

Shire of Kent

Bushfire Advisory Committee

Minutes

12 October 2022

Meeting Commencing at 3.00pm
Pingrup Town BFB Fire Station

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SHIRE OF KENT

Agenda for the Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting to be held at the Pingrup Town BFB Fire Station on Wednesday 12 October 2022 at 3.00pm

1 OPENING & ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The presiding Member declared the meeting opened at 3:10 pm.
Welcome of visitors, guests and observers.

2 Acknowledgement of Country

(Chairperson to read)

I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet and pay my respects to their elders, past present and emerging.

3 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

3.1 PRESENT

Matt Castaldini – CESM/DCBFCO
Grant Collins - CBFCO
Darren Hawley - DCBFCO
Tim Borgward
Scott Crosby – Senior FCO West
James Smart
Eric Featherstone
Stephen Hawley
Justin Germain
Mitch Smith
Doug Smith – Senior FCO East
Peter Clarke A/CEO – Shire of Kent
Mark Tulleken MI – Shire of Kent

3.2 APOLOGIES

Mitch Davies (DBCA)
Warrick Browne
Brad Harris
Darren Gray
Wayne Tapscott
Patrick Smith
Grant Hansen (DFES)

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Resolution

That the Minutes of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting held on 14 April 2022 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Scott Crosby

Seconded: Grant Collins

Carried

5 BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Outstanding actions and recommendations for the Bushfire Advisory Committee are below. An update will be provided by relevant responsible person for each item.

Meeting Date	Brigade / Report Title	Details of Required Action	Responsible Officer	Current Status	Action Completed
15 April 2021	WHS	Identify minimum standards to comply with coming WHS Act	CESM / BFAC		Ongoing
15 April 2021	000 / Callout arrangement	Update 000 agreement and method of mobilising brigades.	CESM	SoK to use DFES Rapid Alert for SMS notifications, free to use and accessible to CBFCO/DCBFCO/FCO to request attendance to fires. Receipts to be registered as farm responders in their catchment area.	Complete

6 REPORTS

Written reports may be submitted prior to the meeting.

6.1 CHIEF BUSHFIRE CONTROL OFFICER

Be patient with new AFDRS. Fire Breaks don't look great, tough year which is going to be an issue. Lots of fuel load and grass around, could be challenging if we get some bigger fires.

Need to sort our training for Shire Staff to help out with fire response. I need to have a meeting with CEO/MI about cooperation/ training for the coming season.

Permit issuing – be mindful of weather and appropriate conditions.

6.2 NYABING BUSH FIRE BRIGADE

Nil

6.3 PINGRUP BUSH FIRE BRIGADE

Nil

6.4 BOONGADOO BUSH FIRE BRIGADE

Nil

6.5 HOLLAND ROCK BUSH FIRE BRIGADE

Nil

6.6 MINDARABIN BUSH FIRE BRIGADE

Nil

6.7 PINGARNUP BUSH FIRE BRIGADE

Nil

6.8 DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Grant Hansen our DFES Area Officer is retiring and expecting to finish in early to mid-November. We may get an acting Area Officer until a permanent replacement is employed.

6.9 PARKS & WILDLIFE SERVICE



Department of **Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions**



Report for Kent Shire BFAC Meeting October 2022

Bushfire Mitigation

Parks and Wildlife Service completed four of its planned burns last Autumn. These include burns in the Williams and Kondinin/Yilgarn Shires. We also completed burns in Cranbrook and Tammin Shires. Early rain meant we were unable to complete as many burns as planned again.

