



# Chittering Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes 17 October 2023

To be held at Council Chambers, 6177 Great Northern Highway, Bindoon  
Commencement: 7:00PM      Closure: 8:45PM



## MEMBERSHIP AS ENDORSED 21 JUNE 2023

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> Neil Harvey	<b>Bindoon Brigade representative</b> Dennis Badcock
<b>Lower Chittering Brigade representative</b> Jeremy Tennant	<b>Lower Chittering Brigade representative</b> Graham Furlong
<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> Will Lee
<b>Wannamal Brigade representative</b> Clayton Smith	<b>Wannamal Brigade representative</b> Daniel Smith
<b>Chittering Incident Support Brigade representative</b> Paul Groves	<b>Chittering Incident Support Brigade representative</b> Ian Wright

### 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  
31 October 2023.



**Confirmed Minutes**

These minutes were confirmed at a meeting held on 12 March 2024.

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 7:06PM.

*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
	Dave Wilson	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer - South
	Phill Humphry	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer - Central
	Shelly Pannell	Muchea Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
	Aaron Cover	Upper Chittering Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
	Paul Groves	Chittering Incident Support Brigade
	Jeremy Tennant	Lower Chittering Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
	Neil Harvey	Bindoon Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
	Kim Haeusler	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer - North
	Dan Smith	Wannamal Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Observers:	Cr David Dewar	Councillor
	Jodie Connell	Development Services Support Officer (Minute Secretary)
	Ian Wright	Chittering Incident Support Brigade
	Tammy Foster	Muchea Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
	Will Lee	Upper Chittering Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
	Graham Furlong	Bushfire Risk Officer
	James Marotta	Muchea Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade

### 2.2 Apologies

Dennis Badcock	Bindoon Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade
Murray McBride	Department of Fire and Emergency Services

### 2.3 Approved leave of absence

Nil

### 3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil

### 4. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

#### 4.1 Chittering Bushfire Advisory Committee meeting: 13 June 2023

**4.1 OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**  
 Moved Aaron Cover / Seconded Paul Groves  
 That the minutes of the Chittering Bushfire Advisory Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 13 June 2023 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

Dave Carroll spoke to the following:

- Currently in restricted Burning time, prohibited burning time commencing 1 December unless brought forward due to conditions.
- Incidents attended and statistics for 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	New Members Since July 2022	Registered Members October 2023	Incident Turnout 20/21	Incident Turnout 21/22	Incident Turnout 22/23	Incident Turnout 23/24	
1	Muchea VBFB	Settlement Brigade	4	19	45	36	64	17
2	Lower Chittering VBFB	Urban Defensive Structural	13	44	52	40	67	17
3	Upper Chittering VBFB	Settlement Brigade	3	25	43	34	60	17
4	Bindoon VBFB	Urban Defensive Structural	6	19	51	35	62	16
5	Chittering ISB	Comms/Support	3	17	4	6	5	2
6	Wannamal VBFB	Rural	1	35	7	6	15	3
Total			30	159	202	157	273	72

- We have experienced 12 incidents since the beginning of October, thanks to all who have attended and assisted with these incidents.
- Thanks to Deputies, Captains, Fire Control Officers, Councillors Carmel Ross, Dave Dewar, CEO Melinda Prinsloo and DFES DO Murray McBride for their ongoing support of our team.

**Bureau of Meteorology long-range forecast overview**

Issued: 12 October 2023

**Rainfall Summary:** November to January rainfall is likely to be below median for much of western, northern and southern Australia.

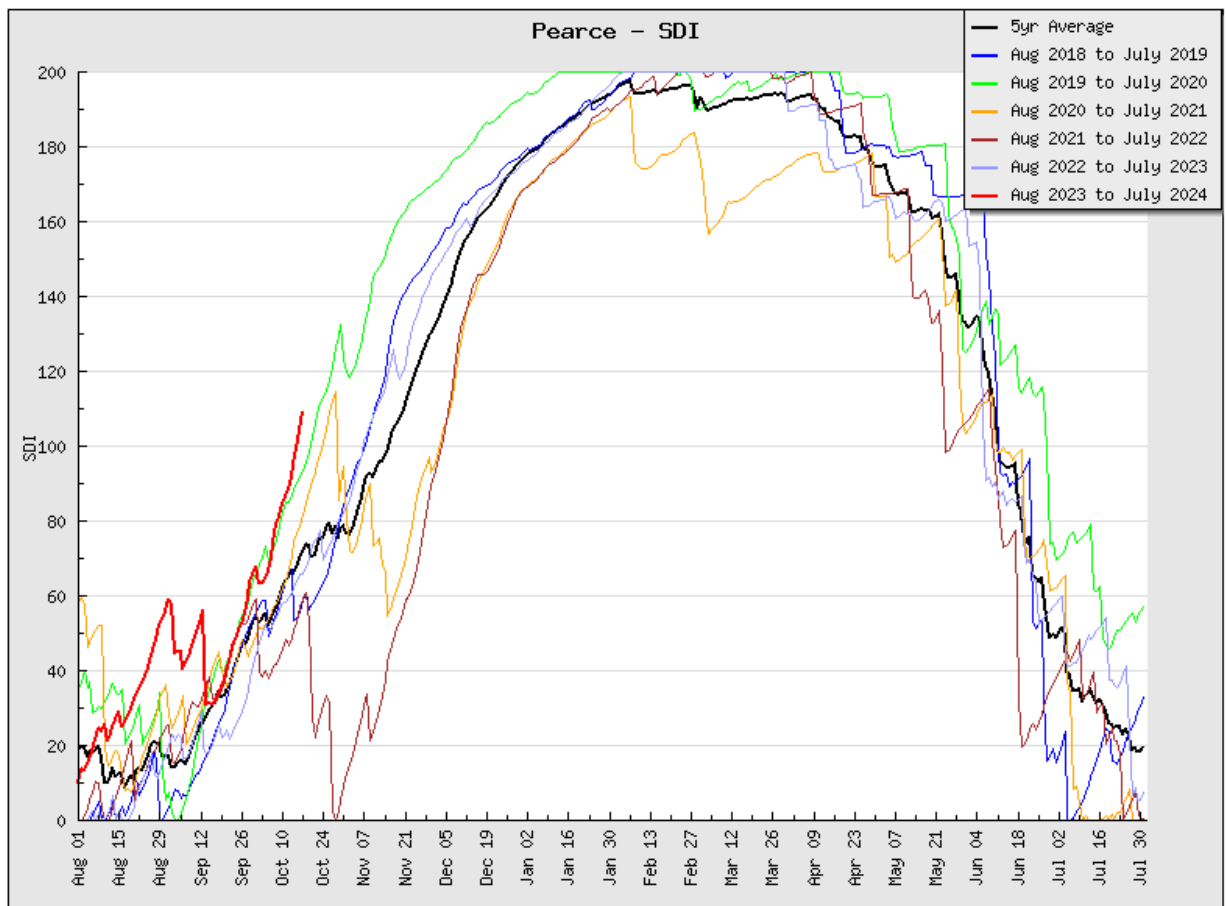
**Temperature Summary:** November to January maximum temperatures are at least twice as likely than normal to be unusually warm for almost all of Australia.

