



Greater Cederberg Fire Protection Association

MINUTES: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 19 AUGUST 2025 (14:00 – 16:30) DISASTER MANAGEMENT CENTRE MOORREESBURG

1. Opening and Welcome

Bertus Senekal welcomed everyone present at the meeting and thanked them for their time. He noted that if anyone does not understand Afrikaans, they should indicate so that translation could be provided. He also expressed gratitude for the large turnout and attendance of members to the meeting.

Annexure 1 – Attendance Register

Annexure 2 – List of Apologies

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The previous minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 7 August 2024 were presented to the meeting for approval. The minutes were proposed as correct by Barry Schreiber and seconded by Nicky Esterhuyse.

3. Funding received from Western Cape Disaster Management: Fire & Rescue Services

The GCFPA received R440 000 from the Department, which was used to purchase a bakkie, bakkie sakkie, radio and hand tools. The Department's role is to promote integrated fire management that is closely linked to climate change, which is also the Department's policy. Various opinions exist on climate change, but that is a reality. At a global scale, 70% of all fires occurs on the African continent.

Mr. Etienne du Toit gave a brief overview of fires at provincial, national, and international levels, as well as the Department's preparation plans for the 2025/2026 season. He thanked the GCFPA members for their important role at a local level and their acceptance of their responsibilities towards integrated fire management. The relatively few fires in the area demonstrates that things are being done right. He emphasized the need for a shared responsibility between government and private landowners. The Western Cape Province contributes millions annually towards aerial support and ground teams.

Mr. du Toit was thanked for the funding provided to the GCFPA to promote integrated fire management within the domain.

4. Election of New Management

Martli Slabber resigned from the executive due to other obligations. Ockert Rossouw of Kraalbosvlak was elected in her place, while Henko Vlok and Pierre Nel (vice-chair) remains on the executive. Martli was thanked for her contribution of nearly 16 years to the FPA. The decision was unanimously accepted.

5. Financial Report 2024/2025

Presented by Jacomien Britz:

- **Income generated:** Membership fees, joining fees, management fees, fire beater's sales. Membership fees increased to R1 769 213 and joining fees amounted to R126 446 due to new members joining for fire permit benefits received from the West Coast District Municipality.
- **Expenditure:** Fuel, awareness campaigns, protective clothing, maintenance, salaries & rentals. The largest expenses were salaries and fuel. Vehicle maintenance costs decreased in this financial period.
- Salaries were R40 000 higher than last year, due to a once-off staff bonus pay out.
- Rental costs increased as rent is now paid for the Porterville Head Office and the Porterville base's rent increased to R6 000/month.
- No assets were purchased.

Summary:

- 52 new members joined - making a difference.

- The outstanding debt was R67 550 as of 28 February, but some of these outstanding amounts was paid in the new financial year.
- Government agencies do pay, but not always on time.

The financial report was proposed as correct by Kristo Truter and unanimously accepted.

6. Membership Fees

A fee increase was discussed due to the uncertainty of the Working on Fire program. Although there were a 15% increase and the alignment of state land tariffs last year to align with other FPA's. We can leave the tariffs at the current rate, however if we stagnate, we may again require a drastic increase in the next year or so.

An 8% increase was proposed adding an additional R171 000 income to the 2025_2026 budget. This will ensure that the FMU's can be capacitated if the WoF programme come to an end. This proposal was supported by Tita Truter and seconded by Monica Graaff.

Gary Damp highlighted how the GCFPA staff helped him avert major fire damage; the value thereof cannot be expressed in money value. A question was raised of how much the farmers contributes towards the total membership income - all landowners contribute depending on their land parcel size.

Institutions with large properties, like CapeNature pay over R300 000 and SANParks about R125 000 annually. Small increases yield significant income, due to economies of scale and to implement it over time, will ensure sustainability and improve service delivery.

A counter proposal was proposed by Martli Slabber and seconded by Radshaw Brown that suggested a 6% increase due to the economic climate and recent import tariff increases.

