



Shire of Kulin Bush Fire Brigades

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Shire of Kulin Bush Fire Brigades held on Tuesday 31 March 2026 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
Jarron Noble	Councillor – Shire of Kulin
Lachlan Siviour	FCO Kulin North
Sean Scadding	FCO Jilakin/Pingaring
Brayden Young	FCO Kulin South BFB
John Bowey	FCO Kulin South BFB
Clinton Mullan	FCO Kulin South BFB / Councillor-Shire of Kulin
Barry Smoker	Observer
Ryan Sutherland	Acting Area Officer – DFES – Narrogin West

Apologies: John Waters, Darren Kirby, Brendan Sloggett, Brent Hyde, Cameron Mudge, Craig McInnes, Michael Lane, David Lewis, Don Bradford, Judd Hobson

3. Confirmation of Minutes Meeting 4 September 2025

Moved Evan Wyatt **Seconded Lachlan Siviour**

That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Bush Fire Brigades held 4 September 2025 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

CARRIED

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

- Radio callups — Pre-fire season meeting of FCO's/ Brigades to continue in the 2026/2027 season

5. Chief Bush Fire Control Officer Report

CBFCO Rod Diery provided an overview of the 2026/2027 fire season.

- Generally a reasonably quite year from a local basis, however there were a number of larger fires in other shires supported by Shire of Kulin volunteers.
 - Rod made special mention of the Pingaring Volunteers whom attended the Dunn Rocks fire over a number of days
- Expressed thanks to all FCO's and volunteers for their commitment and efforts over the 202/26 fire season
- 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
- Advised that John Waters had advised him that he will not be seeking re-appointment as a Fire Control Officer for the 2026/2027 fire season

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: Clinton Mullan **Seconded: John Bowey**

That Rod Diery be nominated as the Shire of Kulin's Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for the 2026/2027 season.

CARRIED

As there were no further nominations Rod Diery was appointed as Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for 2026/2027 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: Rod Diery **Seconded: Brayden Young**

That Evan Wyatt be nominated as the Shire of Kulin Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer for 2026/2027 season.

CARRIED

As there were no further nominations Evan Wyatt was appointed as Deputy Chief Fire Control Officer for 2026/2027 season.

6.3 Appointment of Other Officers and Brigade Officers

The following nominations were received for the below positions.

Moved by: Lachlan Siviour **Seconded: John Bowey**

That the Fire Weather Officer, Deputy Fire Weather Officer, Authorised Harvest Ban Officers and Fire Control Officers for 2026/2027 season be as follows:

Fire Weather Officer - Alan Leeson Chief Executive Officer
Deputy FWO's - Evan Wyatt DBFCO
 - 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

Fire Control Officers

Kulin Town Craig McInnes, Rod Diery, Judd Hobson
Kulin North Don Bradford, David Lewis, Brendan Sloggett, Lachlan Siviour
Kulin South 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 - Lachlan Siviour
Kulin South - Brayden Young
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
Rod Diery / Evan Wyatt - Kondinin
Evan Wyatt / Brent Hyde - Lake Grace

CEO will authorise officers for 2026/2027 season once notified by surrounding Shires of names.

CARRIED

6.4 Burning Times – Proposed for 2026/2027

Moved: Rod Diery

Seconded: Lachlan Siviour

That the following burning periods be set for the 2026/2027 fire season:

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

CARRIED

7.0 General Business

7.1 Harvest & Vehicle Movement Bans

CEO Alan Leeson gave an overview of HVMB over the past season. In a general sense the ban procedure worked well. Alan reminded everyone that HVMB's are implemented and lifted from weather reading from the following DPIRD weather stations;

- Holt Rock
- Pingaring
- Kulin

**** Discussion noted exemptions for moving earthmoving equipment for suppression activities and consistency from Shire to Shire and also the need on occasions to attend to stock (watering). Relevant information to be circulated before next fire season.

7.2 Review of Outloading Areas – 2025/2026 Harvest

General discussion ensued. There was general support for continuation of the system for the 2026/2027 harvest. Point of discussion were around shoring up objective risk management measures as part of the policy framework/conditions.

7.3 Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE) & Training – Formal Manning of Brigade Appliances

The meeting discussed the need to implement a more formalised approach to the manning of Pingaring and Kulin Brigade appliances, with a focus on improving safety, consistency, and operational capability.

It was acknowledged that the current informal approach, where individuals may assist or ride on appliances without minimum standards, presents an increased risk to both personnel and operations. The meeting agreed that a baseline requirement for both personal protective equipment (PPE) and training competency is necessary.

In relation to PPE, the meeting agreed that all personnel must be appropriately equipped prior to crewing a brigade appliance. This includes fire-rated protective clothing, helmet, gloves, appropriate footwear, eye protection, and respiratory protection suitable for bushfire conditions.