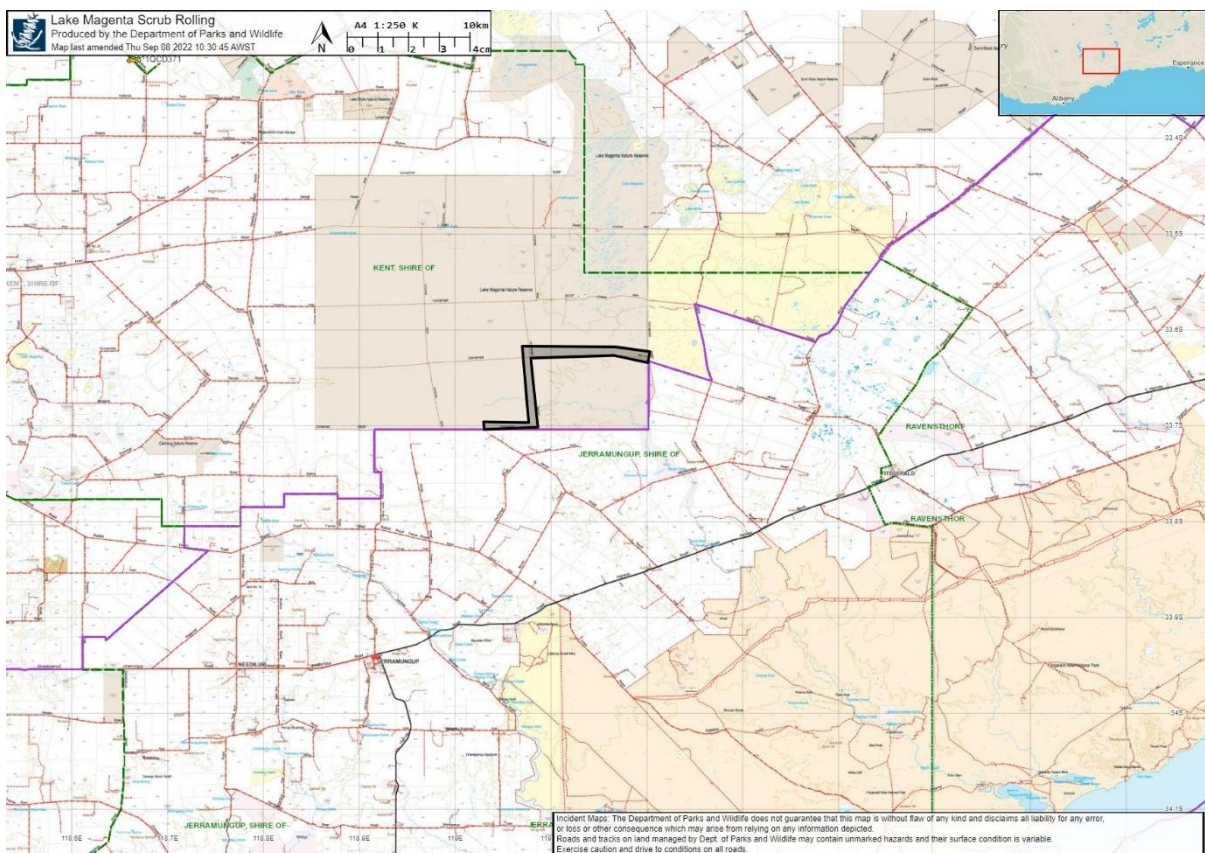
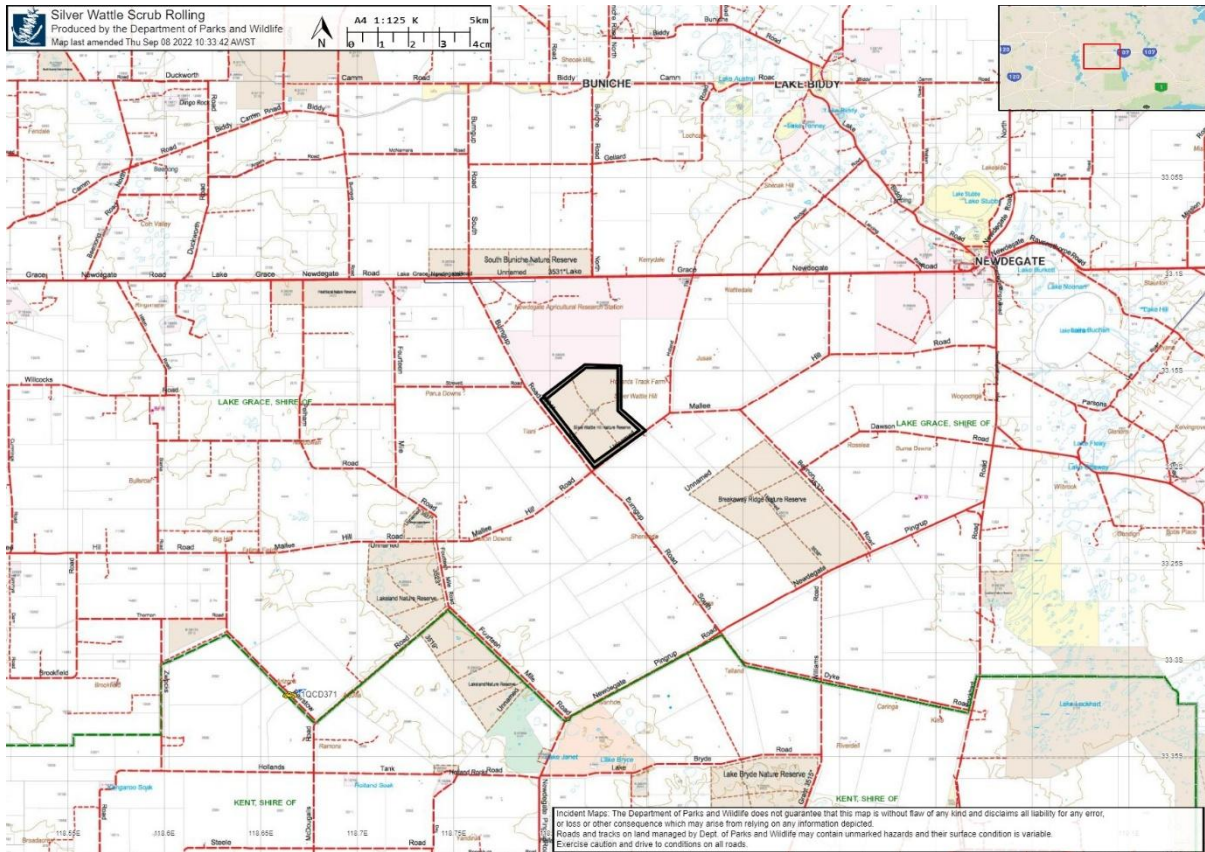
We completed 145km's of track mtce and 12km's of scrub rolling in Dragon Rocks Nature Reserve in the shires of Kulin and Lake Grace. Were not able to get to burning the scrub rolling so will look at burning next Autumn.

