

8.6 Budget Amendment – Bush Firefighting Water Supply

File reference			
Report date	20/10/2021		
Applicant/proponent	Shire of Victoria Plains		
Officer disclosure of interest			
Previous meeting references			
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Authorised by	TEEDE, Glenda – CEO		
Attachments			
Attachment 1	Page		Letter from Mogumber BFB

PURPOSE

Budget amendment urgent repairs to the Mogumber Emergency Water Supply.

BACKGROUND

Mogumber's source of water for firefighting is via a standpipe located next to the Mogumber Library on Mogumber-Yarawindah Rd, Mogumber. The water come from a tank located at the top of a hill on the Nixon property and feeds down via a 3" pipe to the main standpipe. Upon installation of the water supply, the local firefighters have had continued issues with only receiving a constrained supply of water to the standpipe that is insufficient for the rapid firefighting response required. The matter was formally brought to the Shire's attention in 2017 and again each year since to investigate and address the issue. Previous Works and Services Managers have advised that the pipe from the tanks down to the standpipe was crushed by the installation crew using a grader at the time of install.

In 2018 there was a significant bushfire in the Mogumber Mission to witch the local firefighters were reliant on this supply but was unable to adequately use due to the restricted flow, this caused frustrations and delayed response by local firefighters and farmer response.

Again in 2019 we saw one of the most significant bushfires in the Shire's history in Mogumber, this source was the only water supply south of the fire that was readily available to crews and again caused significant issues to the point that the Shire water cart was used in its place.

To date, the shire has been unsuccessful in allocating the funds to adequately replace critical damaged infrastructure.

COMMENT

With a higher-than-average fuel load this coming season (2021/2022), the dense wooded areas and the historically difficult terrain, it is critical that the volunteer's firefighters are adequality resourced to protect the community.

We have been blessed with a later start to the fire season however, we are expected to see fires running within the next few weeks/month, this resource would ideally be installed prior to the significant bushfire threat this year. Currently the required repairs are not budgeted for. The Shire of Victoria Plains' Bush Fire Advisory Committee (BFAC) on five (5) October 2021 moved a motion to urgently recommended the *Shire urgently Consider the replacement of the damaged pipe at the Mogumber Water Supply with 4" Blue line as a minimum prior to November 2021*, this motion was moved unanimously.

The works required would need a funding allocation of \$35,000. Cost will include; pipe, fittings, labour, machinery etc. Note: pipe will need to go under Mogumber-Yarawindah Rd.

The Mogumber/Gillingarra Bush Fire Brigade have expressed their willingness to assist with the installation where possible.

CONSULTATION

- Mogumber/Gillingarra Bush Fire Brigade
- Shire of Victoria Plains Bush Fire Advisory Committee
- Shire Works Manager
- Shire CEO

STATUTORY CONTEXT

Nil

CORPORATE CONTEXT

Relating to outcome noted in CBP.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Costing to be made available to Council early next week.

VOTING REQUIREMENTS

Absolute majority required: Yes

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

Moved Cr _____

Seconded Cr _____

That Council:

1. In accordance with s. 6.8(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1995, **AMENDS** the 2021-2022 Budget to allow the CEO to pursue works at the Mogumber Emergency Water Supply including upgrading pipe, fittings, inclusive of labour, machinery and miscellaneous, subject to testing the market in accordance with the Shire's purchasing policy.
2. Increase the budget for account 21360 Job WATERM \$35,000.
3. Reduce transfer to plant reserve account 40312 by \$35,000.

The amendment required in Point 1 is an allocation of \$35,000 (excluding GST) for contractors to conduct the necessary works and this is to be set aside from Job WATERM for this purpose.

For / Against