



# **MINUTES**

## **Bush Fire Advisory Committee Meeting**

### **GENERAL MEETING**

**held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2026**  
**commencing at 7:21 pm at the Cranbrook Community Hub**

#### **Bush Fires Act 1954 – Advisory Committees**

A Local Government may at any time appoint such persons as it thinks fit as a bush fire advisory committee for the purposes of advising the local government regarding all matters relating to the preventing, controlling and extinguishing of bush fires.

A committee appointed under this section may:

- from time to time meet and adjourn as the committee thinks fits,
- shall not transact business at a meeting unless the quorum fixed by the local government is present,
- is answerable to the local government and shall, as and when required by the local government, report fully on its activities.

Bush Fire Brigades Local Law states; “the Bush Fire Advisory Committee is to make recommendations to the local government on all motions received by the Bush Fire Advisory Committee from bush fire brigades.”

Linda Gray  
Chief Executive Officer

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**MINUTES OF THE CRANBROOK BUSHFIRE ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON 28<sup>th</sup> April 2026  
COMMENCING AT 7:21pm**

The Chairperson, G Marshall declared the meeting open at 7.21 pm.

• **ATTENDANCE**

Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (CBFCO) and Fire Weather Officer	Graeme Marshall
1 <sup>st</sup> Deputy CBFCO	Simon Hilder
2 <sup>nd</sup> Deputy CBFCO & Cranbrook Central Captain	Jamie Climie
Balicup	Phil Horrocks
Bokerup	Charles Russell
Bokerup	Nathan Waterman
Cranbrook Central	Michael Walsh
Cranbrook East	Harley Smith
Cranbrook Town Captain	Ricky Pearton
Frankland Town	Andrew Murray
Kybellup	Kieron Haynes
Nunijup	Lindsay Watterson
Tenterden Captain	Jason Watterson
Tenterden	Martin House
Tenterden	Steve King
Tunney Captain	Sean Morgan
Tunney	Adam Hearn
Woolonga	Brett Smith

**1.1 Observers**

Chief Executive Officer	Linda Gray
A/DFES District Officer	Darren Prior
CESM	Phill Gunn (Minute Taker)
Cranbrook Duty Officer	Teresa Jones

**1.2 Apologies**

Cranbrook Town / Shire Ranger	Wes Andrews
DBCA	Ali Benson
Cranbrook Shire President	Perin Mulcahy
Cranbrook Shire Councillor	Chelsea Lange
Frankland River	Peter Ettridge
Bokerup/Unicup Captain	Tom Ettridge

- **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

- Recommendation**

- Moved: Steve King, Seconded: Martin House**, that the Minutes of the Cranbrook Bushfire Advisory Committee Meeting held on **30<sup>th</sup> September, 2025**, be confirmed as a true and correct record.

- **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

- 3.1 Response to Previous Public Questions Taken On Notice**

- Nil

- 3.2 Public Question Time**

- Nil

- **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- Nil

- **REPORTS**

- Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Graeme Marshall**

- We had a really good year for fires, with only 14 to respond to. 2 header fires, a few lightning strikes and 5 permitted burns escaping being the most causes of fire this year. As Butch used to say, permit burns are good training.

- We implemented the Cranbrook Shire Fire Info whatsapp group, thanks to Ben Beech for getting it up and running. I think this will be a great tool for fire ground responders and for fire ban updates.

- I would like to thank Tom and Peter Ettridge for all their work with the fire brigades, both at brigade level and with their support as deputies. They have helped my job be a lot easier, backing and helping me along the way. I wish them and their families all the best for their future and they will be sorely missed.

- I would also like to thank Teresa Jones for looking after our text messaging as she is standing down from the Duty officer position. She has been a great help to me as I knew she was always there, and mostly able to decipher the messages I was relaying to her! I think we had a good understanding and worked well together, so when Teresa and Adam do leave Cranbrook, I wish them all the best for their future, they will be sorely missed as well! Thanks again Teresa.

- I would also like to thank Linda for all the work and support she has given me and the BFAC over her years as CEO of the Shire as we think this will be her last meeting. I have been through a couple CEO's as 2IC and now as Chief and she has been the best so far! I have come to realise that without a supportive CEO, it makes our job as volunteers so much harder. Thanks a lot Linda. So while on that topic, I implore you all to talk to councillors about the importance of our next CEO being onboard with our volunteer brigades and not going down the DFES structure of running fires and volunteers the way they do. If we haven't got a good supportive CEO, we could lose all our good volunteers.