In regard to other mitigation plans this financial year, we are looking at doing some blade up scrub rolling for two blade widths on the boundaries of Silver Wattle Nature Reserve. We will then look at burning these to create a wider break fuel reduced break. Finally, also looking at retreating a buffer in Lake Magenta Reserve in the Shire of Kent.

Reporting Fires to Parks and Wildlife Service

All fires effecting or threatening Parks and Wildlife Service managed land in the Wheatbelt needs to be reported to the Duty Officer on **9881 9200**. This number is available 7 days a week.

The Wheatbelt Region continues to provide bushfire resources that are available on a roster system throughout the bush fire season including weekends and public holidays.



6.10 COMMUNITY EMERGENCY SERVICES MANAGER

Planning, Coordinating, Delivering Training then post course paperwork.
Working on Kent PPC issuing with Jess Browne from the Shire.

7 CESM - WHS Act 2020

Quick reminder we are still in the early days of the WHS Act with more awareness growing, especially with the inquiry called into the agricultural sector.

The Shire of Kent council have graciously given us funds to purchase PPC for the 133 volunteers we have registered. I have been working with Jess Browne to purchase items of PPC and we will distribute once it has come in. I'm not sure it will be ready for the season at this stage. We are planning to provide the state standard of equipment to minimise liability on the Shire. Please stay tuned for order forms and sizing guides. This equipment can only be issued to registered individuals, not a quantity per farm. The PPC/E stays the property of the Shire of Kent and shall be returned when someone leaves the area.

Remember, in the absence of proper gear the minimum requirement is for long sleeves and long pants of a natural fibre blend. Sturdy boots, gloves and a hat.

Training

We have the upcoming Rural Fire Awareness course on the 25th in Pingrup. We have ~30 people registered so far, however there are lots of people from the eastern end of the shire who have not yet responded. We need your help encouraging people to attend. It the same as what we did last year and has been well regarded by most participants.

Comments:

Query: Where will we be purchasing the Full Face respirators, we purchased some and they are on backorder.

Response (Matt): Understood, we have a number of suppliers who should be able to supply, we haven't pinned this down yet,

Discussion was had regarding issuing Fire boots to registered volunteers. The consensus was that Boots shall be issued to Registered members of the Town brigades and Active Fire Control Officers.

Resolution

That it be recommended to Council that the Shire of Kent Administration only purchase fire boots for registered Town Brigade Members and Active Fire Control Officers, at least in the initial roll out phase of issuing PPC.

