

MINUTES MURRAY MALLEE BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Meeting number: 4 - 2021				
Date: Tues 5 th October 2021		Time: 10:30 am	Duration: 2 hours	Location: CFS Region 3 Headquarters
Meeting Objective		To facilitate the planning and preparation to mitigate the impact of Bushfire, within the Murray Mallee Bushfire Management Area		
Attendees		Deputy Michael Murtagh (Berri Barmerra Council); Member Andrew Venning (CFS VA Murraylands); Member Rob Ziersch (CFS VA Riverland); Member Michael Vivian (Coorong District Council); Member Jared Pippas (DEW); Member Toni Scarlett (DIT); Member Ros Kruger; (Rural City of Murray Bridge); Member Garrick Lehmann (SAMFS); Chair Ray Jackson (Regional Commander); Executive Officer Yvette Rathjen (Acting Regional Prevention Officer); Minutes Tammy Heinrich (Regional Administration Officer) Observer- Dennis Rainsford; Stephen Whitehead (Renmark Paringa Council) Via Teams- Member John Barrie (Conservation Council SA); Member Shilo Wyatt (Southern Mallee District Council); Member Peter Webber (SA Water)		
Guests		Andrew Patten (CFS BMPU);		
Apologies		Deputy Myles Somers (Coorong District Council); Member Calvin Hoyer (Karoonda East Murray District Council); Member Rocky Warren (Mid Murray Council); Member Andrew Meddle; Deputy Denise Fowles (Murraylands & Riverland Landscape Board); Deputy Tony Austin (Rural City of Murray Bridge); Deputy Leon Shepley (SAMFS); Member Scott Denny (SAPOL); Deputy Ryan Meakin (SAPOL); Deputy Peter Burr (Renmark Paringa Council)		
Actions and Agreements				
No				
1	Welcome/Apologies Chair welcomed all and apologies as above noted.			
2	Safety Briefing/WH&S Issues including Covid-19 considerations The emergency evacuation procedures for the building, location of exit points and facilities were explained.			
3	Declaration of conflict of Interest/Probity			
4	Confirm minutes of previous meeting held: 4.1 17 th August 2021 Moved: Ros Kruger Seconded: Michael Vivian			
5	Business arising from minutes: As per action item list from last minutes No Business arising			
6	Correspondence OUT -6.1 17/8 – AFDRS Brochure and FAQ’s & BMC Induction pack 18/8 – Endorsed BMC Nominees for 2021 18/8 – Hazard Note 103 & 104 – Bushfire & Natural Hazards			

	<p>25/8 – SBCC Communique August 2021 26/8 – Natural Hazard August 2021 7/9 – BMPU Update September 2021 8/9 – Annual Report to SBCC endorsement 14/9 – Fire Australia Issue Three 2021 17/9 – Hazard Note 105 – Bushfire & Natural Hazards 23/9 – Permit Issuing Guidelines pre meeting review</p> <p>IN - 6.2 18/8 – Hazard Note 103 & 104 – Bushfire & Natural Hazards 25/8 – SBCC Communique August 2021 25/8 – Natural Hazards Research Australia August 2021 7/9 – BMPU Update 2021 14/9 – Fire Australia Issue Three 2021 17/9 – Hazard Note 105</p>
7	<p>Business items</p> <p>7.1 21/22 Permit Issuing Guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See attached summary of changes for the 2021/22 Fire Danger Season • Have received some feedback on some of the points that were raised. • Suggestions highlighted in yellow • Stubble burn times discussion held on the extinguishment time • AO have the final authority for the permit • Decision fires to be lit and extinguished in accordance with the AO <p>Burn Days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFS VA rep commented that burns on weekends are acceptable except for a weekend that has a public holiday associated with it. <p>Native Vegetation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native Veg discussion as to where to obtain the relevant approval from the AO. <p>XO to make changes as discussed and noted by the Committee, Chairperson to sign and send through the SHQ.</p> <p>Moved- Andrew Venning Seconded- Michael Vivian Carried</p> <p>7.2 FDS21/22 Recommendations</p> <p>1. What is the grass fuel load and the current state of grassland curing or re-greening across the Fire Ban District(s) within the Bushfire Management Area?</p> <p><i>BMC Comment: The BMC considered the Curing rates which are of an estimation available through the online NEMP system. At present the Murraylands is seen on an average as having an overall curing rate of 40% with an average fuel load of 3.5t/ha. The Riverland is seen on average as having an overall curing rate of 40% with an average fuel load of 2.5t/ha. The Upper South East portion of the district is estimated at 10% curing with a fuel load of 2.5t/ha.</i></p> <p>2. What are the implications for fire ignition and fire behaviour in each Fire Ban District based on the latest Bureau of Meteorology 3-monthly outlook for the Fire Ban District?</p> <p><i>BMC Comment: The latest Seasonal Outlook was shared prior to the meeting, all noted</i></p>