November to January minimum temperatures are very likely to be above median for almost all of Australia.

The long-range forecast is influenced by several factors, including El Niño and positive Indian Ocean Dipole events, and record warm oceans globally.

**Soil Dryness Index Pearce 17 Oct 2023**

**Pearce SDI**



Dave presented to the Committee his presentation on Ammonium Nitrate.

Discussion was held by the Committee regarding methods of reducing truck speed in Bindoon town and public education on Ammonium Nitrate and the dangers.

**MOTION**

**Moved Phill Humphry / Seconded David Wilson**

**The Committee requests the Chief Executive Officer to hold discussions with Main Roads WA about the possibility of installing a point-to-point speed camera in the town of Bindoon.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**5.2 Chief Executive Officer**

Melinda Prinsloo spoke to the following:

- Fire season has commenced with quite a few call outs already to date.
- Shire Fire Control Officers have commenced firebreak inspections have commenced in high-risk areas.
- Bushfire Risk Officer has been conducting mitigation activities across the Shire.
- Thanks was given to everyone for their efforts so far, for the coming season and for ensuring the safety of all members.

**5.3 Bushfire Risk Officer**

Graham Furlong presented his recent activities via Powerpoint to the Committee.

David Wilson made comment about the great work done by Graham Furlong and his team. Cr David Dewar requested information about the filling of water tanks and water source access in the Shire. Graham responded with an overview of how this currently occurs. Jeremy Tennant requested an estimated time for the power installation for the Lower Chittering bore and Graham confirmed there was no update from Western Power to date. The Committee discussed locations of the water tanks and water sources available in the Shire.



## 6. PREVENTION (MITIGATION, COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT)

### 6.1 Firebreak Inspection Process

Paul Groves addressed the Committee. Paul provided some background information about a recent site visit and the state of the property as well as the properties in the surrounding area. Paul requested information about the Shire's process for firebreak inspections and related activities. Melinda outlined the Firebreak Inspection Strategy that has recently been developed by the Shire where activities are based around conditions and not necessarily dates. Inspections have commenced 16 October with focus on the high-risk areas. The Shire welcomes input from Fire Control Officers to provide information about properties of concern. Paul provided some information from previous Council meetings and comparative information. Paul encouraged other Committee members to provide information to the Shire should they identify properties that are high risk.

Discussion was held by the Committee regarding Permits to Burn and property compliance over the previous years.

Aaron Cover provided feedback about people who have burnt their verge without authorisation because the Shire have stated that the verge is their responsibility. There is a misunderstanding, and permission for burning must still be applied for by the public. The Committee discussed the importance of reducing fuel on the verges.

Cr Carmel Ross stated the importance of communicating timing when conducting particular activities at certain times of the year - especially to a demographic that does not necessarily understand the sensitivity of timing when it comes to compliance activities.

Jeremy addressed the Committee regarding the recent HAZMAT fire on Propagation View. Jeremy enquired whether the Shire inspects private waste management facilities. Melinda provided information about the management of private landfills by State Government authorities. Jeremy highlighted his concerns about the site and the risk it poses. David Wilson provided further information regarding the State Government's communication on the site. David Carroll requested with there was an emergency plan in place for the site. Melinda stated this may be something they require but the Shire is not privy as to whether this is in place. The Committee discussed further details of the incident and the site's activities. Melinda will follow up on the matter and update Committee members on the outcome.

## 7. 2024 COMMITTEE MEETING DATES & NEXT MEETING

In accordance with clause 1.12.3.11 Meetings in the “Council Committees and Advisory Group” booklet the Chittering Bushfire Advisory Committee are to determine the meeting dates for 2024.

The dates are to be discussed by Committee Members and agreed upon. The dates that are suggested for 2024 are as follows:

- a. Tuesday 12 March
- b. Tuesday 11 June
- c. Tuesday 8 October

### 7.1 OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

Moved Phill Humphry / Seconded David Wilson

That:

1. The Chittering Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting dates for 2024 are as follows:
  - a. Tuesday 12 March
  - b. Tuesday 11 June
  - c. Tuesday 8 October
2. The Chittering Bush Fire Advisory Committee meetings will be held in the Council Chambers, 6177 Great Northern Highway, Bindoon commencing at 7pm.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 8. CLOSURE

The Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 8:45pm.