



City of Busselton
Geographie Bay

Bush Fire Advisory Committee Agenda

13 September 2016

**Community Resource Centre, Meeting Room 1, 21 Cammilleri Street, Busselton
on Tuesday 13 September 2016, commencing at 7.30pm.**

CITY OF BUSSELTON

**AGENDA FOR THE BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD ON
13 SEPTEMBER 2016**

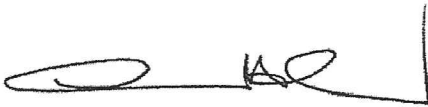
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CITY OF BUSSELTON**MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA – 13 SEPTEMBER 2016**

NOTICE is given that a meeting of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee will be held at the Community Resource Centre, Meeting Room 1, 21 Cammilleri Street, Busselton on 13 September 2016 commencing at 7:30pm.

Your attendance is respectfully requested.



MIKE ARCHER
Chief Executive Officer, City of Busselton

A G E N D A

1. **DECLARATION OF OPENING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS**

2. **ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

See Attendance List

Apologies:

Allan Guthrie

C.B.F.C.O

3. **DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

4. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

4.1 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM MEETING HELD 14 JUNE 2016

BUSINESS ARISING

5. **PRESENTATIONS**

6. **BUSINESS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE**

7. OFFICER/DELEGATE REPORTS

Attachment 7.1 - City of Busselton Ranger and Emergency Services Coordinator

Attachment 7.2 - Department of Fire & Emergency Services (Andy Thompson)

Attachment 7.3 – Community Emergency Services Manager (Tim Wall)

Officer Recommendation

1. The committee receives the following reports and notes the comments therein:

- a) City of Busselton Ranger & Emergency Services Coordinator
- b) Department of Fire & Emergency Services
- c) Community Emergency Services Manager City of Busselton

8. MATTERS OF URGENCY**9. OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY (OH&S)****10. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held on 13 December 2016 at 7:30pm in the Community Resource Centre, City of Busselton, 21 Cammilleri Street, Busselton.

11. CLOSURE

Attachment 7.1 Report to City of Busselton Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting to be held on 13 September 2016

Agency: City of Busselton

Officer Representing: Ranger & Emergency Services Coordinator

Matters to be discussed:

1. Sentinel Alert and Public Information - Report of the Special Inquiry into the January 2016 Waroona Fire

At the meeting of the BFAC held on 14th June 2016, the Committee recommended to Council as follows:

The City of Busselton conducts a survey to ascertain the level of community interest in the Capes Region for a Sentinel Alert System.

Shortly after that meeting, the Report of the Special Inquiry into the January 2016 Waroona Fire – “Reframing Rural Fire Management” was released.

The report goes into significant detail on the matter of public information and warning systems. In Chapter 10, Information, Alerts and Warnings, some 25 pages are devoted to this subject.

The majority of the report focuses on the operational aspects (timing, accuracy, completeness etc) of specific warnings issued during the fire, and whether these served the desired purpose of alerting the community to the dangers of the fire, or actually contributed to the overall uncertainty. The report also goes into the information provided at public meetings, on ABC radio and in other formats.

Whilst acknowledging numerous failings in timing, distribution and message content, the only Recommendation contained in this section is:

Recommendation 11: *The Department of Fire and Emergency Services to investigate and adopt a system that will allow the public to opt in, monitor and receive, through a ‘push mechanism’, bushfire and other emergency warnings, maps and information using a wide variety of devices including personal hand held smart devices.*

This recommendation is based on evidence to the Inquiry that in the 2016-17 financial year DFES proposes to establish a Digital Communications and Social Media Team to take advantage of new technology. It is also proposed that this team will be tasked with expanding DFES social media engagement, developing the CMS and also investigating and delivering an app for handheld devices. Whilst specific details of the app have not yet been finalised, DFES proposes to deliver the app by 2017-18.

In the closing paragraphs of this chapter of the report, the Inquiry makes the following comments about the importance of communications, but also the false sense of security that can be generated:

“Comments received in several written submissions to the Special Inquiry indicated that due to specific town sites not being mentioned in alerts, community members did not feel that action was required. The Emergency Alert Australia website advises individuals to not wait to receive a warning message before acting and this message is also promoted in the DFES Community Engagement Bushfire Strategy. The Special Inquiry endorses this message.

As the technology, timing and content of emergency information and warnings continue to be enhanced, so too the expectations of the community increase. In attempting to meet all of the (varying) needs of

community there needs to be a balance. There is a risk of a "learned helplessness". That is, some individuals will choose not to proactively seek information or to act on information until they are told or shown directly by the emergency services. Consistent with the theme of 'Shared Responsibility', the aim of warnings and advice should be to empower the public to act on their own, to the greatest degree possible."

The Special Inquiry considers that continued emphases should be placed on education around warning and alert meanings and limitations. Further, self-reliance and preparedness should continue to be encouraged for people living in bushfire prone areas.

In summary, the Report makes a recommendation that:

- DFES "investigate and adopt a system that will allow the public to opt in, monitor and receive, through a 'push mechanism', bushfire and other emergency warnings, maps and information using a wide variety of devices including personal hand held smart devices."

Given the content in the report relating to the difficulties around the current emergency warning systems, and that Sentinel Alert is designed to rebroadcast the DFES alerts direct into private residences, in the best interests of the Busselton community, information and advice will be sought from DFES in regards to the recommendations from the Special Inquiry by State agencies so that any system which may be provided in the City of Busselton is consistent with and complimentary to the emergency messaging services developed by DFES.

**Attachment 7.2 Report to City of Busselton Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting to be held
on 13 September 2016**

Agency: Department of Fire & Emergency Services

Officer Representing: Andy Thompson

Matters to be discussed:

- Vehicle Identifier Stickers
- In Cab Air Training
- 12.2 Water Tanker
- RUI Exercise Commonage Nov 5th
- Leaders Forum
- WAFES Conference

**Attachment 7.3 Report to City of Busselton Bush Fire Advisory Committee meeting to be held
on 13 September 2016**

Agency: City of Busselton/ DFES

Officer Representing: Tim Wall

Matters to be discussed:

- 1) Full face mask training to be rolled out as required.
- 2) eAcademy update, extra training need as required, all course nominations through eAcademy only.
- 3) RUI exercise & operation control location set up 5 November
- 4) Expo 24 September.
- 5) Upgrade of all appliances training for key members from each brigade to trained allowing these keys personal to role out to each brigade as required.
- 6) Fuel reduction burns largest number undertaken to date more to be done as weather conditions allow.
- 7) Pre summer briefing, two briefings - one South West zones, second North East zone
- 8) Zone response starts on 1st December
- 9) 12.2 & ICV turnout 12.2 to be turned out each incident during zone response times, be mindful to mobilise ICV early to an incident.
- 10) Sector commander refresher date to be advised.
- 11) FCO Refresher training - legal requirement, date to be advised.