- *Negative Indian Ocean Dipole indicates the model favours a wetter than average conditions for spring.*
- *SA can expect a standard start to the Fire season, with a later start in some areas of the state.*
- *Good growth conditions around the region may expect increased risk of grass fires.*
- *Above median minimum temperatures for October to December are likely for almost all of Australia.*
- *The Riverland is experiencing drier conditions and will likely limit grass and crop growth.*
- *Areas of Native Vegetation and scrub may present challenges later in the season.*

3. What is the Soil Dryness/Drought Index for the Fire Ban District? How does this compare with previous years and the average values recorded for monitoring stations within the Fire Ban District? What does this Soil Dryness Index mean for each Fire Ban District?

BMC Comment:

Updated as of 1st October 2021

Riverland- Drought factor 10, Soil dryness 165 (2020 saw -157)

Murraylands- Drought factor 10, Soil Dryness 148 (2020 saw – 126)

USE- Drought factor 8, soil dryness 61 (2020 saw – 29)

4. What, if any, recent fire behaviour observations have been made by DEWNR, CFS or private landholders when conducting burn-offs or at incidents in the Fire Ban District?

BMC Comment:

NPWS: Recent burns completed by NPWS were successful and burnt hot and clean in good conditions.

CFS VA: Overall the fires would be seen as a slow burn and not erratic fire behaviour.

5. Are there any local activities that that may have fire ignition or community safety matters to consider?

BMC Comment:

Rural City of Murray Bridge has programmed 2 major events in the Fire Danger Season at Sturt Reserve.

6. What is the recommendation of the Bushfire Management Committee regarding the Fire Danger Season start and Finish dates for the Fire Ban District?

BMC Comment:

Murraylands: Start Date:15th November 2021 Moved: Andrew Venning Seconded: Garrick Lehmann

Closure Date 15th April 2022 Moved: Andrew Venning Seconded: Shilo Wyatt

Riverland: Start Date:15th November 2021 Moved: Michael Murtagh Seconded: Rob Ziersch

Closure Date 15th April 2022 Moved: Michael Murtagh Seconded: Rob Ziersch

Upper South East: Start Date:15th November 2021 Moved: Michael Vivian Seconded: Andrew Venning

Closure Date 15th April 2022 Moved: Michael Vivian Seconded: Andrew Venning

RECOMMENDATION:

BMC Comment:

The MMBMC recommends the commencement of the 2021/2022 Fire Danger Season to be as follows:

