

Locals Against Wildfires  
Meeting 20.9.2014

Meeting opened: 9:15am by Robert George. Meeting held at Brunswick bowling club  
Chaired by: Robert George  
Attendance: 17  
Apologies: 12

Confirmation of minutes from last meeting 17.08.2013

Moved: Kevin Taylor. Seconded: Robert Sexton

Treasurer Report

Moved: Robert George. Seconded: Robert Sexton

Presidents Report

Robert George spoke about the LAWs Report on Subdivision Bushfire Management Plans issues and concerns document which was presented at the last LAW meeting.

Robert said it is important that LAW keeps bringing up issues like these because we are still losing houses each year.

People need to be prepared defend their own properties, as they may have no help coming if many fires happen on the same day, like when Cyclone Alby occurred.

This needs to start with reducing fuel levels around towns and properties. Robert George said that one of the best resources available to reduce damage from Bushfires is aware and engaged community. He said that in his opinion we have only 10% the capacity to cope with bushfires than we had when cyclone Alby caused bushfire across much of the South West

Since the last meeting LAW has submitted a submission to the Review of Bushfires Act. In it LAW said little should be changed and any changes done should be done carefully, so as not to discourage volunteers.

Committee Representatives nominations

Kevin Taylor put forward that the current committee representatives be renominated as a whole committee

This was seconded by Robert Sexton. Passed unanimously

Robert George for a motion that membership phase I be kept free, same as last year. This was seconded by Kevin Taylor. Passed unanimously

Correspondence

Roger Underwood sent Law a copy of a presentation he gave to the staff of the OBRM a copy has been attached to these minutes.

Peter Bradford sent LAW a copy of his concerns with the fire vehicles being supplied to volunteer fire brigades a copy has been attached to these minutes.

Before the first presentation was given Max Margetts explained how in the Perth Hills where he lives, he recently spent a large amount of his time convincing his local council not to adopt a tree planting policy called the Urban Forest Strategy that if implemented would have been a bushfire risk because it encouraged planting native trees and scrubs in built up areas. He recommended that if any one hears this Strategy being introduced into the Shire, they should approach their Shire about it and make sure it will not increase the bushfire risk.

The first speaker at the meeting was John Tillman from DEFS his presentation covered the following.

Bushfire Risk Management Project (BRMP) – John provided an update on this important project which includes a pilot trial with 4 local governments in the south west to develop “tenure blind” BRMPs with agencies/industry that own land that may present a bushfire risk to communities and critical infrastructure. The pilot being led by DFES trialled new guidelines and procedures developed by the Office of Bushfire Risk Management.

Provided an update on review of State Planning Policy, regulations and guidelines relating development in bushfire prone areas

Provided an update on current review of Emergency Services Acts

Provided an overview of new bushfire zone response arrangements being applied in DFES, SW and LSW Regions

John Tillman provided key points from his presentations, which have been attached to these Minutes

Also attached to these minutes are newspaper advisements asking for public input into the current Planning and Development for Bushfire Risk Management Review which closes on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2014.

Peter Gibson from DPaW was the second speaker and gave a presentation about the current prescribe burning program.

Peter Gibson provided key points from his presentations, which have been attached to these Minutes

Dave Gossage from the Volunteer Bushfire Association spoke at the end of the meeting. He invited anyone who is interested in what the Volunteer Bushfire Association does to go to their web site and join if they wish to be a member. Dave Gossage said any concerns that volunteers have can be brought to the Volunteer Bushfire Association. He said recently they did a review into insurance cover for volunteers at fires. The Association said they found that the cover was the as good as the best cover in any fire fighting agency, whether paid or volunteer.