

Chittering Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes 14 June 2022

Commencement: 7:00PM

Closure: 9:00PM

MEMBERSHIP AS AT 20 OCTOBER 2021

Members	Deputies
Shire of Chittering Councillor Cr Carmel Ross	Shire of Chittering Councillor Cr David Dewar
Chief Executive Officer Matthew Gilfellon	Nil
Community Emergency Services Manager / Chief Bush Fire Control Officer David Carroll	Nil
Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Southern Region David Wilson	Nil
Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Central Region Phillip Humphry	Nil
Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Northern Region Kim Haeusler	Nil
Bindoon Brigade representative Peter Watterston	Bindoon Brigade representative Nic Walter
Lower Chittering Brigade representative Johan Rossouw	Lower Chittering Brigade representative Max Brown
Muchea Brigade representative Shelly Pannell	Muchea Brigade representative Shane Robertson
Upper Chittering Brigade representative Aaron Cover	Upper Chittering Brigade representative Gordon Carter
Wannamal Brigade representative Richard Rose	Wannamal Brigade representative Kim Haeusler
Chittering Incident Support Brigade representative Peter Hall	Chittering Incident Support Brigade representative Paul Groves

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	DECLARATION OF OPENING OF MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS OF VISITORS.....	5
2.	RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / APOLOGIES / APPROVED LEAVE OF ABSENCE.....	5
2.1	Attendance	5
2.2	Apologies	5
2.3	Approved leave of absence	5
3.	DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST	6
4.	CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES.....	6
4.1	Chittering Bushfire Advisory Committee meeting: 8 March 2022	6
5.	ANNOUNCEMENTS WITHOUT DISCUSSION	6
5.1	Community Emergency Services Manager / Chief Bushfire Control Officer	6
5.2	DFES District Officer – North East Metropolitan	7
5.3	Chief Executive Officer	7
6.	FIREBREAK NOTICE 2022/2023.....	8
7.	UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT & GROWTH IN THE SHIRE	8
8.	SUBMISSION ON PROPOSED ADVOCACY POSITION ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR MANAGEMENT OF VOLUNTEER BUSHFIRE BRIGADES	8
9.	FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS NOMINATIONS.....	10
10.	MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE.....	14
11.	GENERAL BUSINESS	17
12.	NEXT MEETING	18
13.	CLOSURE	18

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 22 June 2022



Matthew Gilfellon
Chief Executive Officer

Confirmed Minutes

These minutes were confirmed at a meeting held on 11 October 2022.

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 we are meeting on, the Yued people. 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)
	Matthew Gilfellon	Chief Executive Officer
	Dave Carroll	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
	Aaron Cover	Upper Chittering Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
	Peter Watterston	Bindoon Volunteer Bushfire Brigade
	Peter Hall	Chittering Incident Support Brigade
	Kim Haeusler	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer - North
Observers:	Cr David Dewar	Council Deputy
	Murray McBride	Department of Fire and Emergency Services
	Jodie Connell	Development Services Support Officer (Minute Secretary)
	Jeremy Tennant	Lower Chittering Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
	Ben Riddle	Lower Chittering Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
	Josh Reddicliffe	Lower Chittering Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
	Donald Jamieson	Lower Chittering Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
	Paulette Embling	Chittering Incident Support Brigade
	Gordon Carter	Upper Chittering Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

2.2 Apologies

Phill Humphry	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer – Central
David Wilson	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer – South
Shelly Pannell	Muchea Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

2.3 Approved leave of absence

Nil

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil

4. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

4.1 Chittering Bushfire Advisory Committee meeting: 8 March 2022

4.1 OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

Moved Peter Watterston / Seconded Aaron Cover

That the minutes of the Chittering Bushfire Advisory Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 8 March 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:

