

2.2 WOOROLOO BUSHFIRE INQUIRY - CITY OF SWAN SUBMISSION

Ward: (Swan Valley/Gidgegannup Ward) (Chief Executive Office)

Disclosure of Interest: Nil

Authorising Officer: (Executive Manager Community Wellbeing)

KEY ISSUES

- The Wooroloo Bushfire started on the 1 February, 2021 and spread rapidly towards the west through northern parts of the Perth Hills.
- The fire impacted communities in the City of Swan and Shire of Mundaring, burning through more than 10,000 hectares.
- The State Government has launched an independent review into the devastating Wooroloo Bushfire which destroyed 86 homes.
- The inquiry is being led by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC).
- The independent inquiry will analyse information gathered during the first stage of the review of the Wooroloo Bushfire. It will examine a range of areas including the bushfire response, fuel and management and mitigation activities and communications.
- The City of Swan has been invited to participate in the review and provide a submission. City staff have prepared a submission in line with the enquiries terms of reference.

It is recommended that the Council resolve to endorse the City of Swan submission in response to the State Governments inquiry into the Wooroloo Bushfire.

BACKGROUND

On February 1, 2021, the City of Swan and Shire of Mundaring were impacted by a bushfire that burned through more than 10,000 hectares and destroyed 86 homes.

The State Government has launched an independent inquiry into the Wooroloo bushfire, and an independent review will be undertaken by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council.

DETAILS

The independent inquiry will analyse information gathered during the first stage of the review of the Wooroloo Bushfire. It will examine a range of areas including the bushfire response, fuel and management and mitigation activities and communications.

The review will acknowledge the ongoing action plan for Bushfire Framework Review and will cover the following aspects as relevant to the 2021 Wooroloo Bushfire:

1. Evaluate the first stage of the review of the Wooroloo Bushfire and undertake independent analysis across the range of focus areas examined, including response to the Wooroloo Bushfire, fuel management and processes for access into the fire affected areas.
2. Examine the effectiveness of the use of heavy earthmoving equipment in the fire suppression effort including the systems, processes and capability that supports this.
3. Examine the effectiveness of interagency coordination during the response and initial recovery phases of the incident.
4. Consider the effectiveness of the impact assessment processes employed in informing early and timely recovery efforts and consider the effectiveness of the recovery function post response phase.
5. Consider the extent, geographic range, method, effectiveness and duration of public warnings.
6. Examine the effectiveness of the 'Animal Welfare in Emergencies' program as implemented by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.
7. Consider the meteorological aspects of the fire as examined by the Bureau of Meteorology.
8. Provide a means for members of the public and other interested parties to make submissions to the Review and give these due regard in compiling its report.
9. Consider any other matter that the Review Team identifies in its course of activities.

The City has drafted a submission in response to the independent enquiry, and acknowledges that there is a high level of community interest in this inquiry, and that in any major emergency there are lessons to be learned.

CONSULTATION

Consultation has included the Shire of Mundaring, WA Local Government Association and relevant City of Swan officers.

ATTACHMENTS

City of Swan Submission in response to the State Government's inquiry into the Wooroloo Bushfire

STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS

Nil

STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Simple majority

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council resolve to:

- 1) Endorse the City of Swan submission in response to the State Governments inquiry into the Wooroloo Bushfire