The meeting voted to decide on the percentage increase with an outcome of 14 votes for 8% and 9 votes for an 6% increase. The 8% increase was therefore approved by the meeting and will be implemented in the following way:

- *8% membership increase for all private landowners, resorts, industries, municipalities;*
- *Joining fees remains unchanged;*
- *State land remains unchanged;*
- *Linear properties (roads, power lines, etc.) remains unchanged;*
- *Service delivery costs (transport, meals for teams, variable costs) also increased by 8%;*
- *New rates are effective immediately for new members.*
- *Full implementation for existing members during the 2026/2027 financial year.*

7. GCFPA Annual Report 2024/2025

Charl provided an overview of the objective and activities of the GCFPA.

52 New members joined that increases the size of the CGFPA to 1 112 911 ha.

Partnerships are essential to the operations of the GCFPA, therefore our strong collaboration with the West Coast District Municipality are acknowledged in providing great support to our members. The free burning permits issued to our members, are valued at R543 283 and R300 000 was contributed towards aerial support. The revision of the business plan and funding application is currently work in progress and will align with the WCDM:IDP.

The WC Government (Disaster Management – Fire & Rescue) provided a once off grant to the value of R 440 000. This was used to obtain the bakkie and equipment. The Department was formally thanked for this grant.

There are several challenges with the Working on Fire program, that also affects the teams within the FPA. The Working on Fire contract was nullified by court; a new implementing agent will be appointed in November 2025. All the Dispatch offices were closed down due to budget constraints. Members will be informed regarding the changes and how it will affect them, for example, the call out procedures for aerial support. An amount of R86 000 is still outstanding from WoF.

Production is a bit lower than previous years - 14.67 ha of firebreaks were established and 128 ha of controlled burns was completed. Production is driven by the needs of the members. Members must engage with the GCFPA staff to get the teams on their properties to ensure compliance with their respective fire management plans.

Are we fire ready? Statistics indicates that it was a relatively quiet fire season again; 26,932.93 ha burnt, that includes the Cederberg fire (18 972 ha). The GCFPA attended to 24 wildfires, of which 16 was caused by people. Gaps and challenges do include aspects such as non-compliance with permits, not reporting wildfires correctly, IC's commands are not adhered to, broken and or poorly maintained equipment, overgrown access routes, no insurance cover for aerial support and lack of fire awareness among some workers. Members were urged to report illegal burning.

The lack of completing the MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) for Aerial Support was further highlighted; members must arrange with their insurance brokers and complete forms correctly. However, members will be informed about the new dispatch protocol.

Various awareness actions and activities were implemented using the WoF teams and or collaboration with other institutions. The Algeria Valley and Wupperthal Wildfire Pre-Attack plans are amongst the examples. Our website is operational and offer all the required documents. Members must ensure that their property details and contact numbers are regularly updated and submitted to the GCFPA offices. Necessary documents can be downloaded from www.cederbergfpa.co.za. The FDI were sent out via WhatsApp — this is more effective. A regional awareness event in Citrusdal was attended in October 2024 by all staff. A new Facebook page has been launched (Cederberg FPA) and members are encouraged to like and share the page.

Community support programmes were also implemented during this year and this includes assistance to community members during the Cederberg fire, awareness actions and the completion of the Elandskloof Fire Management Plan.

This year there were a high demand for burning permits; 646 permits issued to date vs 453 issued last year. Meetings with members, farmers, producers, organised agriculture and insurers, in order to develop a set of guiding principles that will be to the benefit of all. This is a very complex situation, due to the diversity of agricultural practices in the area. However, more engagement is required. Grain farmers are encouraged to burn between November to middle December.

Training completed - Provincial ICS training was attended by regional managers. 165 farmworkers from eight FMU's were trained in Basic Fireline Safety presented by the West Coast Fire Brigade Services. This will be repeated before end of October 2025.

Fire Management Units - 20 of 31 Fire Management Units now have approved fire management plans. Three plans are currently in final draft format and will soon be finalized. The importance of adherence and implementation of these Integrated Fire Management Plans was highlighted again. The Department of Forestry, Fisheries & Environment will visit the area to determine compliance levels. Non-compliance could mean exemption for the establishment of firebreaks will be revoked. Fire Management Plans expires after 5 years and must be reviewed/reapplied for thereafter.

The runways are now self-maintained and the importance of the MOU for aerial support is emphasized again.

The 2025/2026 budget were presented to the meeting. Funding applications will be work in progress and according to the income and expenses presented, there is an indication that a surplus of R60 000 is expected.