- Brigades have been carrying out regular brigade training.
- The introductory courses Bushfire Safety Awareness and Firefighting Skills were completed during April and May with five new members welcomed and now in their probationary period
- COVID-19 vaccination mandate was lifted 10 June 2022 allowing non-vaccinated members to return to stations, training, and operational duties. Thank you to everyone for persevering through the COVID-19 years.
- Current Fire Weather Boards are to be decommissioned by 1 September 2022; alternate signage may be sourced until signs can be replaced by the State. Current Fire Weather Boards will be financed like for like, analogue and digital. The Shire of Chittering has two digital and three analogue signs, no timeline for distribution at this stage. An additional digital board has been requested for Great Northern Highway near Wandena Road.
- WALGA seeking Local Government position on the management of brigades into the future
- Amalgamation of three Emergency Management Acts into one Emergency Management Act may be available for comment in February 2023. The Bush Fires Act 1954 will cease to exist.
- Four station turnout has been successful this fire season and will continue
- Lower West Inland 2021/22 High Threat Period:
 - 23 Total Fire Bans
 - Seven Harvest & Vehicle Movement Bans (same time during the 2020/21 high threat period saw a total of 16 Total Fire Bans and eight Harvest & Vehicle Movement Bans)
- Fire Control Officers issued 178 Permits to Burn during April/May 2022
- Servicing of brigade appliances has commenced and will continue into July.
- Thanks to the team, Deputy Chiefs, Captains and Fire Control Officers for their support to myself the Shire and Community and assistance with permit writing, community education and engagement. The Shire team, Councillors Carmel Ross and David Dewar for their interest and support throughout the year, Chief Executive Officer Matt Gilfellon, Executive Manager Peter Stuart, Bushfire Risk Officer Graham Furlong, the Rangers Matthew Johns and Barry Cilliers, Jodie Connell and the Shire office staff for their continued support of our brigades. DFES support officers Despina Taylor, Deb Taylor, Murray McBride for their support of our volunteer brigades, the Shire and Community.

Discussion was held regarding the previously proposed Fire Danger Rating board on Great Northern Highway and the replacement of existing Fire Danger Rating boards. David Carroll discussed the ceasing of the mandate for vaccinations on 10 June 2022. Cr Carmel Ross enquired about previous members being contacted by brigades which David responded he was leaving this task to the Captains to conduct.

5.2 DFES District Officer – North East Metropolitan

Murray McBride spoke to the following:

- WA Fire Weather Districts are changing – Chittering is now in the new district of Swan Inland North as of 1 September 2022.
- Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) goes live 1 September 2022.
- Landgate will update Fire Behaviour Calculator with the new Fire Behaviour Index (FBI). Training will be provided that will then be taught to FCOs
- Fire Weather Boards:
 - Current Fire Weather Boards should be decommissioned by the 1 September 2022.
 - Current Fire Weather Boards will be financed like for like, analogue and digital.
 - New Analog \$400
 - New Digital \$14,000 to \$15,000
- DFES Machinery insurance still unresolved.
 - Contractors who chase wildfire currently don't have the correct insurance.
- Any training that Volunteers attend that requires an appliance at the Academy, could be asked to use one of the Brigade appliances due to the lack of availability of DFES appliances.
- AVL testing on some appliances is not taking place, please make sure this is done each month.
- Remote Camera Curing Site has been established in the north of the Shire.
- Arrangements for Management of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades: Proposed Advocacy Position. WALGA seeks Local Government views.

Paulette Embling asked Murray for more information regarding the new fire weather districts. Murray detailed some of the differences and reasons as to why the change is occurring. Cr Carmel Ross requested whether a map could be circulated to members for their reference. Murray will provide one to Jodie to circulate to Committee members.

5.3 Chief Executive Officer

Matthew Gilfellow spoke to the following:

- Thank you to all the brigades and their efforts over the previous season.
- Work, Health and Safety Legislation – meeting held with Wannamal regarding the changes and what it will mean for the brigade moving forward. Any changes will be reported at the next Committee meeting.
- Graham has a tender going to the June Ordinary Council Meeting for Bushfire Mitigation.
- Bores are being installed on a parcel of land near the Lower Chittering Fire Station and at the Landfill on Wandena Road.

Jeremy Tennant enquired whether the Shire had a response regarding the enhancement of brigades from DFES. Matthew confirmed that there had been no answer to date.

6. FIREBREAK NOTICE 2022/2023

David Carroll stated that the main change proposed is firebreak inspections will begin 1 November 2022 and that there were minor wording changes.

Kim Haeusler expressed concern regarding the change, stating that one disadvantage is that farmers will be harvesting amongst cured grass without firebreaks. Further discussion on the proposed date change was held by the Committee. Cr Carmel Ross enquired of David Carroll how are properties are prioritised for inspection. David Carroll stated that inspections are based on risk assessment. Matthew Gilfellow provided details to the Committee on the item going to Council on 15 June regarding the statistics for inspections over the past year.

David provided the Committee an outline of reasons provided by Ranger Services for the change. Further discussion was held regarding the date change, firebreak inspections and Shire resourcing. The Committee discussed the messaging to the Community during firebreak inspections.

