

## **DSRA Committee Meeting 4**

8 April 2018, 12.30pm, All Saints Church hall, Noyes St, Swansea

Present: Cherry, Neville, Danny, Grant, David, Robyn

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of previous meeting
3. President's report – fantastic general meeting – congratulations to all. Small grant application to Council in Feb for running costs was unsuccessful. Better to apply for a particular project. We can reapply – applications are heard at Council meetings every month. 30 new members since the AGM – good to see the DSRA reinvigorated.
4. Treasurer's report – bank balance \$1500
5. Secretary's report – meeting procedure – aim is for proxy forms to list any motions to be voted on at meeting so that people will know what is going to be voted on and those unable to attend can vote on each motion. This will allow members who don't live locally to be included in decision-making. We don't have any use for membership cards.
6. Correspondence In – numerous memberships, email addresses, council budget survey ideas, various Lesley King (TFS)
  - 11/3 Leigh Sealy: beach access ways legalities paper
  - 14/3 Mal Marshall: Swan River Rd, request to join DSRA
  - 19/3 Landcare: membership confirmation
  - 26/3 Brett Harrison: boat ramp upgrades
  - 28/3 Deputy Premier: fire trailer rego reimbursement
  - 6/4 Mal Innes: Swan River jetty upgrade next steps

Correspondence Out

9/3 Council: thanks for fire tanks on DS Rd

14/3 Rene Hidding: fire trailer rego inquiry (replied 28/3)

20/3 Brett Harrison, Darrell Grey, nomination for GSBC Marine Infrastructure Committee

26/3 Cheryl Arnol, Deputy Mayor: invitation to Gen Meeting (replied 26/3)

26/3 Brett Harrison: boat ramp upgrades

26/3 Council in support of Mal Innes, Swan River boat ramp/jetty upgrade

7. Bagot Point management:

Draft letter to Jason Jacobi requesting meeting and suggest management plan (instead of ad hoc decisions) to be developed via land-use conflict resolution process with all stakeholders.

8. Bushfire plan: where to now after meeting Lesley King (TFS)?

[note: see appendix for minutes of meeting with Lesley]

Need to meet with Dan Hall – David Cooper to write

Tony Pollard – Emergency Management Plan; also potential exit route on bushfire track south of Moulting Lagoon

Action TFS-endorsed concepts

Cherry to write thank you letter to Lesley King

Grant/Neville to circulate info about BBQ fire safety to Air BnBs

Robyn to order 'using fire outdoors' pamphlets for road sign; David to get waterproof container to keep them in

9. Consultation on Constitutional review: method and timeline

Forum is widely read, but not many contributors. Forum will remain as consultation method unless members express desire for face to face consultation.

Intended motion announced prior to next GM – Saturday June 9. Voting at following GM Sept-Oct. Robyn to inform Brett & Leigh.

10. Litter bins: continued

Draft another letter to Tony Pollard – survey results; address evasions, tourists are filling up residents' bins – strategically placed bins or as close as possible to public open areas – BP, YSB, pull-off area near Cambria

11. Access ways and Council

Request meeting with General Manager, Mayor & relevant/interested Councillors, invite Leigh Sealy

12. Swan river barge motion: a mention

Motion from GM in January to assess community sentiment. The committee has the capacity to ascertain community sentiment at short notice. Will assess when details are available, so people can make informed decision

13. Any other business

Council budget submission – ready for submission

YSB – not a priority at this stage, difficult for inexperienced boaties to launch & navigate towards Swanwick

Community gathering – April Sat 28<sup>th</sup>, 4pm start

Meeting closed 2pm

Appendix: Meeting with Lesley King (TFS), Sunday April 8, 11am, All Saints Church hall

Present: Cherry Andrews, Neville Stewart, Danny Allford, Sallee Allford, Grant Andrews, Carrie Brink, David Cooper, Hilary Cooper, Yon Kikkert, Lesley King (TFS), Robyn Moore

Lesley King's role is an education officer with TFS. She helps educate communities about keeping properties safe. People may be aware about fire safety but that often isn't enough for them to change their behaviour; there is a tendency to complacency about bushfire management. People are often unaware that we live in one of the most bushfire-prone areas of the world (SE Australia). Fire preparation tends to get overlooked in the busy-ness of life, pushed to back of people's minds. Lesley's role in DS is finishing, but she's still able to continue to offer advice.

