

ADDENDUM

11.4.2 PROPOSAL FOR TRANSITION OF BUSH FIRE BRIGADES TO DFES

LOCATION/ADDRESS	N/A
APPLICANT/LANDOWNER	Shire of Augusta Margaret River
FILE REFERENCE	EMS/2
REPORT AUTHOR	Andrew Ross, Acting Director Corporate and Community Services
AUTHORISING OFFICER	Stephanie Addison-Brown, Chief Executive Officer

This addendum provides an additional attachment:

- Letter from Alexandra Bridge, East Augusta and Kudardup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades



Alexandra Bridge, East Augusta and Kudardup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades

8 September 2019

Stephanie Addison-Brown
Chief Executive Officer
Augusta Margaret River Shire
PO Box 61, Margaret River WA 6285



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File: EMS/2
Date: 18 SEP 2019

Dear Stephanie,

This letter follows our letter of 7 August 2019 where we stated that the three Bush Fire Brigades are strongly of the opinion that the vote that was taken for the proposed transfer of the Shire Bush Fire Brigades to DFES should stand. That 7:3 vote means that the advice to Council should be that the Brigades do not transfer.

Since then a further vote was taken at the Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC) meeting on 21 August 2019 that "The Shire's bushfire brigades **agree to participate** in a two years trial to transition to DFES that is supported by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the CEOs of the Shire and DFES". This was Recommendation 2 and was passed 6:4 in spite of Recommendation 1-2 advising Council that the vote through the Transition Steering Committee for the transfer was not achieved.

We are most concerned that this voting option was presented to BFAC and passed, as no where in the information provided to all of the Bush Fire Brigades was it stated that there would be another vote on the transfer, especially through BFAC. The advice from BFAC to Council is clearly set out in Recommendation 1 of the BFAC Briefing Paper.

We understand the desire of the dual brigades to transfer, but this should not be used to ignore the vote through the Steering Committee. If the transfer process were to continue we feel that it will create a division between the brigades, whereas we now all work very well together through the Shire.

In conclusion, we reiterate that the vote NOT to transfer should be upheld by Council. If Dual Brigades wish to transfer to DFES they could be allowed to proceed. As stated in our previous letter, this will provide information that will assist with any future transfer to DFES preferably through a decision taken by the State Government in consultation with Local Government.

We would appreciate this letter being distributed to all Councillors and to the Shire staff preparing agenda papers for the Council meeting on 25 September when we understand this matter will be considered by Council.

Yours Sincerely

John Wilson *per BHH*
Joint meeting Chair

Cc: David Holland, Chief Bush Fire Control Officer; Brett Trunfall, Deputy Chief Bush Fire Control Officer.