Ongoing challenges: unpaid invoices, late payments from state departments due to their financial processes, delayed in DFFE payments, non-compliance from members to the Fire Act and recommendations in their Integrated Fire Management Plans and members need to update their membership information on an ongoing basis.

Focus areas 2025/2026:

- Finalize 3 fire management plans;
- Strengthen partnerships;
- Integrate FMU reps into District Fire Working Group.
- Finalize GCFPA/West Coast Fire Brigade funding application.

Charl thanked members, partners, staff, and service providers for their support and cooperation to assist the GCFPA in functioning and delivering successful services to our members.

See Annexure 4 – Annual Report 2024/2025.

8. Closing

Bertus noted that members should engage with their local wards to include firefighting and equipment needs in the IDP process.

A request was raised to extend the burning permits from 6 months to 8th months, in order to reduce costs for the Fire Brigade Services, but this poses risks as conditions change (e.g., overgrown firebreaks). This can be discussed in the future.

Bertus thanked everyone and the meeting adjourned at 16:30.

Mr Bertus Senekal



Chairperson – GCFPA

17 August 2026



Greater Cederberg
Fire Protection Association

Annual General Meeting
Algemene Jaarvergadering
19 August / 19 Augustus 2025
WELCOME / WELKOM



Greater Cederberg
Fire Protection Association

Annual Report
2024 - 2025



Greater Cederberg
Fire Protection Association

Introduction / Overview

Introduction



OBJECTIVE:



Planning and Implementation of Integrated
Fire Management – “not a fire fighting
institution”



What do we do?

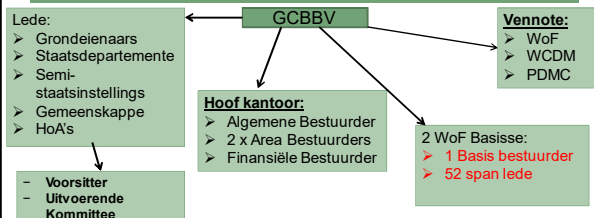


- Integrated Fire Management

- ✓ Members adhere to the Fire ACT (Integrated Fire Management Plans)
- ✓ Protection of infrastructure (fire prevention)
- ✓ Establishment of fire breaks (prevent run away wild fires)
- ✓ Prescribe burns (fuel reduction)
- ✓ Assist with fire suppression
- ✓ Awareness (FDI and other social media)



Management Structure



GCFPA Membership



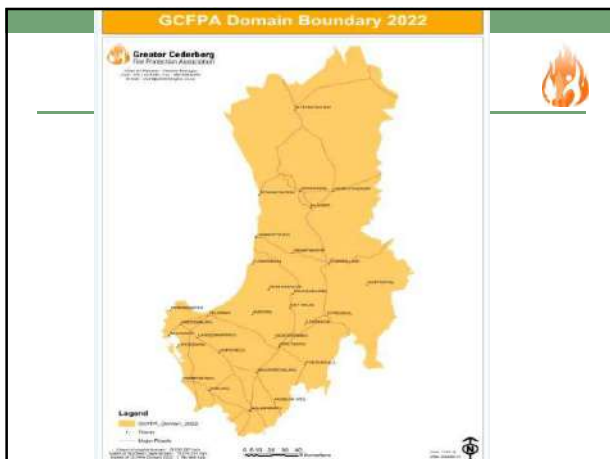
Year	Membership	Hectares
2023	795	1 030 360
2024	817	1 072 302
2025	863	1 112 983

- Increase ± 111.911 ha = 52 new members joined
- Four Local Municipalities are now paid up members
- Various attempts to increase membership base via - Insurance institutions, farm visitations, Farmer Associations, media releases. An ongoing action!
- Free burning permits to PAID UP GCFPA members – significant factor!



Greater Cederberg
Fire Protection Association

Our boundary



Greater Cederberg
Fire Protection Association

Our Partners

GCFPA's Partners



WCDM (West Coast DM)

PDMC (Provincial Disaster Management) (Capacity building Grant)

Western Cape UFPA

WoF (Working on Fire/Kishugu JV)



West Coast District Municipality



- FDI to the value of R12 000
- Assist with some prescribe burns
- Burning permits free for members (R543 283,00)
- Burning permits issued 646 to date!
- Communication equipment such as radio's to (R 34 000.00)
- Aerial assistance to the value of R300 000
- Basic Fire Line safety presented to 165 farm workers



West Coast District Municipality



The review of the GCFPA Business plan is currently work in progress... This plan will be revised to link directly with the West Coast DM IDP to unlock potential funding streams.

