

# ES 3 – Fire Protection – Shire or Brigade Owned Fire Fighting Appliances

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## 1 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.

## 2 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).*

## 3 Scope

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

## 4 Policy

### 4.1 Policy Measures

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.

#### 4.2 Explanatory Note

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.

### 5 Applicable Legislation and Documents

<b>Act</b>	s.2.7(2)(b) <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> – The council is to determine the local government's policies s.36(a) <i>Bush Fires Act 1954</i> – Local government may expend moneys in connection with control and extinguishment of bush fires <i>Work Health and Safety Act 2020</i>
<b>Regulation</b>	Work Health and Safety (General) Regulations 2022
<b>Local Law</b>	<i>Bush Fire Brigade Local Law</i>
<b>Shire Policies</b>	PES 1 –Light Fleet Vehicle Purchasing
<b>Related Documents</b>	N/A
<b>Related Procedure</b>	N/A

### 6 Administration

<b>Original Adoption Date</b>	22 February 2018
<b>Last Reviewed</b>	24 November 2022
<b>Scheduled Reviewed Date</b>	27 April 2023