

11.0 ELECTED MEMBERS MOTIONS OF WHICH PREVIOUS NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

11.1 Notice of Motion - Cr Toni Burbidge - Reinstate 2021 Annual Bushfire Brigade BBQ

File Code	EM.VNT 4
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Disclosure of Any Interest	Nil
Attachments	Nil

SUMMARY

Councillor Burbidge has advised of her intention to move the following notice of motion:

“That Council:

- 1. reinstates the annual Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade BBQ event to show Council’s appreciation for our volunteer brigades and the work they have undertaken to protect our community; and*
- 2. amends the 2020/21 budget to provide for the cost of \$10,000 to stage the event, which will be funded from the Shire’s existing budget provision of \$25,000 for general catering expenses.”*

Cr Burbidge has provided the following rationale relating to her notice of motion:

“Our volunteer bushfire brigades work tirelessly to protect our community from fire events. They commit a large portion of their time voluntarily to undertaking this important role. The recent Wooroloo Fire highlighted the selfless work these volunteers undertake and an annual BBQ is a small token towards thanking our fire volunteers. From a psychological first aid perspective an event such as a BBQ get together can provide a mechanism for brigades to interact together and share stories of the year’s events.”

BACKGROUND

Shire of Mundaring has for many years held two annual events in appreciation and recognition of the role of the Shire’s Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades (VBFB) in protecting our community. The holding of those events was suspended for the 2020/21 financial year to provide for reduction of expenditure to facilitate a zero rates increase within the 2020/21 annual in response to the impact of Covid-19.

STATUTORY / LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Notice of Motion

The *Shire of Mundaring Meeting Procedures Local Law 2015* states, among other things:

“4.10 Elected members motions of which previous notice has been given

(1) Unless the Act, Regulations or this local law provide otherwise, a member may raise at a meeting such business as he or she considers appropriate, in the form of a

motion, of which notice has been given in writing to the CEO and which has been included on the agenda.

(2) A notice of motion under subclause (1) is to be given at least seven clear working days before the meeting at which the motion is to be raised.

(3) A notice of motion is to be accompanied by supporting reasons and is to relate to the good governance of the district.”

The Notice of Motion was received from Cr Burbidge on 19 February 2021 and is in accordance with the *Shire of Mundaring Meeting Procedures Local Law 2015*.

Section 6.8 of the *Local Government Act 1995* details how to incur expenditure from the municipal fund when not included in an annual budget, as follows:

“(1) A local government is not to incur expenditure from its municipal fund for an additional purpose except where the expenditure —

(a) is incurred in a financial year before the adoption of the annual budget by the local government; or

(b) is authorised in advance by resolution; or*

(c) is authorised in advance by the mayor or president in an emergency.

** Absolute majority required.”*

Accordingly, a Council decision to authorise such expenditure as proposed by this request would require an absolute majority, given that the annual budget for 2020/21 has already been adopted.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The cost of the event is estimated to be \$10,000.

The annual BBQ had its budget reduced from \$10,000 to nil as part of the identified savings in the 2020/21 budget to fund the Shire’s Covid-19 relief and recovery measures.

The general catering budget was reduced from \$40,000 to \$25,000 for similar reasons and due to the ongoing social distancing requirements associated with Covid-19 restrictions. This budget line item has only incurred expenditure of \$3526 for the financial year to date.

It is proposed that the cost of the BBQ be funded from the savings in the general catering account.

An absolute majority would be required to approve this budget amendment.

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Mundaring Strategic Community Plan 2020 - 2030

Priority 1 - Community

Objective 1.1 – Healthy, safe, sustainable and resilient community

Strategy 1.1.6 – Promote and recognise volunteering within the Shire

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Risk: Reputation risk of not acknowledging volunteers in the fire service for the work they do for the community without charge, should the event not proceed.		
Likelihood	Consequence	Rating
Likely	Moderate	High
Action / Strategy		
Appropriately acknowledge emergency service volunteers.		

EXTERNAL CONSULTATION

Nil

COMMENT

The events previously held to acknowledge and show appreciation for emergency service volunteers were:

- The Annual Bushfire Brigade Barbecue – held early April, all VBFB members and their families are invited along with Mundaring Volunteer Fire & Rescue Service and Mundaring State Emergency Service unit.
- The Annual Captains Dinner - held in October, the invitees being current and outgoing VBFB Captains and their partners, Shire President and elected members, Bush Fire Advisory Committee members, the FES Commissioner, a Department of Biodiversity and Conservation representative, the CEO and relevant Shire staff.

Notwithstanding the above the essential role that the Shire's VBFB's undertook (and are still involved in) in response to the Wooroloo bushfire that started 1 February 2021 is noted.

VOTING REQUIREMENT

Absolute Majority - *Local Government Act 1995* section 6.8.

MOTION

That Council, by absolute majority:

1. reinstates the annual Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade BBQ event to show Council's appreciation for our volunteer brigades and the work they have undertaken to protect our community; and
2. amends the 2020/21 budget to provide for the cost of \$10,000 to stage the event, which will be funded from the Shire's existing budget provision of \$25,000 for general catering expenses.