MOTION

Moved Kim Haeusler / Seconded Peter Watterston

The Firebreak Notice will be adopted with a requirement of firebreaks to be installed before 16 October.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT & GROWTH IN THE SHIRE

Matthew Gilfellow presented a Powerpoint Presentation to the Committee and outlined the various development changes occurring in the Shire.

Cr Carmel Ross detailed to the Committee what Council's role was in decisions on certain developments discussed – specifically applications determined by a Joint Development Approval Panel. Cr Ross stated that Council are not always the decision maker and act in a quasi-judicial manner when considering these developments. The Western Australian Planning Commission ultimately make the decision.

8. SUBMISSION ON PROPOSED ADVOCACY POSITION ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR MANAGEMENT OF VOLUNTEER BUSHFIRE BRIGADES

Matthew Gilfellow spoke to the following:

WALGA is currently undertaking consultation with the Local Government sector on a proposed Advocacy Position on the arrangements for management of volunteer Bush Fire Brigades.

Responses to the proposed Advocacy Position Paper are requested by 8 July 2022. Sector feedback will inform a final position to be considered by WALGA State Council in September 2022.

A report has been prepared to present to the Shire of Chittering Council at the June Ordinary Council Meeting. At this meeting, Council will be asked to endorse the submission to WALGA.

Discussion was held by the Committee regarding the different perspectives for Local Governments and the proposed amalgamation of relevant legislation. Peter Watterston stated that the Advocacy Position had been discussed at a Captains meeting and that there had been a consensus on the position. Peter Hall requested that the item be reviewed again at a future meeting, Murray stated that the Advocacy Position had to be submitted to WALGA by the given deadline. Further discussion was held by the Committee regarding the resources available in the Shire and their suitability given the development occurring.

9. FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS NOMINATIONS

Applicant	N/A
File ref	ES.PLN.2022/23
Author	Development Services Support Officer
Disclosure of interest	The officer has an impartiality interest as a member of the Upper Chittering Volunteer Bushfire Brigade
Voting requirements	Simple Majority

Executive Summary

The Committee is requested to endorse the Fire Control Officers nominations for the 2022/2023 financial year.

Background

The Shire's volunteer bush fire brigades conduct their Annual General Meetings during the month of May each year. At the Annual General Meeting, each brigade member(s) are to be nominated to the Chittering Bush Fire Advisory Committee to serve as Fire Control Officers for their brigade until their next Annual General Meeting.

At the time of distribution of the Agenda, Bindoon, Upper Chittering, Lower Chittering and Muchea have forwarded the outcome from their respective Annual General Meetings.

Consultation Summary

Local

Bindoon Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Upper Chittering Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Lower Chittering Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Muchea Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

State

Nil

Legislative Implications

Local

- Bush Fire Brigades Local Law 2013

3.6 Holding of annual general meeting

A bush fire brigade is to hold its annual general meeting during the month of May each year.

3.7 Nomination of bush fire control officers to Bush Fire Advisory Committee

At the annual general meeting of a bush fire brigade, brigade member/s are to be nominated to the Bush Fire Advisory Committee to serve as the bush fire control officer for the brigade until the next brigade annual general meeting.

3.8 Minutes to be tabled before the Bush Fire Advisory Committee

- (1) *The brigade Secretary is to forward a copy of the minutes of the annual general meeting of a bush fire brigade to the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer within one month after the meeting.*
- (2) *The Chief Bush Fire Control Officer is to table the minutes of the bush fire brigade's annual general meeting at the next meet of the—*
 - (a) *Bush Fire Advisory Committee; or*

(b) Council, if there is no Bush Fire Advisory Committee.
following their receipt under subclause (1)

3.9 Functions of Advisory Committee

The Bush Fire Advisory Committee is to have the functions set out in section 67 of the Act and is to include such number of nominees of the bush fire brigades as determined by the local government.

3.10 Advisory Committee to nominate bush fire control officers

As soon as practicable after the annual general meeting of each bush fire brigade in the district, the Bush Fire Advisory Committee is to nominate to the local government from the persons nominated by each bush fire brigade a person for the position of a bush fire control officer for the brigade area.

3.11 Local government to have regard to nominees

When considering persons for the position of a bush fire control officer, the local government is to have regard to those persons nominated by the Bush Fire Advisory Committee, but is not bound to appoint the persons nominated.

3.12 Advisory Committee to consider bush fire brigade motions

The Bush Fire Advisory Committee is to make recommendations to the local government on all motions received by the Bush Fire Advisory Committee from bush fire brigades.

