Unconfirmed

MINUTES

SHIRE OF KULIN BUSHFIRE BRIGADES MEETING

held at 5pm, Thursday 10 September 2026
at Pingaring Golf Club, Pingaring

MINUTES

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS 2

2 ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES 2

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 2

Attachment 1 - Minutes of BFB AGM 31 March 2026 2

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES 2

5 GENERAL BUSINESS ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION WITH NOTICE 2

5.1 2026/2027 – Fire Break Order (including Registered Grain Out-loading Areas) 2
5.2 Unregistered and Registered Volunteers – Central Country Zone information 3
5.3 Western Power – Pole Top Fires update 3
5.4 Shire of Kulin LEMC Update 3

6 OTHER BUSINESS RAISED 3

6.1 Weekly Two-Way Radio Call-ups 3
6.2 Helicopter Deployment 3
6.3 Other general matters raised in discussion: 4

7 NEXT MEETING 4

8 MEETING CLOSURE 4

Unconfirmed

1 DECLARATION OF OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISITORS

The Chair, Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Rod Diery, welcomed all present and declared the meeting open at 5.00pm.

2 RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/APOLOGIES

ATTENDANCE

Rod Diery	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (CBFCO)
Evan Wyatt	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (DCBFCO)
Cr Clinton Mullan	Fire Control Officer
Cr Jarron Noble	Council Delegate
Cr Lachlan Siviour	Fire Control Officer
Braden Young	Fire Control Officer
David Lewis	Fire Control Officer
Alan Leeson	Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Kulin

APOLOGIES

Don Bradford	Fire Control Officer
Brendon Sloggett	Fire Control Officer
John Bowey	Fire Control Officer
Sean Scadding	Fire Control Officer
Craig McInnes	Fire Control Officer
Michael Lane	Fire Control Officer
Cameron Mudge	Fire Control Officer
Darren Kirby	Fire Control Officer
Judd Hobson	Executive Manager Works
Blake Halford	Area Officer - DFES

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Shire of Kulin Bush Fire Brigades Annual General Meeting held on 31 March 2026 were confirmed as previously circulated.

Attachment 1 - Minutes of BFB AGM 31 March 2026

Moved Clinton Mullan Seconded Evan Wyatt

That the minutes of the Shire of Kulin Bush Fire Brigades Annual General Meeting held 31 March 2026 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Carried

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Nil

5 GENERAL BUSINESS ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION WITH NOTICE

5.1 2026/2027 – Fire Break Order (including Registered Grain Out-loading Areas)

The meeting discussed the introduction of licenced grain out-loading hard stand areas as part of the Shire of Kulin's Firebreak Order. The conditions for these areas were reviewed, including requirements for bare earth clearances, dedicated fire units, inspection provisions, application deadlines, and circumstances in which activities may be suspended.

(Refer to Agenda for CEO's preamble)

Moved Evan Wyatt Seconded Lachlan Siviour

That the meeting recommends to Council that:

Unconfirmed

1. The 2026/2027 Fire Break Order be adopted with the removal of Registered Grain Out-loading Areas for the Order;

2. Advice be sought from the Department of Fire and Emergency Services' Legal Services regarding whether Registered Grain Out-loading areas may lawfully operate during a Harvest and Vehicle Movement Ban, and whether such arrangements can be implemented and managed under the *Bush Fires Act 1954.*

Carried unanimously

5.2 Unregistered and Registered Volunteers – Central Country Zone information

The Chief Executive Officer provided an update on unregistered and registered volunteers and information from the Central Country Zone information held 14 August 2026 regarding an Agenda Item from Shire of Wagin – *Unregistered and Registered Volunteers – Responsibilities and Protections under WHS and FES Act.*

Moved Rod Diery seconded Clinton Mullan

That the meeting recommends that the Shire of Kulin:

1. Supports the Shire of Wagin's advocacy concerning the uncertainty and unintended legal exposure arising from the interaction between the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020*, the *Bush Fires Act 1954* and the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998*, particularly as it relates to registered and unregistered volunteers involved in rural bushfire response; and

2. Requests that the Shire of Kulin make similar representations to the Minister for Emergency Services, the Minister for Commerce and the Minister for the Wheatbelt, calling for a review of the interaction between the legislation to provide clear and practical protections for volunteers and emergency services personnel and to support the sustainability of community-based bushfire response.

Carried unanimously

5.3 Western Power – Pole Top Fires update

The meeting was provided with an update with respect to a recent meeting with Western Power relating to the spate of pole top fires during the 2025/2026 fire season.

Noted

5.4 Shire of Kulin LEMC Update

The CEO provided a brief update with respect to fire mitigation works and controlled burns which will continue in Autum 2027.

Noted

6 OTHER BUSINESS RAISED

6.1 Weekly Two-Way Radio Call-ups

Will continue over the 2026/2027 fire season over harvest period.

6.2 Helicopter Deployment

Cr Clinton Mullan queried the operational range of DFES firefighting helicopters, including how far they may be deployed to respond to a fire. He also sought clarification on whether trees or other vegetation surrounding farm dams may restrict helicopter access to water or otherwise affect the suitability of those dams as water sources during firefighting operations.

Action: CEO to follow up with DFES regarding the operational range and deployment of firefighting helicopters, and any requirements or guidance concerning trees and other vegetation around farm dams used as firefighting water sources.

Unconfirmed

6.3 Other general matters raised in discussion:

- Vehicle ID Stickers to be followed up and information circulated.
- CEO to follow up status of WAERN radio servicing prior to 2026/2027 fire season

7 NEXT MEETING

To be advised.

8 MEETING CLOSURE

CBFCO Rod Diery thanked everyone for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 6.00pm.

Unconfirmed