Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Fire & Emergency Services**

DFES
Department of Fire & Emergency Services

Our Ref: D00304; 20/124934
Your Ref: 0234131

Mrs Stephanie Addison-Brown
Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Augusta-Margaret River
PO Box 61
Margaret River WA 6285

Dear Mrs Addison-Brown

Re: BUSHFIRE RISK PLANNING COORDINATOR – SHIRE OF AUGUSTA-MARGARET RIVER

Thank you for your letter dated 1st July 2020 regarding the continuation of funding for the Bushfire Risk Planning Coordinator at the Shire of Augusta Margaret River.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) currently has permanent funding for eight Bushfire Risk Planning Coordinators (BRPC) which assist local governments (LG) across the State develop Bushfire Risk Management (BRM) Plans.

The BRPC positions assist LG's who have limited internal capacity and in some cases bushfire knowledge by providing the expertise to develop their BRM Plan and seek endorsement by the Office of Bushfire Risk Management (OBRM). This then enables the LG to apply for Mitigation Activity Funding. Another function of the BRPC while working within the local government, is to ensure the BRM process is embedded into the corporate and business plans across the different business areas which help guarantee the process and future mitigation treatment plans are achievable.

Unfortunately, there is a requirement to move the BRPC funding to new LG's across the State to assist with identification of their risks and development of a BRM Plan so it is unlikely that there will be any extension of the existing arrangements with your LG beyond 30 June 2021. DFES recognises the challenges that LG's face and is currently assessing options and potential funding options that may be available to assist LG's with the ongoing management of their mitigation programs and reviewing of BRM Plans.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me on 6551 4087 or Lower South West Regional Superintendent, Phil Brandrett on 9771 6800.

Yours sincerely

MARK BOWEN AFSM
SUPERINTENDENT
BUSHFIRE RISK MANAGEMENT BRANCH

15 July 2020

Cc: Superintendent Lower South West

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1 July 2020

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Fire & Emergency Services
- 8 JUL 2020
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Action: M. Bowen
Doc No.: 20/120497

Department of Fire & Emergency Services
Superintendent Bushfire Risk Management
Mr Mark Bowen
GPO Box P1174
PERTH WA 6844

Dear Mr Bowen

Bushfire Risk Planning Coordinator - Shire of Augusta Margaret River

At a recent Council meeting of the Shire of Augusta Margaret River I was instructed by Council to make contact with State Government to enquire about funding for a full time Bushfire Risk Management Planner for the Shire.

As you are no doubt aware, our arrangements for the provision of our Coordinator, Andrew Hunt, expire at the end of this financial year, with 1 day per week currently being allowed to attend to the requirements of the Shire of Augusta Margaret River. With our Bushfire Risk Management Plan (BRMP) being due for review in 2022, and the resultant workload that not only this, but the implementation of treatments identified through the plan is, and will, impose on existing staff, we are concerned at the implications that the removal or non-renewal of this contract may have on the Shire to adequately address and comply with the BRMP.

We respectfully request that the Shire be included in any consultation regarding the future of this vital position and further, that consideration be given to funding for a full time Bushfire Risk Management Coordinator for the Shire of Augusta Margaret River.

Please feel free to contact myself to discuss if required.

Yours faithfully

STEPHANIE ADDISON-BROWN
Chief Executive Officer