Moved: Scott Crosby

Seconded: Grant Collins

CARRIED

Discussion Against:

Matt Castaldini (CESM) – All registered volunteers are entitled to receive a full kit of Level 1 PPC as per the state standard, which includes boots. As Council have graciously put up considerable

funds to accelerate the rollout of PPC, the CEO would need to be willing to accept the risk of not supplying boots. (In the case where the Shire has supplied boots and they are not worn, the duty is passed from the Shire to the 'Worker'.) The state backed LGGs system should be supplying the requirements of volunteer PPC without the requirement to access ratepayer funds, disappointingly we do not get the funds required to cover the costs.

Discussion For:

Various; Consensus that the average farmer would not change boots in a fire response situation. It is effectively a waste of ratepayer money to purchase boots.

8 NOMINATIONS OF FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS

8.1 NOMINATION OF FIRE CONTROL OFFICERS

Legal Implications

s.38. Local government may appoint bush fire control officer

- (1) A local government may from time to time appoint such persons as it thinks necessary to be its bush fire control officers under and for the purposes of this Act, and of those officers shall subject to section 38A(2) appoint 2 as the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and the Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer who shall be first and second in seniority of those officers, and subject thereto may determine the respective seniority of the other bush fire control officers appointed by it.
- (2A) The local government shall cause notice of an appointment made under the provisions of subsection (1) to be published at least once in a newspaper circulating in its district.

(Note the following names are incumbents – to be updated at the meeting.)

Permit issuing officers – check for updates?

Fire Control Officers (2022-2023)	
Boongadoo BFB	
Scott Crosby	Boongadoo 1
Brad Harris	Boongadoo 4
Lance Cooper	Boongadoo 5
Nyabing Town BFB	
Darren Gray	Nyabing 1
Justin Germain – Permit Issuing Officer	Nyabing 4
Mindarabin BFB	
Grant Collins	Kent Chief (<i>Mindarabin 1</i>)
Warrick Browne – Permit Issuing Officer	Mindarabin 2
Greg Hobley	Mindarabin 3
John Jolley	Mindarabin 4
Jared Hobley	Mindarabin 5
Holland Rock BFB	
Kelvin Holmes	Holland Rock 1
Doug Smith	Holland Rock 2

Jamie Smart	Holland Rock 3
Pingrup Town BFB	
Tim Borgward – Permit Issuing Officer	Pingrup 1
Darren Hawley – Permit Issuing Officer	Kent Deputy 1 (Pingrup 2)
Stephen Hawley	Pingrup 3
Pingarnup BFB	
Wayne Tapscott – Permit Issuing Officer	Pingarnup 1
Eric Featherstone	Pingarnup 2
Mitch Smith	

8.2 Officer Recommendation

Resolution:

That the Bush Fire Advisory Committee recommends to Council the appointment of the listed persons in the Minutes as Fire Control Officers for the 2022/2023 bush fire season.

Moved: Scott Crosby

Seconded: Tim Borgward

Voting Requirements

Simple majority required.

CARRIED

8.3 **Reminder: Bush Fire Control Officers Authorised to issue Harvest & Vehicle Movement Bans**

Reminder: The following officers are authorised under r.38A of the Bush Fire Regulations 1954, to prohibit the or operation of any engines, vehicles, plant or machinery during the prohibited burning times or restricted burning times, or both, where the operation of such machinery is, in the opinion of the officer, likely to cause a bush fire, or would be conducive to the spread of a bush fire:

Officers Authorised to issue Harvest & Vehicle Movement Bans
Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Chief Executive Officer
Community Emergency Services Manager

CBH Liaison Officers

The following bush fire control officers are authorised to liaise with CBH regarding ceasing of operations when a Harvest & Vehicle Movement Ban has been declared for the relevant district:

