

Shire of Goomalling

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MEDIA RELEASE

BUSHFIRE INCIDENT – SATURDAY 26 OCTOBER 2016 - KUNZIA WAY, GOOMALLING

Saturday 26 October 2016, a fire ignited in the native bush land north east of town near Kunzia Way and Salmon Gum Way initial response to 000 call at 11.45pm, outside temperature approximately 35 degrees. Damage report indicates 225 hectares of bushland and agricultural land was destroyed, 2/3 was unharvested crop. The fire was a result of a vehicle being burnt in the said bushland which quickly spread out of control.

Council would like to express its gratitude to the men and women who gave up there time on Saturday to fight the fire that threatened homes and bush land no more than 2kms from Goomalling town site.

It was devastating to learn the destruction that spread from a burning vehicle, but it was also a moment of immense pride, in the people of our community and those around us who humbly pledged themselves to protect our homes.

At peak sixteen (16) bush fire service appliances from five (5) shires including Goomalling, with air support and observation including six (6) winged aeroplanes’ and one (1) helicopter, numerous farm support and private water carters, private and shire machinery formed the defence and recovery artillery. Dowerin Railway line was closed for three (3) hours.

Western power inspected the power in the area. No houses were damaged.

Burnt faces, covered in ash and complete exhaustion was evidence of its brutality and while we all lay asleep volunteers were out there, making sure the fire wouldn't reignite.

THANK YOU Goomalling VFRS, Konnongorring and Jennacubbine brigades and our local members of the community who contributed to the recovery effort.

Thank you to the surrounding communities/brigades that came to our aid:

Northam VFRS | Northam FCO | Irishtown | Clackline | Grass Valley | Meckering | Toodyay | Toodyay Central | Toodyay VFRS | Dowerin | Minnivale

This is a timely reminder to be **BUSHFIRE READY** and have up to date fire fighting equipment on hand. In addition farmers/utility owners need to ensure they obtain a **VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION STICKER** which identifies you as a permitted emergency response vehicle to outside authorities.

**Media Contact** Tahnee Bird, Community Development Officer

**Authorising Officer** Clem Kerp, Chief Executive Officer

**Date**  28 November 2016