- And while on good volunteers, a big thank you from me to all you Captains and Lieutenants for the great job you do, it makes my job easier! Thanks a lot.

### **A/District Officer Darren Prior**

- SOSF (High Threat Extra Appliances) are now starting to be re-called to be serviced at head north for the start of the northern fire season. Great Southern Region has applied to retain 5 of the SOSF appliances to cover some long-term breakdowns that are getting repaired and a Heavy Tanker and Light Unit to assist with mitigation burning.
- Great Southern Region has just completed a debrief of the past season and identified some lessons learnt and what was working well, this will be compiled and report written for the Superintendent. Through this process, while we identified some issues, we also were asked to provide solutions, whether this was funding, equipment or training etc.
- District Officer Rural position is currently advertised, only to substantive District Officers or Officers in the DO Development Programme.
- Area Officer Rural has been advertised and is now closed, waiting on short list and interview process to take place.

**Question from G.Marshall** – Can you pose a question from DFES to Telstra? What works are being done to improve reception issues across the region? – **D.Prior**, I will investigate it. There is poor reception across the region with issues being reported.

**Question from A.Murray** – We have had power issues in Frankland, my property is on the end of the line with the Frankland repeater (WAERN-162) the only other infrastructure on the line aside from my property. The pole top fuse blows, and I use my generator to power my sheds and house, If I wasn't there, we wouldn't know that the power was blown at the repeater. The repeater only has a 6-hour battery backup with no fail safe.

### **Training Officer CESM Phill Gunn**

Ran a Fire Control Officer course in February, with 5 of the 10 participants from Cranbrook. I am now an endorsed Trainer Assessor for the FCO course and can deliver it to Cranbrook at our convenience.

Looking to have a Bushfire Safety Awareness and Fire Fighting Skills course around August for new volunteers. Which other training courses would the BFAC like to have held? I can organise a Ground Controller course, 1 day training (and its actually interesting)

**D.Prior** – More than happy to assist in delivering this training and others.

### **CESM Phill Gunn**

Spoke to his report (see attached)

### **Shire of Cranbrook CEO Linda Gray**

Spoke to her report (see attached)

**DBCA report not tendered.**

## 6. GENERAL BUSINESS

- **Western Power Mitigation Works and Stand Alone Power Systems** – Discussion on this topic involved Western Power infrastructure and the mitigation works not being undertaken. With private landowners and neighbors not permitted to enter the boundaries of this infrastructure, the maintenance of this infrastructure fell to Castlehow Electrical. The responsibility of mitigation rests with the landowner.
- **Bushfire Signage** – It was discussed that the signage across the shire regarding Campfire and Bushfire times was in need of updating, in specific, signage at the major entries to the Shire (Albany HWY North and South, Salt River Road and Wingebellup Road) and at Lake Poorrarecup and Lake Nunijup.

**MOTION TO COUNCIL** – From the BFAC to install and refresh Burning period Signage at Nunijup Hall, Frankland Strata, Shire road entrances and Lake Poorrarecup.

**Moved – A.MURRAY                      Seconded – S.KING**

- **Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans** – Discussion turned to the weather conditions varying from the east end of the Shire to the west, and that a consideration be made into 'Zoning' the Shire. In the instance of a ban being placed, it would be set for the entire Shire, with the ban being lifted sectionally. The Shires of Ravensthorpe and Jerramungup have zones and set and lift their bans using the zones, this could be used as a template for consideration. A decision was not met from the committee as to where the zones would be set and tabled for discussion at the following BFAC.
- **New Fire Appliances** – In the last 2 years through the LGGS Capital funding scheme, Cranbrook was promised 2 new appliances. It was decided that the CESM would follow this up.
- **Nunijup Fast Fill Trailer** – is in need of some maintenance and to have new fittings provided. The funding for this will come from the LGGS Operational fund.
- **New Volunteer Interest** – The Cranbrook Town Brigade had new volunteers over the summer months but has since seen a drop in interest from those people. Frankland River, Bokerup and Unicum has seen a large drop in volunteer numbers in recent times and a community day will be held in August/September in the hope to bolster Volunteer numbers.

## 7. OTHER BUSINESS

### 8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Bush Fire Advisory Committee will be held in Frankland, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2026.

**9. CLOSURE**

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairperson G Marshall thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 09:00 PM.