Harvest Ban - CBH Liaison Officers	
Nyabing	Grant Collins
Pingrup	Darren Hawley

9 GENERAL BUSINESS

9.1 AFDRS / FDI vs FBI / HVMB

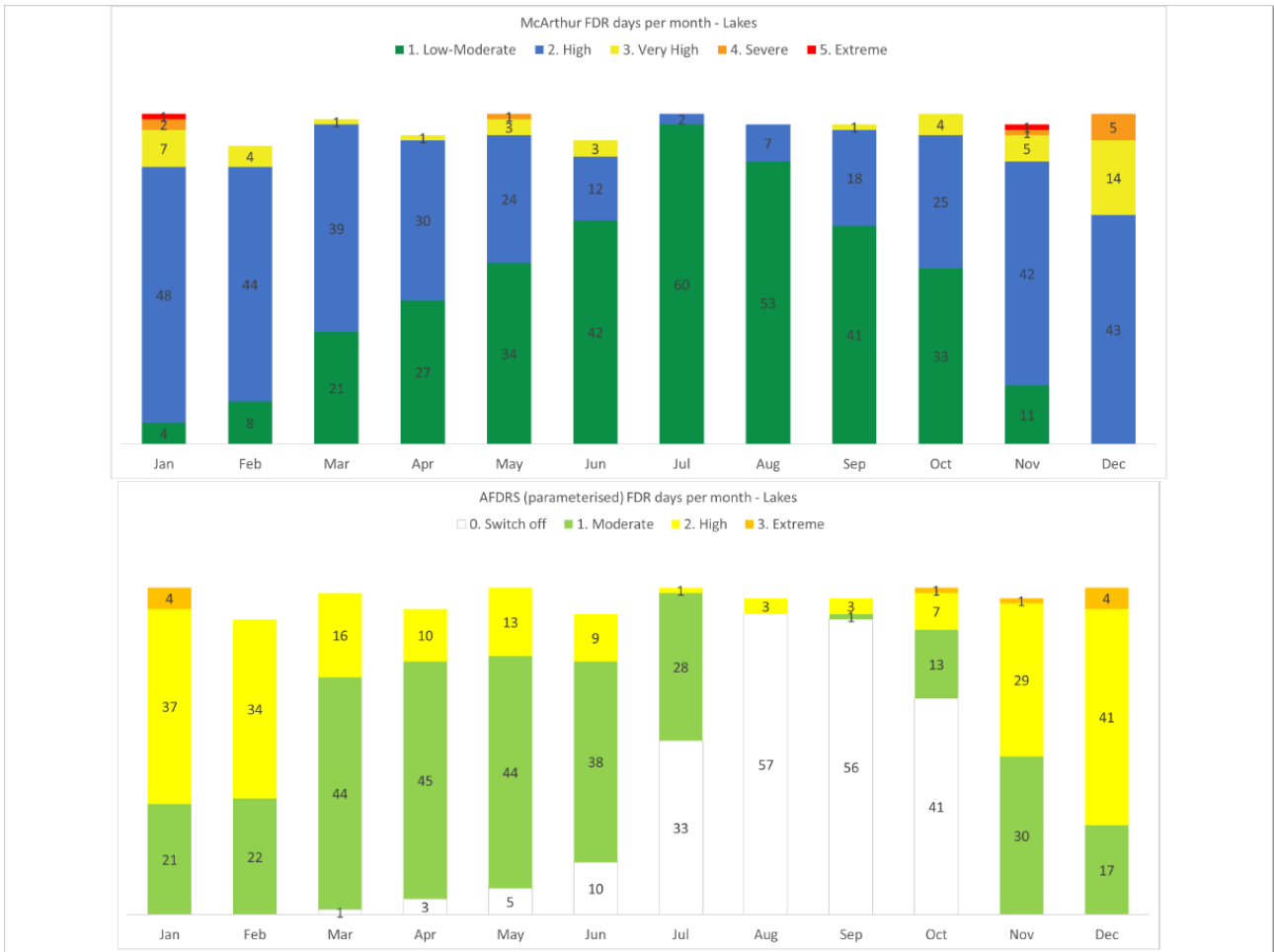
Computer Presentation by Matt on AFDRS.

HVMB at FBI 40, Equivalent to the old FDI32 when the reading were taken correctly.

We will likely want to reduce the threshold. I am unsure where you would be comfortable, so we will likely need to wait and see. An expectation of a ban between 35-38 could be likely.

Permits are invalid at High and above, potential limitations in Autumn.

HVMB Calculations, new 'app'/ offline website.



Action: Provide notification from the Shire to Land owners/ Managers that there will be less days to burn in Autumn next year so farm practise can be amended to not unnecessarily limit people.

Attention Farming Landowners and Managers,

Following a review of the new Australian Fire Danger Rating System, the Shire of Kent Fire Control Officers have discussed and are concerned that there will be less days in Autumn eligible to burn with a fire permit, resulting in less days to burn windrows or chaff dumps. We understand this can have an impact on farming practise and encourage you to seek further information to make informed decisions prior to harvesting.

Regards,

Matt Castaldini – Community Emergency Services Manager

9.2 Channel 5

Everyone should have received 2x CB5 stickers in their rates, there are more available through the Shire, Pingrup Traders and soon Nyabing Ag as required.