GCFPA Objective	Activities implemented	WCDM/RS alignment of activities	WCDM Strategic Objective	Actions required from WCDM in support of the GCFPA	Estimate budget
To minimise all extreme fire risks to a moderate level by 2025	Identify high fire risk areas within the domain. Provide inputs into the Incident Action Plans (IAP).	High risk areas identified and Incident Action Plans completed that deals with risk reduction, preparedness and initial response.	Objective 1.	Provide GIS mapping support to identify and map these high risk areas. Related information will become available for the Disaster Management Centre at Moonsburg.	R80 000.

Western Cape Government – Disaster Management



Western Cape Government – Disaster Management

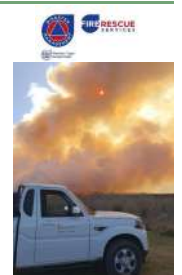


- Capacity building grant received in May 2025
- Value of Grant – R 3 000 000
- Breakdown : R 800 000 towards the WCUFPA and R 440 000 per FPA(x5)



Approved budget VS Expenditure	
Item	Amount
Mahindra	R404 106,55
Bakkie Sakkie	R21 131,25
Mobile radio	R7 499,73
Handtools	R6 896,48
Ratchet for bakkies sakkie	R329,99
Budget spent to date	R439 966,00
Allocated budget	R440 000,00
Remaining budget	R34,00

Western Cape Government – Disaster Management



Working on Fire / DFFE



- New contract signed in January 2023
- Contract been challenged in high court and will be reallocated before 1st November 2025
- Five (5) year implementation
- Extreme budget cuts – All dispatch offices closed
- 2 X Working on Fire Bases (Porterville and Vredenburg)
- Assists in Awareness / Social Campaigns
- 1 X Fire Truck shared between bases



Working on Fire / DFFE



- FPA contributions divided by 271 FPA's at National level (± R 8000 / month);
- Some payments have been received;
- April 2025 – September 2025 : R86 888 still outstanding
- Transport and recruitment remain a challenge;
- PPE/PPC remain a challenge and negatively influence production;
- We will see what happened after the 1st November 2025!**
- We need to start thinking out of the box!**

Western Cape UFPA



All 5 Western Cape FPA's are members;

We have continued representing the GCFPA on various Provincial and National platforms

- National Veld and Forest Fire Working Group
- National Disaster Resilience Roundtable
- Dept of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment Fire Working Group
- Provincial Fire Awareness and Education Task Group
- Provincial Fire Working Group

Additionally, we are consistently working on getting membership fees from Gov departments and Parastatals for the GCFPA:

- SANRAL –payment received
- ESKOM- no progress

No-funding available to support a fulltime manager!



Greater Cederberg
Fire Protection Association

Our production statistics

This is driven by members' needs and requirements!

Production: 2025 (Ha)



Year:	Firebreaks (ha)	Alien clearing	Stack burning	Block burning (Ha)
2023	18,82	0	0,35	398
2024	20,49	0	2,08	121
2025	14,67	71	0,2	128
Variance	-5,82	71	-1,88	7



Greater Cederberg
Fire Protection Association

Wildfire statistics

Are we Wildfire Ready?



Photo : Engela Celliers

Fire statistics (Total HA)



2019 - 12 795,85 ha
 2020 - 5 644,90 ha
 2021 - 9 023,12 ha
 2022 - 961,92 ha
 2023 - 6 654,00 ha
 2024 - 12 993,00 ha
 2025 – 26 932,93 ha (Cederberg fire (18 972ha))



Fire statistics (Causes Vs Ha)



