



# Shire of Kulin Bush Fire Brigades

## Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Shire of Kulin Bush Fire Brigades held on Tuesday 1 April 2025 at the Pingaring Golf Club commencing at 4.00pm

### 1. Declaration of Opening

The CBFCO Rod Diery, welcomed all present and declared the meeting open at 4.00pm.

### 2. Record of Attendance/Apologies

Rod Diery	Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (Kulin Town)
Evan Wyatt	Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (Jilakin/Pingaring)
Alan Leeson	Chief Executive Officer Shire of Kulin
Judd Hobson	FCO - Executive Manager of Works Shire of Kulin
Jarron Noble	Councillor – Shire of Kulin
David Tholstrup	Works Supervisor Shire of Kulin
Lachlan Siviour	FCO Kulin North
Brendon Sloggett	FCO Kulin North
Don Bradford	FCO Kulin North
Sean Scadding	FCO Jilakin/Pingaring
David Lewis	FCO - Kulin North
Luke Hipwell	Observer
Peter Jensen	Observer
Isla Jensen	Observer
Peter Pittard	Observer
Brayden Young	Kulin South BFB

**Apologies:** John Waters, Darren Kirby, Brendan Sloggett, Brent Hyde, Clinton Mullan, Craig McInnes, John Bowey

### 3. Confirmation of Minutes Meeting 30 July 2024

Moved Evan Wyatt                      Seconded Lachlan Siviour

That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Bush Fire Brigades held 30 July 2024 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

**CARRIED**

### 4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

- Radio callups – Format to be confirmed at the September 2025 – Pre-fire season meeting of FCO's/ Brigades

### 5. Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Report

CBFCO Rod Diery provided an overview of the 2024/2025 fire season.

- Expressed thanks to Evan Wyatt for fulfilling role of Acting CBFCO whilst Rod was on leave
- Expressed thanks to all FCO's and volunteers for their diligence and efforts over the 2024/25 fire season
- Provided a brief overview of the proposed Fire Mitigation works to be undertaken on Kulin Town Reserve 25777. This will hopefully involve other brigades in the Shires and not just the Kulin Town Brigade
- Highlighted necessity of volunteers undertaking training, in particular those that crew Brigade Fire Fighting trucks
- Highlighted importance of volunteers wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when turning out to fires

### 6.1 Appointment of Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (CBFCO)

Chief Executive Officer Alan Leeson called for nominations for the position of Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (CBFCO)

Nominated by: Don Bradford

Seconded: David Tholstrup

That Rod Diery be nominated as the Shire of Kulin's Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for the 2025/2026 season.

**CARRIED**

As there were no further nominations Rod Diery was appointed as Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for 2025/2026 season.

## **6.2 Appointment of Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer**

CBFCO Rod Diery called for nominations for the position of Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (DCBFCO).

**Nominated by: Judd Hobson**

**Seconded: Sean Scadding**

**That Evan Wyatt be nominated as the Shire of Kulin Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for 2025/2026 season.**

**CARRIED**

As there were no further nominations Evan Wyatt was appointed as Deputy Chief Fire Control Officer for 2025/2026 season.

## **6.3 Appointment of Other Officers and Brigade Officers**

The following nominations were received for the below positions.

**Moved by: Sean Scadding**

**Seconded: Judd Hobson**

**That the Fire Weather Officer, Deputy Fire Weather Officer, Authorised Harvest Ban Officers and Fire Control Officers for 2025/2026 season be as follows:**

<b>Fire Weather Officer</b>	- Alan Leeson	Chief Executive Officer
<b>Deputy FWO's</b>	- John Waters	Fire Control Officer
	- Judd Hobson	Fire Control Officer

### **Authorised Harvest Ban Officers**

- Alan Leeson	Shire of Kulin CEO
- Judd Hobson	Shire Executive Manager of Works Manager and Kulin Town FCO
- CBFCO	Rod Diery
- DCBFCO	Evan Wyatt
- DFWO	John Waters

### **Fire Control Officers**

Kulin Town	Craig McInnes, Rod Diery, Judd Hobson
Kulin North	Don Bradford, David Lewis, Brendan Sloggett, Lachlan Siviour
Kulin South	John Waters, Darren Kirby, Clinton Mullan, John Bowey, Brayden Young
Jilakin/ Pingaring	Evan Wyatt, Sean Scadding, Michael Lane
Little Italy/Holt Rock	Brent Hyde, Cameron Mudge