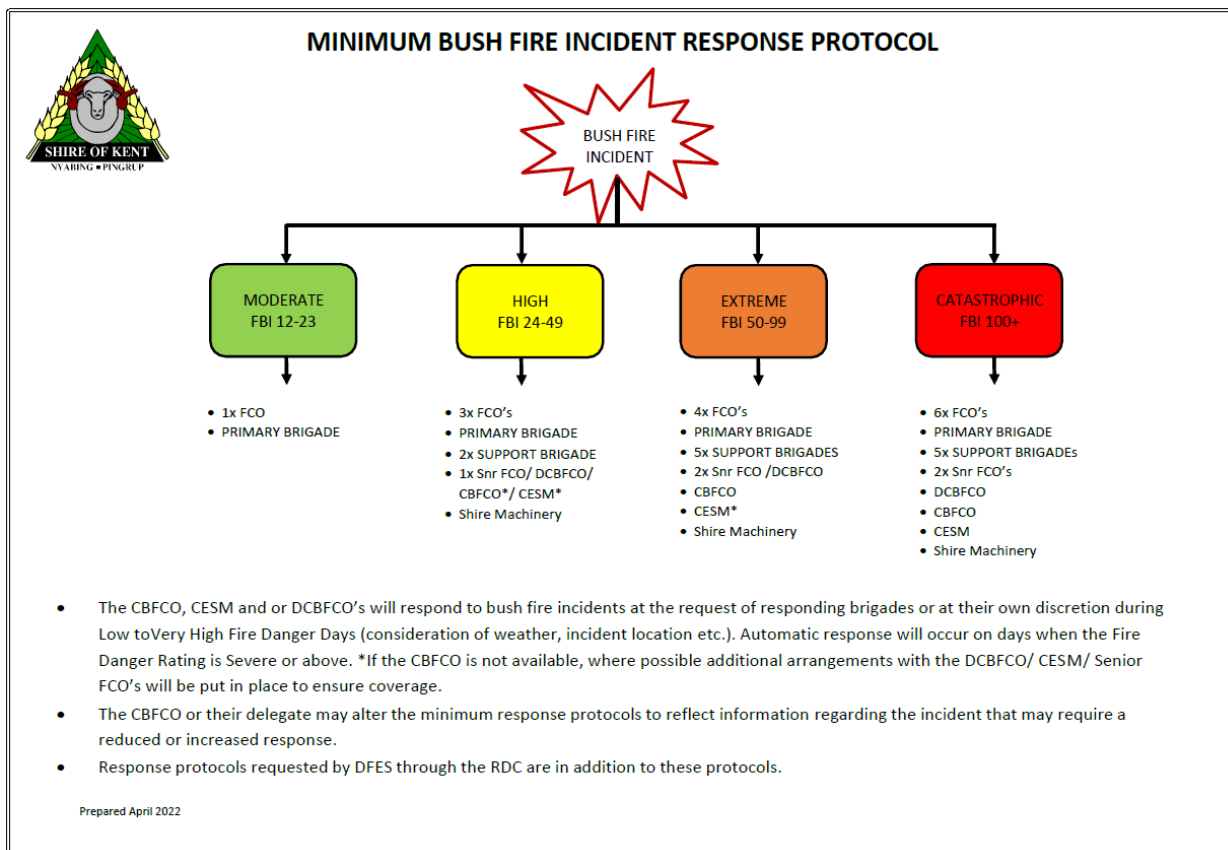
9.3 REGIONAL OPERATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ROAC)

A number of topics were discussed including;

- AFDRS
- Reporting fires to 000
- Recording when man-made items burn (headers, tyres, bailers etc) as the smoke it toxic and will have health implications in the future
- Online Reports vs. Paper reports (BFB can still do paper reports)
- Requirement for more training across the region to bring everyone onto the same page.