Murraylands: 15th November 2021

Riverland: 15th November 2021

	<p>Upper South East: 15th November 2021</p> <p><i>At this stage given the information available the MMBMC recommends the closure dates for the 2021/2022 Fire Danger Season to be as follows:</i></p> <p><i>Murraylands: 15th April 2022</i></p> <p><i>Riverland: 15th April 2022</i></p> <p><i>Upper South East: 15th April 2022</i></p>
8	<p>Agency Reports <i>(If not received to be given at meeting)</i></p> <p>8.1 CFS Region 3 – Yvette Rathjen – Report Attached Meeting with BMPU and Coorong Council to identify assets for inclusion on the BMAP. Rural City of Murray Bridge and Loxton Waikerie council have also identified assets for inclusion. Discussion held on FFU project – UHF channels primary channel 9, secondary 19, then 29, the FFU handbook is currently being updated. Met with Murray Mallee CEOs last week discussed BMC and BMAP.</p> <p>8.2 Rural City of Murray Bridge – Ros Kruger – Report Attached FPO's have delayed their inspections but due to start shortly Emergency mapping has been updated with information relating to spraying of roadsides along with should grading. Property inspections will also be mapped. This will give the RCMB an overview of risk reduction activities undertaken in the council area.</p> <p>8.3 Mid Murray Council – Rocky Warren No report submitted</p> <p>8.4 District Council of Karoonda East Murray – Calvin Hoyer – Report Attached</p> <p>8.5 Southern Mallee District Council – Shilo Wyatt Ordered new signs, flip panel date changes Sent out pre-season letter 105F inspections will start next week Roadside slashing on target.</p> <p>8.6 Coorong District Council – Michael Vivian – Report Attached Meeting with BMPU and CFS Prevention Officer to discuss BMAP amendments Spraying and slashing program are underway 105F Inspections will commence in a few weeks</p> <p>8.7 Renmark Paranga Council – Dennis Rainsford Have not yet commenced the 105F inspections, had a meeting with CFS Prevention Officer recently discussed BMAP.</p> <p>8.8 Berri Barmera Council – Michael Murtagh – Report Attached</p> <p>8.9 District Council of Loxton Waikerie – Steve Potter – Report Attached</p> <p>8.10 NPWS – Jared Pippas NPWS's additional FDS restrictions will be consistent across SA from 21/22. - Will generally align with CFS FDS start date but will end 2 days prior to Easter.</p>

	<p>Awaiting response from DIT regarding buffer zone works along Ngarkat highway.</p> <p>Private burns for S2021 near completion (small 40ha section at Cooltong remains on Calperum).</p> <p>Refer Aug BMC report as still relevant</p> <p>Progressing a Cultural Private Burn at Gerard for 2022 winter/spring</p> <p>Reminder - any councils interested in burning on private land need to identify early 1-2yrs based on BMAP rating >high or endorsed at BMC.</p> <p>8.11 MURRAYLANDS AND RIVERLAND LANDSCAPE BOARD – Denise Fowles No report submitted</p> <p>8.12 SAMFS – Garrick Lehmann – Report Attached</p> <p>8.13 SAPOL – Scott Denny No report submitted</p> <p>8.14 DIT – Toni Scarlett – Report Attached Working through building a more functioning asset list. Contractors are starting to commence the roadside slashing program.</p> <p>8.15 SA Water – Peter Webber No report submitted</p> <p>8.16 Conservation Council SA – John Barrie – no report submitted CCSA volunteers are hard to find now.</p> <p>8.17 BMPU Update Report – Andrew Patten – Report Attached BMPU updates sent quarterly.</p> <p>8.18 CFS VA – Ziersch & Venning Skills Maintenance Drills training has commenced for brigades in the Riverland and Murraylands.</p> <p>8.19 CFS Community Engagement – Yvette Rathjen Chris Bastian is the Regional Operations Manager and Yvette Rathjen will continue in the Prevention role. Community Engagement position will be recruited. Firey Women to be held in Peake 16th of October.</p>
9	<p>Other Business</p> <p>9.1 FPO Re-Accreditation system online A new system has been developed for the FPO re-accreditation and this is not to take over the current process, but it is for those that were unable to attend the 2-day Re-accreditation seminar in Adelaide.</p> <p>9.2 FPO Course for 2022</p>

	<p>The FPO Course for 2022 is filling up already, if you would like to put through any new FPO's please nominate the number of people you would like to reserve a spot.</p> <p>NPWS- Pre summer get together with Councils and FPO's will discuss offline.</p>
10	<p>Meeting closed: 12:20pm</p> <p>Next Meeting: to be determined and emailed out</p>
<p>Code of Meeting Conduct</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>We start on time and finish on time</i> 2. <i>We all participate and contribute - everyone is given opportunity to voice their opinions</i> 3. <i>We use improvement tools that enhance meeting efficiency and effectiveness</i> 4. <i>We actively listen to what others have to say, seeking first to understand, then to be understood</i> 5. <i>We follow-up on the actions we are assigned responsibility for and complete them on time</i> 6. <i>We give and receive open and honest feedback in a constructive manner</i> 7. <i>We use data to make decisions (whenever possible)</i> 8. <i>We strive to continually improve our meeting process and build time into each agenda for reflection</i> 	