

WILLIAMS BUSH FIRE BRIGADES

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON FRIDAY 16TH
OCTOBER 2009 COMMENCING AT 4.30PM**

PRESENT

Cr Richard Johnstone	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Brian Liddelow	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer
Cr Graham Prowse	(Left the meeting 5.00pm)
Cr Gilbert Medlen	Tarwonga Brigade
Ryan Duff	Chief Executive Officer
Ross Major	Glenfield Brigade
Jeff Pearson	Glenfield Brigade
Doug Fowler (7.30pm)	Narrakine Brigade
Cliff Hall	Tarwonga Brigade
Dennis Cowcher	Quindanning Brigade
George Lavender	Boraning Brigade (From 4.45pm)
Alan Greaves	West Culbin Brigade
Simon Vogel	FESA

APOLOGIES

Nil.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

D Fowler/R Major

That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Williams Bush Fire Brigades held on Wednesday 22nd October 2008, as circulated, be received.

Carried

BUSINESS ARISING

Radio Interference - Northam

Ross Major advised that there was still radio interference from the Shire of Northam. Simon Vogel advised that the WARREN radio project was progressing and will be implemented in our area in the next fire season or so. He also advised that he would speak to his colleagues in Northam to see if the chit chat could be minimised.

Glenfield Brigade – Slip on Fire Units

Glenfield Brigade has purchased 2 slip on fire units which are located at the Shire Depot.

APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF BUSHFIRE CONTROL OFFICER AND DEPUTY

D Fowler/J Pearson

That Richard Johnstone be nominated as Chief Bushfire Control Officer and Brian Liddelow be nominated as Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer for the 2009/10 Fire Season.

Accepted.

Recommendation to be made to the Shire of Williams to appoint the above.

Bush Fire Control Officers – Appointment

The following Fire Control Officers will be gazetted unless brigades advise any changes:

Boraning	George Lavender
Congelin	Stuart Rintoul
Glenfield	Ross Major
Narrakine	Doug Fowler
Quindanning	Denis Cowcher
Tarwonga	Gilbert Medlen
West Culbin	Kennedy Hogg

Dual Fire Control Officers

Council has received applications and approved the following people to be dual Fire Control Officers;

Shire of West Arthur	Trevor Bunce
Shire of Wagin	Peter Piesse
Shire of Wandering	Bruce Dowsett
Shire of Cuballing	Nelson Young

GENERAL BUSINESS

Emergency Services Levy Grants 2009/2010

Council made application for operational costs and was allocated \$20,580 for 2009/2010. It is noted that the Ratepayers from the Shire of Williams contribute \$27,544 to the FESA levy. Council spent \$23,622 in 2008/09 after receiving \$23,040

Update on FESA Activities – Simon Vogel

- Legislation Changes
Simon Vogel explained to the meeting what the proposed changes to the Bush Fire Act are and what the implications would be to local brigades.
- WAREN Radio Network
The new radio network has been rolled out on the south coast and implementation will move north in the next 12 months.

A request has been made for the 2nd hand radios from areas like Gnowangerup to be made available for spare parts and replacement radios.
- Fire Danger Rating Index Changes
32-50 Very High
50-75 Severe
75-100 Extreme
100+ Catastrophic

Narrakine Brigade

Request a supply of Macarthur Meters.

Quindanning Brigade – Portable Standpipe

Dennis Cowcher advised that the Gold Mine had donated funds to the Quindanning Brigade to purchase a portable standpipe which has now been purchased. The standpipe is currently housed at Warren Cowcher's property.

Culbin Brigade

Requested another radio be supplied as South's had moved Brigades taking the radio with them. Also the brigade requested more overalls and goggles be made available.

Quindanning Standpipe – Boddington Shire

Richard Johnstone advised that the standpipe in the Quindanning Townsite was locked and that the key could not be located. George Lavender was going to follow up with the Boddington Shire and have a key located at the Quindanning Hotel.

Road Verge – Albany Highway

Brian Liddelow expressed concern about the amount of vegetation on the sides of the road on Albany Highway particularly in the Narrakine Brigade area. It was also noted that other areas such as the end of the Tarwonga Brigade were also bad.

D Fowler/R Major

A letter is to be written to Main Roads to see what their program is for the control of grass on the Albany Highway.

Carried

The meeting also expressed concern about Council road verges and the mulching of trees which added to the fuel load on the sides of the road.

Radio Call-up

The meeting expressed its gratitude to Ross and Natalie Major for their continued management of the Bushfire Radio network.

The format of radio call-ups will be changed this fire season.

Initial Radio call-up – **Monday 9th November** – 7.45am

Text messages to be sent out advising of future call-ups when weather patterns suggest high fire danger

Meeting Closed at 6.05pm