State

- Bush Fire Act 1954

43. Election and duties of officers of bush fire brigades

A local government which establishes a bush fire brigade shall by its local laws provide for the appointment or election of a captain, a first lieutenant, a second lieutenant, and such additional lieutenants as may be necessary as officers of the bush fire brigade, and prescribe their respective duties.

[Section 43 amended by No.51 of 1979 s.5; No.14 of 1996 s.4.]

Policy Implications

State

Nil

Local

Nil

Financial Implications

There will be costs incurred for the advertising of the appointed Fire Control Officers, which has been allowed for in the Shire's draft 2022/2023 Annual Budget.

Strategic Assessment / Implications

Local

- Strategic Community Plan 2017-2027

Focus area: Our community

Objective: S1.2 Strong sense of community

Strategy: S1.2.1 Actively support community, volunteer groups and networks

Objective: S1.3 A safe and healthy community

Strategy: S1.3.1 Improve the safety of our community

Focus area: Our natural environment
Objective: S2.3 Protection of life and property
Strategy: S2.3.1 Improve Bush Fire preparedness and recovery

State

Nil

Site Inspection

Not applicable

Risk Assessment / Implications

Low likelihood of medium risk

Officer Comment/Details

The Chittering Bush Fire Advisory Committee is to consider the nominations that have been presented from each Brigade's Annual General Meeting for the position of Fire Control Officer. The position of Chief Bush Fire Control Officer is filled by the Shire's Community Emergency Services Manager.

All Fire Control Officer positions from each Brigade become vacant annually in May, and it is the responsibility of each Brigade to provide their nominations to the Chittering Bush Fire Advisory Committee Secretary following their Annual General Meeting.

9.0 OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

Moved Aaron Cover / Seconded Peter Watterston

That the Chittering Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade recommends to Council the following appointments:

- 1. Fire Control Officer:**
 - a. Shelly Pannell and Shane Robertson representing Muchea Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade.
 - b. Jeremy Tennant and Max Brown representing Lower Chittering Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade.
 - c. Aaron Cover and Gordon Carter representing Upper Chittering Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade.
 - d. Dennis Badcock and Nic Walter representing Bindoon Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade.
 - e. Kim Haeusler and Clayton Smith representing Wannamal Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade.
 - f. Matthew Johns, Barry Cilliers and Graham Furlong representing the Shire of Chittering.
- 2. Captain and Fire Control Officer**
 - a. Shelly Pannell, Captain of Muchea Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade.
 - b. Will Lee, Captain of Upper Chittering Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade.
 - c. Peter Watterston, Captain of Bindoon Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade.
 - d. Richard Rose, Captain Wannamal Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade.
 - e. Jeremy Tennant, Captain Lower Chittering Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade.
- 3. Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer:**
 - a. David Wilson representing the South region.
 - b. Phillip Humphry representing the Central region.
 - c. Kim Haeusler representing the North Region.
- 4. David Carroll as the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (as appointed by the Commissioner).**

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

Applicant	N/A
File ref	ES.PLN.2022/23
Author	Development Services Support Officer
Disclosure of interest	The officer has an impartiality interest as a member of the Upper Chittering Volunteer Bushfire Brigade
Voting requirements	Simple Majority

Executive Summary

Members of the Chittering Bush Fire Advisory Committee are requested to nominate for positions on the Committee, as following the Brigades Annual General Meeting members may be retired or not renominated for the coming year.

Background

As at 20 October 2021, the membership of the Committee was as follows:

- Cr Carmel Ross Council Member (Delegate)
- Cr David Dewar Council Member (Deputy)
- Matthew Gilfellon Chief Executive Officer
- David Carroll Community Emergency Services Manager/Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
- David Wilson Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer - Southern Region
- Phillip Humphry Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer - Central Region
- Kim Haeusler Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer - Northern Region
- Peter Watterston Bindoon Brigade representative (Delegate)
- Nic Walter Bindoon Brigade representative (Deputy)
- Johan Rossouw Lower Chittering Brigade representative (Delegate)
- Max Brown Lower Chittering Brigade representative (Deputy)
- Shelly Pannell Muchea Brigade representative (Delegate)
- Shane Robertson Muchea Brigade representative (Deputy)
- Aaron Cover Upper Chittering Brigade representative (Delegate)
- Gordon Carter Upper Chittering Brigade representative (Deputy)
- Richard Rose Wannamal Brigade representative (Delegate)
- Kim Haeusler Wannamal Brigade representative (Deputy)
- Peter Hall Chittering Incident Support Brigade representative (Delegate)
- Paul Groves Chittering Incident Support Brigade representative (Deputy)