Lesley has contacted the 26 Air Bnb & homestays hosts in the area offering assistance with property preparation & also info to give to their visitors. She had 8 replies for info and 2 replies for individual consultations (along with one business owner). Although this level of engagement is low, it's similar to the level in other areas. DS is one of the more successful communities that Lesley has engaged in, due to networks that exist, signage, reflectors on driveways etc. Residents receive a welcome pack from Council when they purchase their properties, which includes info about fire safety.

TFS strategies for fire management in DS:

- Bushfire ready neighbourhoods
- Fuel reduction burns – will continue in vegetation south of Moulting Lagoon. Contact Mel Kelly & Tony Pollard from GSBC for more info
- Gorse removal
- Water tanks, signage
- Educating people to manage fire (watching & fully extinguishing). Past fires in the area were not naturally occurring but caused (unintentionally) by people, eg sparks from machinery, fires not watched or extinguished fully, burning rubbish

Suggested additional strategies include lobbying Council to do a green waste pickup & increasing the cleared area of easement between road & property boundaries (contact Tony Pollard)

The previous Community Bushfire Protection Plan listed 'nearby safer places' in the area. However, in the current Community Bushfire Protection Plan, there are no 'nearby safer places'.<sup>1</sup> This is due to changes in assessment procedures following the Royal Commission into the Black Saturday bushfires (2009). Places are now assessed on the basis of worst-case scenario (catastrophic conditions). There is now an emphasis on 'shared responsibility' for bushfire management.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.fire.tas.gov.au/userfiles/protectionplans/south/201609\\_S\\_Protection\\_Dolphin\\_Sands.pdf](http://www.fire.tas.gov.au/userfiles/protectionplans/south/201609_S_Protection_Dolphin_Sands.pdf)

Going to the beach (or Moulting Lagoon) is not a safe option in a bushfire due to proximity to vegetation and the risk of drowning. If people are stuck and have no option but to go to the beach, Lesley's advice is to congregate with other people.

The safest option for all bushfires is to leave early. If people don't have time to leave early, the next-best option is in a suitably-prepared dwelling. The biggest risks during a fire front are flames and radiant heat.

Has the TFS found the existence of helipads useful in the evacuation of people? It's very rare for people to be evacuated; but may be attempted evacuations in medical emergencies. Fire fighters won't be put at risk. Generally, helicopters would be used to water-bomb the fire rather than evacuate people.

What is the TFS view on custom built bunkers as a viable alternative for a safe place? There is no evidence that shows that bushfire shelters are safe to use. These would be places of last resort. More info can be found on the TFS website under 'building for bushfire'.

Would the TFS consider a fire shed and fire fighting vehicle near Bagot Point strategic? TFS has no resources to support this. Need to talk with Ken Nichols (local fire chief) and Mark Klop (district officer for the East Coast). Lesley may be able to help with information about similar projects.

Possibility of creating alternative exit road via existing fire trail on land south of Moulting Lagoon – suggestion to contact Council for further information.

TFS recommends that if there are no nearby safer places endorsed by TFS, then communities may create their own by following the guidelines of the TFS website.<sup>2</sup> A nearby safer place is a place of last resort for people during bushfire emergencies. If you have no bushfire survival plan, or your plan has failed, a nearby safer place may be your last resort when there is an imminent threat of bushfire. The biggest risks are flames and radiant heat. Ideally, 'nearby safer places' are accessible by foot.

Possibility of assistance from TFS to help achieve action plans to protect community, eg removing highly-flammable introduced wattle halves the setback area necessary to create a 'nearby safer place' at Bagot Point; site assessment by Dan Hall. Tony Pollard is the emergency management officer with Council – all strategies are all part of the emergency management plan

Resources can be ordered online from the TFS website for distribution. A fire app for Tasmania is being developed. Check TFS website for details.

Meeting closed 12.30pm

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.fire.tas.gov.au/Show?pagelD=colNearBySaferPlaces>