9.4 Mobilisation Plan

Reminder: Mobilisation Plan

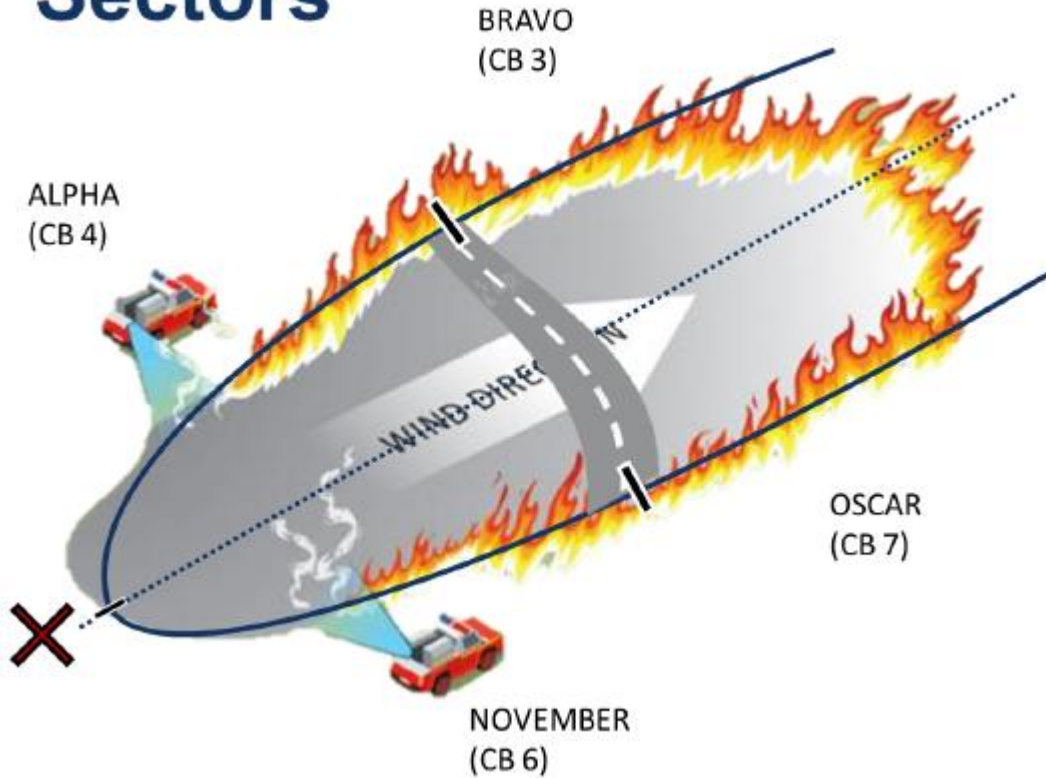


9.5 Rural Fire Awareness / Sectors

Presentation on Rural Fire Awareness – Matt.

One of the things that was learnt from the Narrogin/Wickepin fire was how the sectorising didn't work as no one changed radio channels.

Sectors



9.6 Structure / FCO Expectations

Expectation for FCOs is that they are leading the community and other farm responders at incidents. This is by stepping back from direct suppression activities and taking steps to assess where the fire is, where it’s going, what’s at risk, what are we doing about it.

At an incident we should have an Incident Controller and depending on escalation 2 or more sector commanders.

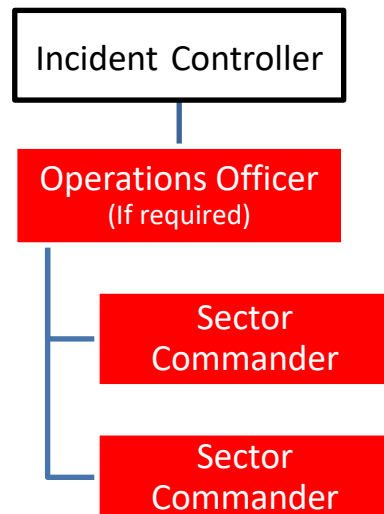
The plan is to build capability and capacity into you, the local FCO team, to be more self sufficient to more effectively support your community in the response to emergency incidents.

By implementing sectors in fire management we can take some load off of the incident controller to have time to plan and assess what is happening and what to do about it.

Each Sector commander can effectively manage the resources in their sector.

The more we can practise using sectors at smaller incidents, we will be in a much better place to use it instinctively in the unfortunate event of a large fire in our area.

