

9.2 - Notice of Motion - Text Message System for the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale for days of Total Fire Bans and/or Vehicle and Harvest Movement Bans (SJ3770)

Councillor	Councillor Rich
Disclosure of Officers Interest:	No Officer involved in the preparation of this report has an interest to declare in accordance with the provisions of the <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> .

Notice of Motion

A Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Rich via email on 5 December 2022.

The notice of motion is "That Council:

1. REQUESTS the Chief Executive Officer bring a report to Council no later than 30 April 2023, that covers the following:
 - a. Implementation of an opt in text message system for the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale for days of Total Fire Bans and/or Vehicle and Harvest Movement Bans;
 - b. The process of how this could be achieved;
 - c. The cost of implementation; and
 - d. The standardisation of information to be contained in the messaging."

Officer Comment

The communication of information relating to total fire bans and/or vehicle and harvest movement bans is an important mechanism in which to ensure community awareness. Current methods used in this respect include:

- Emergency Western Australia
- The Shire's website and associated social media platforms
- Bureau of Meteorology websites and apps
- Television/radio
- Bushfire Ready Group networks

Total Fire Bans (TFBs) are declared centrally by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), on days when fires are most likely to threaten lives and property.

Harvest and Vehicle Movement Bans (HVMBs) are issued by the Shire and are put in place when the Chief Bushfire Control Officer identifies the use of engines, vehicles, plant or machinery as high bushfire risk activities, during particular times of the day.

The communication of TFBs is centrally coordinated by the declaration from DFES. However, HVMBs need to be coordinated and communicated by the Shire.

Contact Us**Enquiries**

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In Person

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Officers see merit in investigating an option to consider opt in text messaging system. This investigation can look at:

- what other local governments may also be doing;
- preferred positions of both WALGA and DFES;
- options and their associated costs;
- the key risks in setting up and resourcing such a system;
- legal risks that could be associated with such a service.

Reporting by April 2023 is considered viable.

Voting Requirements: Simple Majority

Councillor Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. REQUESTS the Chief Executive Officer bring a report to Council no later than 30 April 2023, that covers the following:**
 - a. Implementation of an opt in text message system for the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale for days of Total Fire Bans and/or Vehicle and Harvest Movement Bans;**
 - b. The process of how this could be achieved;**
 - c. The cost of implementation; and**
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