

POLICY NO.	O.15
POLICY SUBJECT	Fire Protection - Shire or Brigade Owned Fire Fighting Appliances

Background & Issues

As a result of the Black Cat Creek Bushfire the State Government reviewed all operational Fire Fighting Fleet for crew protection in a “burn over” situation. The outcome was to fit out all State Government supplied Fire Fighting Appliances with crew protection measures (burn over blankets, AVL’s, roll down in-cab curtains, in-cab air, water deluge system and shielding).

Currently the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes Bushfire Brigade Network has a number of Shire or Brigade owned appliances that don’t meet the current standard for crew protection in a “burn over” situation.

Objectives

To minimise the risk to volunteer fire fighters and Council when Shire or Brigade owned fire fighting appliances are used in bushfire operational roles.

Note the definition of an “appliance” is any vehicle with fire fighting capability – from a vehicle with a slip on unit upwards).

Policy Measures

The policy applies to appliances that have been purchased by the either the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, a bush fire brigade or combination. The policy does not apply to private vehicles.

It is noted that in 2017/18 Council has made budget provision to install crew protection measures on the major fire fighting appliances under its ownership however even when these works are complete there will be a number of other smaller appliances (both Shire and brigade owned) that won’t have crew protection.

Shire / Brigade owned appliances that don’t have the full suite of crew protection are not to be used for the following:

- Direct attack when a bushfire is burning in a forest environment.
- Fire investigation when a bushfire is burning in a forest environment.
- Any activity that may place the appliance in a “burn over” situation in a forest environment.

Shire / Brigade owned appliances that don’t have the full suite of crew protection can still be used for the following:

- Prescribed burning operations conducted by brigades or the Shire.
- Runner Vehicle.
- Sector Commander Vehicles
- Fire fighting when the bushfire is burning in low lying heath lands or pasture.

- When the appliance can safely work on a large road network that has two or more escape routes.
- When a Bushfire is burning in a forest environment and has been deemed to be in the “mop-up” stage.

All Shire / Brigade owned appliances will be fitted as a minimum a WAREN Radio and Burn Over Blankets.