Location (PMU)	Causes	No.
Ordum	Burning of waste site	105
Knobberg	Controlled burn	82,8
Knobberg	Burning of garden refuse	70
Knobberg	Lightning	77,7
Knobberg	Unknown pole blown over by wind	68,5
Ordum	Children	7,7
Ordum	Controlled burn	5,9
Ordum	Reverster started to burn	111
Ordum	Community members	19
Ordum	Unknown	131
Ordum	Children	19
Ordum	Burning of garden refuse	5,9
Ordum	Burning of waste site	5,1
Ordum	Road verges	5,5
Ordum	Unknown	7,44
Ordum	Spark of a kitchen	8,5
Ordum	Controlled fire	8,5
Ordum	Controlled fire	8,1
Ordum	Sparks under a fire	12,5
Ordum	Community members	11,7
Ordum	Road verges	17,2
Ordum	Unknown	17,2
Ordum	Lightning	107,2
Ordum	Road verges	21,4
Total size of the 24 fires attended by the GCFPA		26 932,83

Lessons learned

PLEASE report fires immediately!!
West Coast -
022 495 0231 / 022 495 0229

- Non compliance to Fire Management Plans;
- Not fire ready (Equipment not operational, no defensible space, access roads not open etc);
- **Does not report fires immediately / or follow correct procedures and or provide the correct location information;**
- Does not comply to burning permit requirements (Stricter Member Enforcement);
- Does not adhere to the instructions of the IC and or operational plans (lack of training);
- No insurance in place to cover for expensive aerial support;
- Staff are not informed and or sensitive towards fires;
- Members does not read e-mails and or WhatsApp's;
- Delays in dispatching aerial support!

MoU for Aerial Support



- Needs to be discussed with your insurance broker;
- The form is available on www.cederbergfpa.co.za from the 1st December;
- Must be completed and signed off in full (complete according to the example provided);
- Must include the full insurance amount that is available for using these resources;
- Must be submitted to the GCFPA offices at admin@cederbergfpa.co.za (we can do nothing with this completed form!). The member still have to phone the dispatch office to activate the resources – this is only to provide rapid response when required!

We are loosing valuable time! / You will be informed about changes!

Burning permits



Challenge – Wheat producers require to start burning operations in February. Finding the one fits all in a diverse landscape pose a huge challenge to all producers and role-players in the domain.

Various meetings (key landowners, various and diverse producers, Agri-Western Cape, Agri-SA, Insurance industry and WinPro) were present at these meetings.

Various outcomes:

- Quick desktop risk assessment;
- Only FPA members can apply for burning in Feb in areas outside Red zones;
- Need to have sign MoU Aerial Assistance;
- Need to take other producers into account;
- Restrict burning time (all fires should be extinguished by 14:00);
- Can apply for burning permits (Nov. – mid December);
- Each area must develop its own rules and
- Still **646 permits issued to date VS 453 permits issued last year.**
Membership payments are more UP to date than previous years.



Greater Cederberg
Fire Protection Association

Our awareness drive

- Fire Danger Index via WhatsApp
- General Information and Application Forms
- General Awareness on social media, e-mail, WhatsApp Groups
- Attend Stakeholder Meetings
- Design new awareness materials and procure new road signs

Awareness & Social Activities



10 School Fire awareness

6 Community Fire Awareness

1 Public/School Awareness

1 Social development events in local communities



Participate in the Regional Community Engagement Event in Citrusdal during October 2024.

GCFPA Facebook page



Greater Cederberg FPA

33 likes • 32 followers

We promote Integrated Fire Management in the domain of the GCFPA in order to protect our social, economic and environmental assets. 🔥

Liked

Contact us

GCFPA Website



Fire Danger Index



Website – www.cederbergfpa.co.za

Facebook – Greater Cederberg FPA

FMU WhatsApp Groups – Work better than e-mails!



Drop a Pin – Handy tool



Staff Capacity building



- Resource Unit Leader Training, NCC, GCFPA Regional Manager;
- ICS 100 – WC:PDMC, 2 x GCFPA Regional Manager;
- ICS 200 – WC:PDMC, 2 x GCFPA Regional Manager.

Members Staff Capacity building



- Basic Fire Line Safety Course presented by the West Coast Fire Brigade Services
- 165 Staff members attended in eight (8) FMU's



Members Staff Capacity building



Greater Cederberg
Fire Protection Association

Our Fire Management Units



Fire Management Units



PORTERVILLE WHEAT FARMERS
FIRE MANAGEMENT UNIT



FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN / SERVICES STUDY PLAN
2022 - 2027

Chair du Papeete
General Manager
079 172 4340
082 961 0214

Organ: GCFPA
Region: Porterville
082 961 0214
082 961 0214

JUNE 2022

Current Management Units – 31

Current actions:

- Each Member is on our GCFPA WhatsApp groups - Important communication easier
- Integrated Fire Management Plans
- Implementation of IFMP (fuel reduction, firebreaks etc.)