Consultation Summary

Local

Chittering Bush Fire Advisory Committee

State

Nil

Legislative Implications

State

- *Local Government Act 1995, s5.12 and s5.13*

Local

Nil

Policy Implications

State

Nil

Local

Nil

Financial Implications

Nil

Strategic Assessment / Implications

- Strategic Community Plan 2017-2027
Focus area: Our natural environment
Objective: S2.3 Protection of life and property
Strategy: S2.3.1 Improve Bush Fire preparedness and recovery

Site Inspection

Not applicable

Risk Assessment / Implications

Low likelihood of medium risk

Officer Comment/Details

The members present are now required to nominate for positions on the Committee, as following the Brigades Annual General Meeting members may be retired or not nominated for the coming year.

10.0 OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

Moved Peter Watterston / Seconded Paulette Embling

That the Chittering Bush Fire Advisory Committee recommends to Council that membership effective 14 June 2022 is as follows:

Delegate	Deputy
Cr Carmel Ross	Cr David Dewar
Matthew Gilfellon, Chief Executive Officer	Nil
David Carroll, Community Emergency Services Manager/Chief Bush Fire Control Officer	Nil
David Wilson, Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer - Southern Region	Nil
Phill Humphry, Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer - Central Region	Nil
Kim Haeusler, Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer - Northern Region	Nil
Peter Watterston, Bindoon Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade	Nic Walter, Bindoon Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Jeremy Tennant, Lower Chittering Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade	Max Brown, Lower Chittering Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Shelly Pannell, Muchea Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade	Shane Robertson, Muchea Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Aaron Cover, Upper Chittering Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade	Gordon Carter, Upper Chittering Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Richard Rose, Wannamal Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade	Clayton Smith, Wannamal Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Paulette Embling, Chittering Incident Support Brigade	Peter Hall, Chittering Incident Support Brigade

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

Peter Watterston spoke to the following:

- **Ongoing abuse of Fire Control Officers by the public.**

Peter detailed how Bindoon Bush Fire Control Officers have experienced a lot of abuse over the previous season. Peter proposed that a solution would be regular social media posts throughout the season about how Fire Control Officers are volunteers. Gordon provided input from his perspective and a solution could be refusing people's requests for permits in future. Peter provided further insight to his experiences with people's expectations of Fire Control Officers and suggested setting those expectations from the initial contact at the Shire.

The Committee discussed permits and dealing with requests. Aaron Cover provided feedback on how useful the Fire Control Officer Vehicle magnets had been in identifying himself as Authorised Officer when attending properties where people were conducting illegal burns. Paulette Embling suggested the possibility of posting notices in the newspaper and the start of each season to capture people who don't use social media.

- **Allowing Sunday burning for garden refuse**

Peter posed the possibility in changing the Firebreak Notice to allow burning garden refuse on Sundays. The Committee discussed Peter's suggestion. The considerations made in the discussion included call outs to fires on Sundays and Mondays as well as allowing days for brigade members to have rest from issuing permits. It was acknowledged by members of the Committee that it is not a common practice. Other means of hazard reduction suggested by David Carroll and Murray McBride included physical removal of fuel. The general consensus of the Committee was to not proceed with the suggestion.

- **Bindoon Brigade issuing permits at a set time at the Bindoon station.**

Peter acknowledged that this item was more operational and to discuss with David Carroll separately. Peter detailed that the brigade will set certain times where the station will be open to the public for them to obtain a permit. Only individuals who are known by Fire Control Officers to do the right thing would be notified of this option. Murray McBride stated to Peter to exercise caution when issuing a permit without inspection and that he does need to be mindful that it is a legal document. Aaron stated that there had been an improvement in escaped burns and incidents during the restricted burning time and this was a testament to the expertise of the Fire Control Officers.

- **Request an update on the online permit system.**

Peter Watterston requested a status update on the online permit system. Jodie Connell provided details on what the web form would entail and that it was currently being developed.

On a separate discussion point, Peter Watterston made reference to the 7.6 mentioned by Phil Hay at a previous Committee Meeting. Peter requested whether Bindoon could be the brigade to demo the 7.6 appliance when it became available. Murray McBride stated that he would find out more about the proposed appliance to provide to the brigades.

Aaron Cover stated his gratitude to Council for the Volunteer Recognition Event being held later in the month.

12. NEXT MEETING

That the next meeting of the Chittering Bush Fire Advisory Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, 11 October 2022 commencing at 7:00pm.

13. CLOSURE

The Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 9:00PM.