### **Brigade Contacts / Captains**

Kulin Town	- Craig McInnes
Kulin North	- Donald Bradford
Kulin South	- John Waters
Jilakin/ Pingaring	- Evan Wyatt
Holt Rock/ Little Italy	- Brent Hyde / Cameron Mudge

### **Dual Fire Control Officer Appointments**

Clinton Mullan / David Lewis	- Wickepin
Don Bradford / David Lewis	- Corrigin
Darren Kirby / Clinton Mullan	- Dumbleyung
John Bowey / Evan Wyatt	- Kondinin
Evan Wyatt / Brent Hyde	- Lake Grace

*CEO will authorise officers for 2025/2026 season once notified by surrounding Shires of names.*

**CARRIED**

## 6.4 Burning Times – Proposed for 2025/2026

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Moved: Rod Diery

Seconded: Lachlan Siviour

That the following burning periods be set for the 2025/2026 fire season:

Restricted	19 September – 31 October
Prohibited	1 November – 15 February
Restricted	16 February – 31 March

CARRIED

## 7.0 General Business

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### 7.1 Fire Control Officer – Brigade Advisory Meetings

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Rod Diery recommended the group meet formally twice a year. ie April & September which will in effect be a seasonal planning briefing meeting (September annually) and seasonal de-brief meeting (April annually)

Moved by: Rod Diery

Seconded: Evan Wyatt

That the Fire Control Officers and Brigade meeting be convened twice per year

- April (annually) – AGM – Seasonal debrief
- September (annually) - Seasonal planning / briefing meeting

CARRIED

### 7.2 Harvest & vehicle Movement Bans (HVMB)

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CBFCO Diery spoke to the meeting with regard to some issues associated with imposing harvest & vehicle movement bans in the context of farmers perhaps having a 30 minute window in which they can complete grain out loading.

Discussion ensued amongst attendees. Whilst there was majority support for perhaps having 30 minute window post imposition of a HVMB whereby farmers could complete grain out loading of a truck that might be onsite, there was some conjecture as to how such a concession would be managed / policed in a formal sense and what would the implications be from a legal sense.

It was noted for further discussion at the September 2025 meeting.

#### Actions

- CEO to investigate further

### 7.3 Fire Break Order – Proposal for Licensed – Grain Out Loading - Hard Stand Areas

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Discussion ensued with regard to merit of introducing licensed out loading hard stand areas which could be used during a HVMB do not negate the need for compliant fire breaks and this is not a justification for cropping to a fence line.

Broadly there was support for the initiative in support of in the main part of those farmers whom engage contractors for the carting of grain.

CEO to investigate further, broader parameters discussed and agreed upon in-principle were;

- Landowner to complete application / statutory declaration
- Photos to be provided of area to be bare earth – minimum of 50m radius
- Multiple areas can be included in single application
- Annual License fee - \$250
- GPS / Map pin drop to be provided
- Can be subject to inspection by FCO at anytime without notice

#### Action

CEO to draft application / license form to be provided to the September 2025 meeting

#### **7.4 Total Fire Ban – Harvest Vehicle Movement Ban exemptions**

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Rod Diery provided an overview of a situation that required discretion of allowing movement of heavy machinery / equipment during a HVMB. The example provided was allowing a local dozer contractor to float his machine during a ban, in order to assist an external agency or shire with fire mitigations works.

##### **Action**

Fire Break Order information to include a notation that the CBFCO can exercise discretion for movement of vehicles and / or equipment during a TFB or HVMB for the purposes of emergency response.

#### **7.5 Other General items Discussed / Noted**

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- Minimum water required to be onsite for multiple headers on one farm – general consensus was approximately minimum of 600 litres for every two headers
- Encourage landowners to have fire fighting equipment on hand for lime spreading activity
- Investigate fire mitigation works for Jitarning townsite
- Investigate use of What's App rather than Group SMS for HVMB notifications
- Continue to encourage - upskilling / training;
  - Ground Controllers Course
  - Rural Fire Awareness Course
  - Fire Control Officer's Course
  - Machine Supervision Course
  - Bushfire Safety Awareness Course

#### **8. Meeting Closure**

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There being no further business CBCFO Rod Diery thanked everyone for their attendance in what was an excellent roll up and declared the meeting closed at 5.53pm.