Integrated Fire Management Plans

Objective:

Identify the current fire risk on property level and provide the member with a implementation plan that will ensure compliance and to reduce his/her risk on property level.

The planning process:

- Individual assessment of each property
- Property visitations by the GCFPA Staff;
- Discussions with members regarding historical fires, resources and actions undertaken to reduce the current risk;
- Identify additional risk and mitigation actions;
- Compile the IFMP to include all the members and
- Send out for reviewing & sign-off by members

Integrated Fire Management Plans

20 FMU's Completed

Yzerfontein, Hopefield and Elandsloof in progress

Three (3) Planned for 2025/2026

Exemption Certificates



Integrated Fire Management Plans

The Implementation process:

- Make use of WoF teams to assist with fuel load reduction and fire breaks to ensure compliance!

The auditing process:

Officials from DFFE planned to visit FMU's to ensure that members comply to the recommendations as per FMU plans. Non-compliance to the FMP's will cause the cancellation of exemptions – members will then **have to comply with the Fire Act specifically "the establishment and maintenance of firebreaks on all property boundaries"**

Supporting our communities

Algeria

- Community Wildfire Pre-Attack Plan

Wupperthal

- Support during the Krakadouw fire

Elandsbloof

- Site visitation (Risk assessment and IFM drafted)



Greater Cederberg Fire Protection Association

Our airstrips

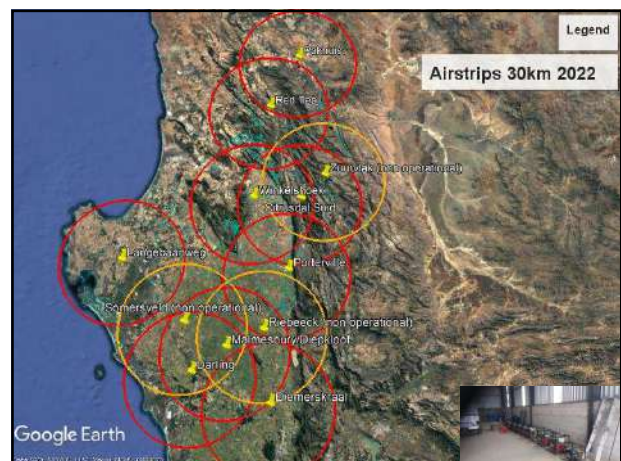
Porterville Base:

1 X Air Tractor 802, 1 X Huey chopper and 2 X Spotters

7 Private Airstrips used with equipment available on site - "fully self operational"



Large investment in time and energy in order for members to complete and submit the correct signed MoU for aerial assistance before a fire starts! **Members will be informed about new dispatch protocol for 2025/2026 season!**





Greater Cederberg Fire Protection Association

Securing additional funding

This is ongoing process!



Greater Cederberg Fire Protection Association

Challenges / Focus areas

Challenges



- Participation and involvement from members to ensure compliance
- Members does not update their property / membership information (Non-compliance!). www.cederbergfpa.co.za
- Members not paying invoices, however this is improving (burning permits!)
- Delay in payments from DFFE/WoF JV
- Finding additional support / resources / partnerships
- Communication during fires (Initial attack / Basic ICS training required)

Focus Areas



- Basic ICS / Initial Attack training
- Role-out of training for member's staff
- Completion of at least 3 FMU Plans
- Finding additional income streams / support / resources
- Integration of GCFPA FMU's into the WC:FR Fire Working Group (x2)
- Completion of the GCFPA/WC-FRS Funding model

Conclusion



All members, inputs, valuable comments and guidance;
Municipal managers and the Fire Chiefs from the West Coast and Cape Winelands;
PDMC – Capacity Grant, initial attack, awareness materials and staff capacity building;
All fire fighting personal from the West Coast and Cape Winelands DM;
Kishugu pilots and ground staff
Aerial support received from West Coast and Cape Winelands DM;
The GCFPA operational staff for hard work and commitments.
WCDM – Hosting us today!

Any questions

