	9	6 Lower Chittering 2 Bindoon 1 Muchea
Incident Support	3	2 Bindoon 1 Lower Chittering

New appliances x3 Light tankers for Muchea, Lower and Upper Chittering, Bindoon 3.4 and 4.4 heavy tankers replaced, representing \$1.96 million worth of new appliances delivered to the Shire of Chittering by DFES.

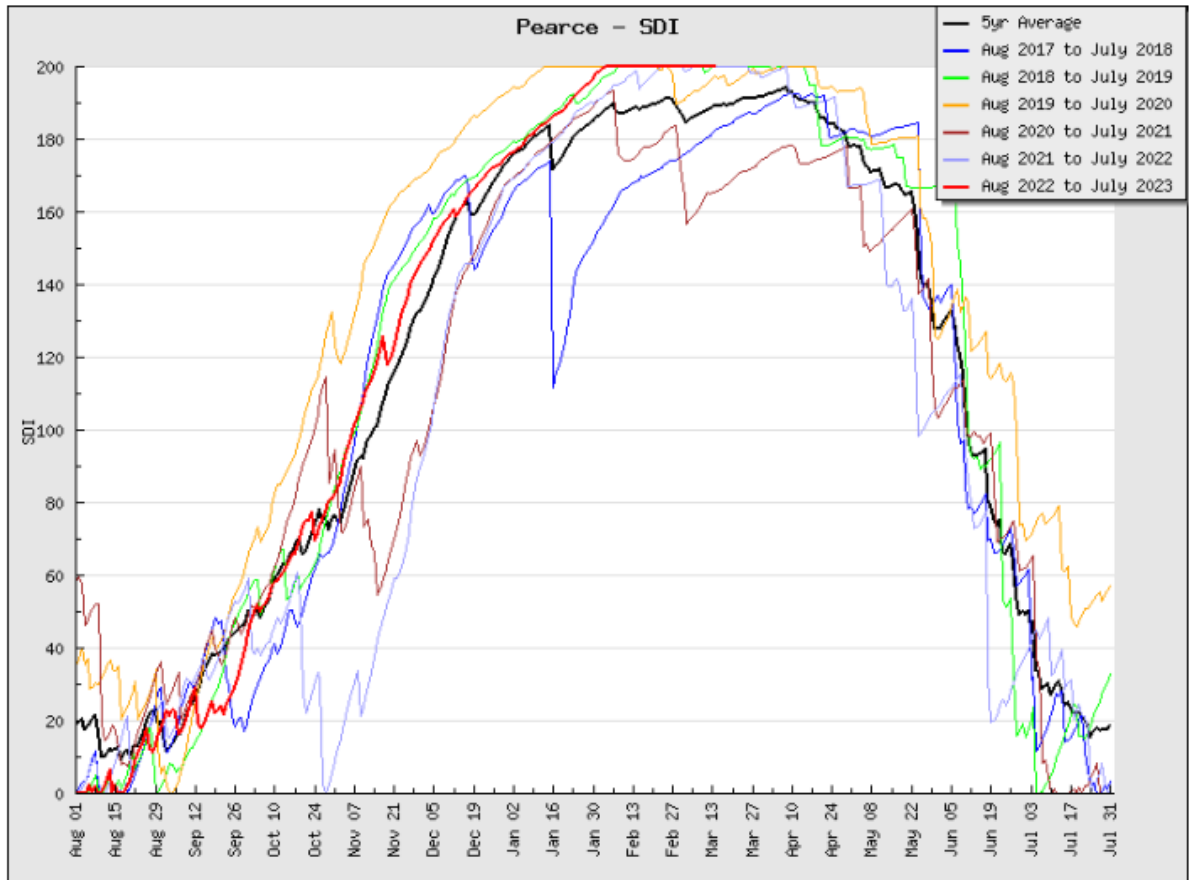
We're currently in the prohibited burning time transitioning to the restricted burning time at the end of March, unless we need to extend the prohibited due to persistent summer conditions.

**Foot in Mouth Disease Awareness:**

In May 2022, an outbreak of FMD was reported in cattle in Indonesia which spread to Bali. An incursion of the virus would have severe consequences for Australia's animal health and trade. The Biosecurity (Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Biosecurity Response Zone) Determination 2022 covering relevant international airports has been extended to 30 June 2023.

Thanks to Councillors Carmel Ross, Dave Dewar and CEO Melinda Prinsloo for their ongoing support of the brigades.

**SDI 14 March 2023**  
**Pearce SDI**



Bureau Long-range forecast overview

- For April to June, below median rainfall is likely to very likely (60% to greater than 80% chance) for almost all of Australia.
- April to June maximum temperatures are very likely (greater than 80% chance) to be warmer than median for all of Australia except for inland parts of the Northern Tropics.
- April to June minimum temperatures are likely to very likely (60% to greater than 80% chance) to be warmer than median for northern Cape York Peninsula, and south-western and far south-eastern parts of Australia, while below median temperatures are likely (60 to 80% chance) for areas of northern and central Australia.
- This forecast reflects the status and outlook for several climate drivers, including La Niña nearing its end likely bringing neutral ENSO conditions for autumn.

DBCA Katie Wishart from Perth Hills Office advised there would be no planned burning within the Shire of Chittering, but there would be some burning in the Julimar State Forrest on the Toodyay side of the border.