In relation to training, the meeting agreed that personnel must have, as a minimum, completed Bush Fire Safety Awareness and Firefighting Skills

Moved: Evan Wyatt

Seconded: Lachlan Siviour

That the Meeting endorse the introduction of minimum training and PPE requirements for all personnel formally manning a brigade appliance within the Shire of Kulin, including Kulin, Pingaring, and High Season appliances.

Minimum PPE Requirements

- Fire-rated jacket and trousers
- Firefighting helmet (compliant standard)
- Firefighting gloves
- Safety boots suitable for bushfire operations

- Eye protection (goggles or integrated helmet protection)
- Respiratory protection

Minimum Training Requirements

- Bush Fire Safety Awareness (or equivalent induction training)
- Firefighting Skills

CARRIED

7.4 Volunteer Training Requirements – General Discussion

The DFES Acting Area Officer provided an overview of how volunteer training requirements are being managed across other Local Governments, noting a clear shift toward more prescriptive approaches in determining who is permitted to attend and participate in active fire incidents.

It was advised that a number of Shires are now requiring volunteers to have completed, as a minimum, the Rural Fire Awareness training unit prior to attending an incident. This approach is being driven by increasing recognition of Local Government obligations as the Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU), particularly in relation to workplace health and safety responsibilities and associated insurance considerations.

The discussion highlighted that, in the event of an incident involving injury or fatality, both training and PPE are key areas of scrutiny, and that failure to ensure minimum competency standards may expose the Shire to significant risk.

It was noted that some Shires have adopted a position whereby individuals who have not completed the Rural Fire Awareness unit are not permitted to attend active fires under any circumstances. This was discussed in the context of both risk mitigation and the need to set clear and consistent expectations for volunteer participation.

It was noted that the Shire will undertake a review of the volunteer membership base to identify training completed by individual brigade members, with a view to informing future actions and improving overall capability.

7.5 Western Power Pole Top Fire - Discussion

The meeting discussed the response received from Western Power in relation to the Shire's correspondence regarding pole top fires, with concern and disappointment expressed as to the quality and substance of the response.

It was noted that the response did not provide sufficient detail regarding the underlying causes of the incidents, including a lack of technical explanation around potential contributing factors such as insulator types or asset condition. The absence of meaningful detail was seen as limiting the Shire's ability to understand and respond to the issue in a practical and informed manner.

The meeting further discussed the impact of pole top fires on local Bush Fire Brigade volunteers. It was highlighted that significant volunteer time is required to attend and extinguish these fires, often at the expense of primary employment or farming operations. This time commitment was acknowledged as having a tangible value, along with the use of private machinery and brigade resources to suppress fires.

It was noted that in practice, Western Power crews attend site to isolate power and secure the asset, however typically depart prior to the fire being fully extinguished. This places the ongoing responsibility for fire suppression on local volunteers, which has led to a level of frustration within brigades regarding the perceived lack of accountability and support from Western Power.

The meeting recognised the cumulative impact of these incidents on volunteer capacity and morale, particularly in the context of increasing demand and limited resources.

The Chief Executive Officer, Mr Alan Leeson, advised that a further letter will be prepared and issued to Western Power, seeking a more detailed response and addressing the concerns raised, including the impacts on volunteers and the need for greater accountability and engagement.

7.6 Use of Machinery on Fire Ground -Safety and Capability

The meeting discussed the use of machinery on the fire ground, with a focus on improving awareness, safety, and ensuring that appropriate equipment is used for specific tasks.

Mr Barry Smoker, a DFES approved (Kulin based) earthmoving contractor engaged regularly for fire suppression works, was in attendance and provided practical insights based on his experience. Barry emphasised the importance of matching machinery capability to the task at hand, particularly in higher risk activities such as pushing over standing or partially burnt timber.

It was noted that when undertaking such activities, machinery should be adequately protected, including the use of appropriate guarding or “barred” protection, to minimise risk to operators from falling limbs, rolling timber, or unexpected movement of fire-affected vegetation.

The meeting recognised the need to continue reinforcing safe practices in this area, including improved awareness amongst Brigade Officers and Incident Controllers when deploying machinery, and ensuring that safety considerations are prioritised alongside operational effectiveness.

7.7 Proposed Bushfire Mitigation Works - Jitarning

The Chief Bush Fire Control Officer (CBFCO) provided an overview of proposed bushfire mitigation works adjacent to the Jitarning Townsite.

Mr Rod Diery presented a map to the meeting outlining the location and extent of the planned works. The proposed mitigation measures are intended to reduce fuel loads and improve protection of the townsite from bushfire risk.

It was noted that planning of the works will continue, with further consultation to be undertaken with relevant stakeholders, including the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), to ensure appropriate approvals and coordination.

8. Meeting Closure

CBFCO Rod Diery acknowledged and formally recognised John Water’s longstanding contribution to bushfire management and volunteer service within the Shire. The meeting noted and supported this acknowledgement, recognising the significant commitment and experience John has provided over many years.

It was further noted that a formal Letter of Appreciation will be sent on behalf of the Shire of Kulin and fellow Fire Control officers to recognise and thank John Water for his service.

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