

BUSH FIRE BRIGADES POLICY

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1. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Bush Fire Brigades Policy is to provide guidance to the Bush Fire Brigade and staff of the City of Karratha by:

- Ensuring that all activities are compliant with the *Bush Fires Act 1954*.
- Outlining and clarifying the roles, responsibilities and operational procedures of the Bush Fire Brigade.
- Delivering a best practice approach to the delivery of bush fire services within the City of Karratha; and
- Ensuring consistency and compliance with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) Standard Operating Procedures relevant to the operations of Bush Fire Brigades.

2. PRINCIPLES

Bush Fire Brigades are created by Council pursuant to Section 41 of the *Bush Fires Act 1954*. With a large area of rural and pastoral land, the City of Karratha is reliant on the Bush Fire Brigade for protection against the threat and devastation of fire.

The City of Karratha Bush Fire Service comprises of one Brigade located at Point Samson and administered by the City. All volunteer fire fighters receive training and support from DFES in Bush Fire prevention, response and control.

This policy is designed to be read in conjunction with the following legislation:

- *Fire Brigades Act 1942*;
- *Bush Fire Act 1954*;
- *Bush Fire Regulations 1954*;
- *Local Government Act 1995*;
- *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998*;
- *Emergency Management Act 2005*; and
- *Model Bush Fire Local Law 2014*.

Other documents to be considered include the following Incident Emergency Plans:

- City of Karratha Bush Fire Operational & Management Guide;
- Pilbara District Fire Management Plan;
- WESTPLAN - Bushfire Management Plan;
- Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) Fire Control Working Plans;
- Fire and Rescue Service Response Plans; and
- City of Karratha Emergency Management and Response Plans.

In addition, all Bush Fire Brigade members are expected to operate within the DFES Standard Operating Procedures as they relate to Brigades and local government.

3. CONSEQUENCES

This policy and associated Operational and Management Guide represents the expected standards of the City of Karratha. Appropriate approvals need to be obtained prior to any deviation from this policy.

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Bush Fire Brigades are operated under the direction of the Chief Bush Fire Controller. Any modifications and changes to the Policy made at the request of the Bush Fire Brigade are to be made via the Chief Bush Fire Control Officer and approved by Council. Modifications to the Operational Guideline are only permitted where approval has been granted by the Chief Executive Officer or Director Development Services.

5. REFERENCES TO RELATED DOCUMENTS

- *Fire Brigades Act 1942*
- *Bush Fire Act 1954*
- *Bush Fire Regulations 1954*
- *Local Government Act 1995*
- *Local Government (Functions and General) Regulations 1996*
- *Fire and Emergency Services Act 1998*
- *Emergency Management Act 2005*
- *Bush Fire Local Law 2014*
- City of Karratha's Bush Fire Management Plan
- Bush Fire Brigade Operational and Management Guide

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This Policy takes effect from the date of adoption by Council and shall remain valid until it is amended or deleted.