## 5.2 DFES District Officer – North East Metropolitan

Murray McBride spoke to the following:

- Recently spent a day at the Centre of Resilience. There is a proposed exercise with career firefighters planned. Chittering brigades will be invited to attend to allow them to become familiar with the facility.
- Murray had a recent meeting with Shire of Mundaring with regard to the review of the new Fire Danger Rating system – Murray to provide information relating to the review to Jodie to circulate to the Committee. Attached is a letter with an overview of the review and statistical data.
- There is currently an Acting Superintendent and some Acting District Officers in the department – yet to be determined when the change in management will occur.
- Season has been quiet with lots of smaller fires.
- Murray visited the Hopetoun incident and outlined the experience and operations.

Cr Carmel Ross stated that it would be interesting to see the data compared to previous years with regard to incidents. Murray McBride and Dave Carroll provided some information on observations of the season compared to previous. Jeremy Tennant provided some numbers on the types of incidents that have occurred over the current season. Discussion was held by the Committee regarding causes.

Murray added that the North East Metropolitan office has also organised Operations Officer training for two weekends in April with a possibility of another later in the year. This course hasn't been offered to volunteers for some time and will be this year.

## 5.3 Chief Executive Officer

Melinda Prinsloo spoke to the following:

- Change of management at Bindoon Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade with Dennis and Paul overseeing operations until the next Annual General Meeting.
- Thanks was given to all those who attended incidents over the season.

## 5.4 Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attractions / Parks and Wildlife Service

Mike Chan spoke to the following:

### Prescribed Burning

- Two Corporately Approved and Endorsed Prescribed Burns located in the Shire of Chittering – SWC\_070 Pinjar 1 and SWC\_038 RAAF 2
- Undertook a burn within the Shire of Chittering – SWC\_038 RAAF 2, north of the Muchea Bombing Range in Spring 2022. Swan Coastal District is continuing to build low fuel buffers through prescribed burning around Muchea townsite.  
Bushfires
- DBCA Swan Coastal attended two bushfires in the Shire of Chittering this financial year, most notably the one in the township of Muchea.
- District resources have been dispatched to multitude of bushfires across the state from Geraldton to Fitzgerald River National Park.

### **Capacity**

- Swan Coastal District remains at full capacity with Sean Anderson and Steve Gunn as new additions to the district fire team.
- District recently acquired a 950 front end loader which was utilised at the Muchea fire.
- Swan Coastal District's fire roster will be maintained until mid-May 2023.

Cr David Dewar requested more information on the land planned to be burnt. Mike Chan provided further information. David Carroll enquired about the possibility of brigade members being able to attend the burns which Mike confirmed was possible and provided information on who to contact.

## **6. UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT & GROWTH IN THE SHIRE**

Melinda addressed the Committee and presented.

Discussion was held by the Committee regarding the Neoen Battery Plant and Lithium Batteries.

Murray McBride provided information about the potential of gazetting areas for response from Fire and Rescue Service given that most of the proposed and new development in the area would require response from that service. Murray stated that the Mercury Rise subdivision could be considered.

Dennis enquired regarding the water availability in the Muchea Industrial Park. The water sources and proposed types of development in the Muchea Industrial Park was discussed by the Committee. Further discussion was held about the possibility of gazetting the area.

## **7. PREVENTION (MITIGATION, COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT)**

### **7.1 Request for Updates**

Jeremy Tennant addressed the Committee regarding two emails sent to the Shire relating to trees on McGlew Road in Lower Chittering and the mulch piles at the Muchea Landfill.

Jeremy detailed the emails that he sent to the Shire stating that he had not had a formal response. Jeremy detailed the circumstances surrounding the email. Cr David Dewar enquired regarding the excavation and the purpose of it. The Committee discussed the details of the works being conducted in the area. Discussion was held regarding the response from the Shire.

Jeremy detailed the email regarding the Muchea Landfill fire. Melinda provided detail on the remediation conducted on the site and how the Landfill are addressing these concerns in future.

## **8. RESOURCES & FACILITIES**

### **8.1 Use of Class B Foam**

Dennis addressed the Committee to provide context and stated that there did not appear to be B Class foam on any appliances. Dennis enquired as to whether it can be supplied. Murray provided information on when Class B foam is supplied to certain types of brigades. Murray specified that because of the type of foam it is, it is only provided to brigades with the appropriate training to attend the types of fires where it is used. Shelly stated that there are concerns with the environmental impact, and the management of Class B Foam would have to be stringent.

Aaron Cover addressed the meeting to discuss the standard of welfare provided for large fires given the type of work involved responding to large fires. Aaron detailed the standard of welfare provided at the Muchea fire and requested whether there is a solution in future. Murray provided some insight about what occurred at the Muchea fire and what resources were available to them. The Committee discussed aspects of addressing the issue in future. Shelly Pannell proposed whether it's possible to have a trailer that could be used to prepare welfare. Dave detailed previous instances where appropriate food preparation had been an issue. Further discussion was held regarding welfare and service providers by the Committee.

Dennis Badcock addressed the meeting and gave thanks to those who attended the Bindoon incident on 13 March 2023.

Jeremy Tennant addressed the meeting and enquired about when new residents enter the area how they are notified of information relating to fire season and burning. Melinda provided information on new resident information packs and how information is disseminated to them when they buy property in the area. Jeremy detailed two recent incidents involving new residents. Murray provided information about resources available from DFES. David Carroll provided information about the firebreak inspections conducted on property sales. David added that there was the ability for new residents to have someone visit their property to discuss what they need to do to their property. Further discussion held regarding property sales and measures taken to educate new landowners.

## **9. NEXT MEETING**

That the next meeting of the Chittering Bush Fire Advisory Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, 13 June 2023 commencing at 7pm.

## **10. CLOSURE**

The Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 8:04PM.