

**BYFORD VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE
MINUTES MONTHLY MEETING
3rd JANUARY 2023
(Extract)**

OPENING 1930

WELCOME By Presiding Member Captain Jess Gibson.

ATTENDANCE As per recorded log.

APOLOGIES Adam Andrews, Zac Dobson, Josh Patriarca

Review of CESM Business Plan and CESM Program

The following points are forwarded for consideration.

• Influence on member training/skill development/training program delivery/mentorship/leadership training/succession planning.

- Training progress is formalised and documented. A succession program has been implemented for the leadership group in each brigade.
- CESM to be more involved with training including brigade, DFES courses and presenting. CESM has had limited input into shire run DFES courses.
- CESM to be the course coordinator of training. Shire should hire staff to put training program together and work with training team. Volunteer trainer's workload is currently excessive.
- The annual assessment program has been implemented and all Shire brigades have conducted.

• Influence on bushfire mitigation/prevention/preparedness

- The brigade feels like we have not completed any extra burns since the implementation of a CESM. Follow up work is rarely conducted after burns.
- Good to see the UCL land along South Western Highway has had maintenance/mitigation work completed on it.
- Some members feel like the Shire does not fully understand mitigation works and requirements.
- The brigade would like to see more invested in mitigation works e.g. Kalamunda model. Insufficient personnel involved in mitigation duties. Many overgrown verges etc. Danger areas not only to be identified but dealt with.
- Bushfire Advisory Team (BAT) – They have worked with the CESM at RUI events and trialed ideas in how to work with community. Although there needs to be more input into the organisation of BAT. Lack of staff at shire does not help.

Influence on response coordination at incidents/incident management/deployments/strike teams

- Communication and coordination of preformed teams is better
- The brigade feels there is a need for better machine operators at incidents, especially locally. Having inexperienced operators with limited fire knowledge trying to install breaks is a safety concern, as well as also prolonging the incident.
- Dual brigade response works. Still have little issues with the mapped areas but is working well when getting on top of incidents.
- Incidents management more falls on deputies. Good we have so many deputies.
- Resourcing of incidents is quickly done.
- More deployments and strike teams and a lot more organized when on strike teams.

- Better relationship with DFES and better flow of information.
- Building relationships with members is outstanding especially during COVID
- Brigades are more connected with DFES

Influence on brigade functioning such as the provision of PPE, equipment, facilities etc.

- CESM is promoting good WHS but is struggling with results especially on facilities. There is a lot to be improved, especially after the insurance audit and this is an ongoing issue
- PPE is always prompt with renewal.
- VFR process is inconsistent with the shire. CESM organises after hour repairs.
- Ability to claim from the ESL has increased and what we are eligible for.

Influence on working partnerships with DFES.

- The brigade was VERY disappointed that they were not notified about Cardup fire station announcement. Believe there needs to be more communication. Members found out by social media.
- Foot in the door with contacts with DFES

Overall Comments

Overall the brigade is happy with the CESM program. Although there needs to be definitive roles identified between the CESM and Emergency Services Coordinator. Including chain of command, who does what and who is responsible.