



COUNCIL POLICY

Title: Bush Fire Control Officers

Shire of
Kellerberrin

Responsible Officer: Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Version: Current

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to have guidelines to follow for the appointment and actions of Fire Brigade Officers & Bush Fire Advisory Committee.

2. SCOPE

This policy is applied to the Shire of Kellerberrin and its elected members and employees.

3. DEFINITIONS

4. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

This policy links to core drivers:

1. Relationships that bring us tangible benefits (to the Shire and our community)
2. Our lifestyle and strong sense of community
3. We are prepared for opportunities and we are innovative to ensure our relevancy and destiny

5. POLICY STATEMENT

Appointment:

1. In accordance with relevant provisions of the Bush Fires Act 1954 (as amended), Council shall appoint required Fire Control Officers, including the positions of Chief Bushfire Control Officer and Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer. The adopted procedure for these appointments will be as follows;
 - a) The Shire appointed Bushfire Advisory Committee shall at their March Annual Advisory Meeting consider and recommend to Council, the appointment of required Fire Control Officers including the Chief Bushfire Control Officer and the Deputy Chief Bushfire Control Officer.
 - b) The Shire Bush Fire Advisory Committee shall undertake the following tasks at their two (2) annual Advisory Meetings in March and September of each year as follows;
 - (i) Fire Control Officer Appointments and recommendation - March
 - (ii) Firebreak Order Review and recommendation - March
 - (iii) Capital Equipment/Vehicle Replacement Budget (ESL) Planning and recommendation - March
 - (iv) Prohibited and Restricted Burning periods review and recommendation - March

- (v) Communications Strategies including radios and repeater network review and recommendation – March or September
- (vi) Bushfire Policy Review and recommend to the Council for consideration – March or September
- (vii) Other Business – not included above and of a substantive nature – March or September

It should be noted that all business considered at a Bushfire Advisory Meeting is presented to the Council with recommendations for Council consideration and/or adoption. The Shire agrees to provide Administrative support to the Shire of Kellerberrin Bushfire Advisory Meetings only.

2. Fire Control Officers are not permitted to issue permits to burn, for their own purposes. Fire Control Officers wishing to burn must obtain a permit from another authorised Fire Control Officer.
 - a) Authority to Act at a Bushfire Emergency – that the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to release/allocate Council operated vehicles, plant and machinery to a Bushfire Emergency, in consultation with or upon request from the Fire Control Officer in charge at the Bushfire Scene.
 - b) Recovery of Costs from a Bushfire Emergency - costs incurred by Council vehicle/s, plant and machinery attending to an extreme/out of control Bushfire Emergency, is to be recouped from the ESL Scheme (DFES).

Bush Fire Courses - It be Council's policy that every encouragement be given to the Bush Fire Brigade Members and Fire Control Officers to attend Bush Fire and Fire Control Officer Courses run by DFES.

That Fire Control Officers be authorised to expend up to \$200 without authorisation. Expenditure above \$200 is to be authorised by the Chief Executive Officer in the course of management of control of a bushfire and that DFES be notified of the expense required to assist with controlling a fire.

6. RELATED LEGISLATION/ DOCUMENTATION

Bush Fires Act 1954 (as amended)

7. REVIEW DETAILS

Council Adoption	Date	February 2020	Resolution #	MIN009/20
Previous Adoption	Date	October 2016	Resolution #	MIN168/16