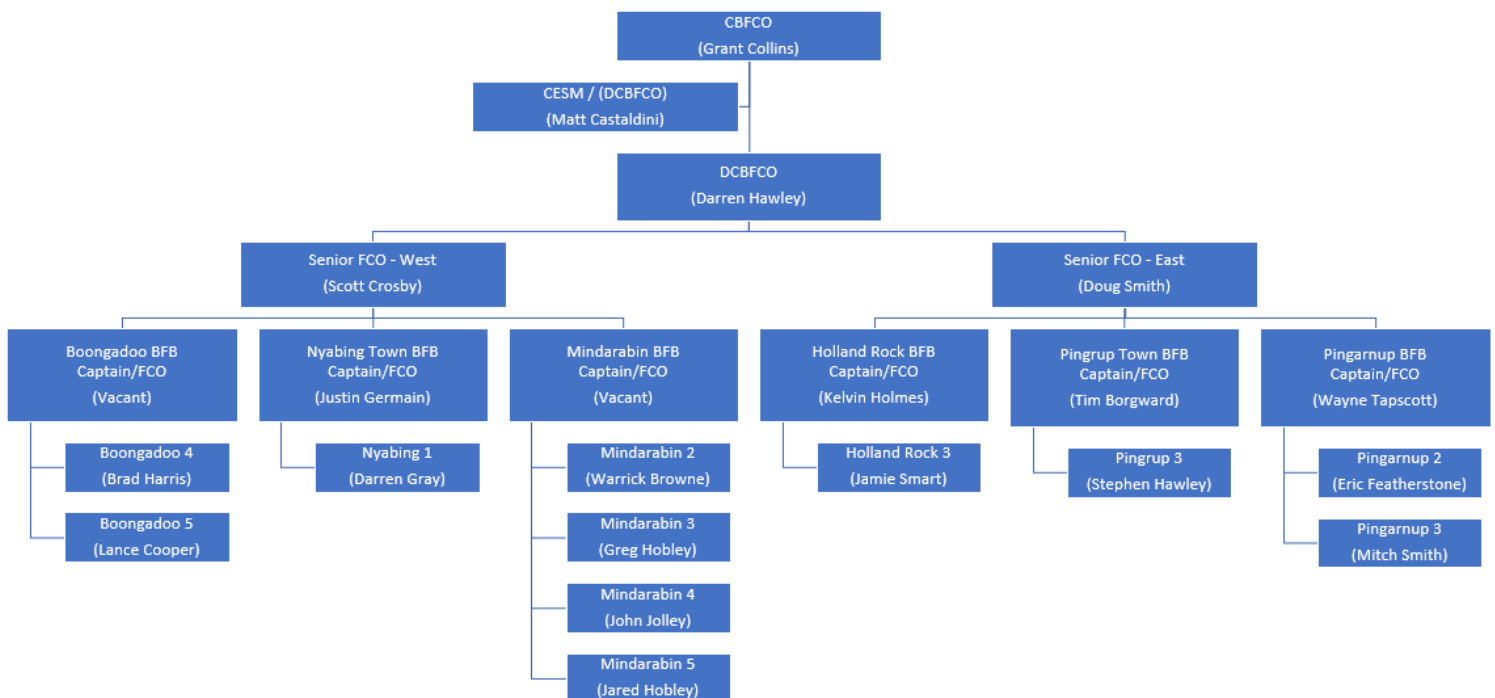
If we don’t practise, we cant expect to get better at it.



To help with an effective organisation, we have an operational organisation structure. This can help with administration and coordination of resources and response. People should ideally not be holding multiple concurrent roles such as Captain and DCBFCO as an example. This structure also gives a pathway for progression, as FCOs can move up to being a Captain/FCO of their brigade, then move to Senior FCO, hopefully on to DCBFCO then CBFCO.

The Captain of the brigade is the contact point for the people registered against that brigade and is the person their members should contact in the first instance for support or queries. The Captain should also be the contact point for coordinating activities or requests for their brigade.

Chain of Command – AIMS Principles



We can revisit FCO role appointments if required.

9.7 CESM – Matt – L3 PFT

I have been approved some months ago by each of the 3 CEOs to go on the State Pre-Formed Level 3 incident Management Team. I will be “on-call” one week in four and may need to drop and go to a state incident if mobilised and we aren’t already dealing with a significant incident.

9.8 FCO Packs – Coming

Some complete and available for collection. If you didn’t get one please let me know and we can sort you out one through Jess Browne at the Shire Office.

9.9 High Season LT

Requested, Unlikely to come

9.10 Holland Rock or Hollands Rock?

Holland Rock is correct, everyone says Hollands Rock as it is a bit easier to say faster, Please leave as-is.

9.11 Other General Business

Regarding Woodside Carbon Farming; Have they provided their fire management plan or infrastructure to assist in the suppression of fire? Noone has heard from them in a while. Reported their fire breaks are in good condition.

10 CLOSURE/

There being no further business, the Presiding Member closed the meeting at 5:21 pm

11 Endorsement

I _____ hereby certify that this is a true and accurate copy of the minutes of the BFAC meeting held on 12 October 2022, as per the resolution in the BFAC meeting on the ____ day of _____ 2022.

Name: _____ Signed: _____