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|  act rural fire service  | ACT Bushfire Council Meeting | 1st May 2013 |
| 16:00 to 17:35 |
| Black Mountain 1 & 2 Meeting RoomsACTESA Headquarters |

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| Chair: | Kevin Jeffery (KJ) | Secretariat: | Richard Woods (RW)Brioni Young (BY) |
| Attendees: |  Christine Goonrey, Member Sarah Sharp (SS), Member Natalie Hile (NH), Member Michael Lonergan (ML), MemberTony Bartlett (TB), Member | Andrew Stark (AS) CO ACTRFSConrad Barr(CB) DCO ACTF&RNeil Cooper (NC) Mgr Fire Forest and Roads, PCS |
| Meeting commencement: | 16.00 | **Meeting concluded:** | 17:35 |

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| Minutes |
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| Agenda item: | ***1.0 – Apologies*** | Presenter: | **Chair** |
| Marion Leiba, Cathy Parsons, Paul Swain, Michael Joyce |

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| Agenda | ***2.0 – Acceptance of minutes of 6 Apr 13 meeting*** | Presenter: | **Chair** |
|  | The minutes from the previous meeting held on 6th March 2013 were accepted as a true and accurate record.Accepted by Michael Lonergan and seconded by Christine Goonrey |
| Agenda item: | ***3.0 – Update on action items arising from previous meetings*** | Presenter: | **Chair** |
| Discussion:  | Refer to implementation of action items report (attached to end of minutes). |
| Agenda item: | ***4.0 – Correspondence***  | Presenter: | **CO RFS**  |
| Discussion:  | NIL |
| Agenda item: | ***5.0 – Chief Officers Report*** | Presenter: | **CO RFS** |
| Discussion: | * Little fire activity reported this month except for a number of HR burns.
* Basic Fire Fighting Courses commenced this week with another course mid June as a result of a large increase in membership applications.
* Preparing a brief to the Minister about his need to convene the steering group for SBMP V3.
* Nicky Cobb (ACTRFS Membership Officer) has resigned. Due to financial constraints her position will not be filled for the time being.
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| Agenda item: | ***6.0 – Update from Auditor General*** | Presenter: | **Chair** |
| Discussion: | NIL |
| Agenda item: | ***7.0 – Land Managers Report (TAMS)*** | Presenter: | **Neil Cooper** |
| Discussion:Action:Action:Action:Resolution: | TAMS report (as tabled) for April* The 2012/13 BOP is now well over 90% “completed, not required or started”.
* We envisage signing off on a number of “commenced” tasks in the coming weeks – many of these do not get signed off until the end of the year as they are annual tasks that run for 12 months.
* Over 8,000 ha were slashed for fire purposes – some twice.
* Strategic grazing across 7,000ha
* Storm damage in February and March 2012 was extensive and amounted to over $3,000,000 worth of damage across many of the rural forest roads – we identified 763 separate sites and we are about 70% completed.
* All the burns identified in the BOP for Parks have been completed – over 12,000ha.
* In the 2 weeks after Easter there were 6 burns covering for 6,337 hectares
* This autumn Parks completed a total of 13 burns for 10,283ha – over 10,000ha was completed in one month!
* This area is equivalent of 20,566 football fields, twice the size of Bermuda,102 Sq km, 50 times the size of Monaco, equivalent of 3,837 Manuka Oval’s or 3X size of Norfolk Island!
* An additional burn was completed for the Botanical gardens.
* We are currently working with the NSWNPWS to implement a burn in the ex lease area of Brindabella National Park backing onto Two Sticks Road.
* The Coombs IAPZ project is completed and we came well under budget – additional fire related works are being undertaken with the extra capital funds

**Concerns were raised about the Bushfire protection measures and implications around reserve areas at Coombs and the issues around areas that are being developed.**A briefing to be provided to the Council from the LDA primarily to discuss the strategy they are applying to the Western Edge of Coombs and the broader area from the Sewerage Treatment Works south to the Stromlo office.Following the LDA briefing, a field trip of the Coombs area to be organised.* The Mt Franklin Road upgrade is now completed from Bulls Head to Mt Ginnini.
* The Cotter Hut Road upgrade has been completed from Orrorol Tracking Station to the Cotter Hut.
* Work has commenced on the last section of Mt Franklin between Cotter Hut and Mt Ginnini – using savings within the Fire budget.
* **Standby –** Parks spent over 60 days on standby representing approx 2400 staff days;
* 45 x Level 2
* 11 x Level 3
* 2 x Level 4
* 2 x Level 5
* 5 x TOBANs
* **Suppression -** Parks crews were involved in 50 recorded suppression incidents representing more than 560 full staff days.
* 7 of these fires were on significant fire weather days (Level 4 and above) and included remote fires (25ha at Ginnini).
* Parks were involved in 4 significant interstate deployments (240 staff days) - Bungendore, Cooma (one 4 day deployment), Omeo ( one 14 day deployment), Grampians (2 x 6day deployments)
* 5 RAFT fires
* Two staff have had successful applications for presentations at the AFAC Conference in Melbourne in September – one will give a paper and the other a poster. Great outcome given high level of competition for a spot. One of the discussions is on the effect of cattle and grazing

A copy of the AFAC paper to be presented on the effect of cattle and grazing to be provided to Council* Planning for the 2013/14 BOP is underway and a proposed outline/timeline will be presented to a high level meeting on Friday the 3rd May.

TB commented on the very good work done by TAMS in the planning and implementation of what were very complex and sensitive prescribed burns in the Smokers Gap and Stockyard Spur regions of Namadgi National Park. The conduct of these burns using both ground based and aerial ignition over a two week period was a major undertaking and the results are really first rate from both fuel management and environmental protection perspectives.CG advised that there was a negotiated agreement between community and government agencies regarding the Stockyard Spur strategic trail and the plan was risky (to replace a $5M road with a walking track and foot trail). The effort and commitment and precise planning of the crews that made this work should be commended.Council commends the implementation of large, complex and sensitive fire management operations by TAMS in Namadgi Park in a manner that achieved the planned fuel management objectives without damaging sensitive regenerating alpine ash or alpine bog communities or the water catchment values. Council acknowledges that this achievement was the result of detailed consultations and careful planning combined with high quality operational management by the TAMS staff and appropriately addresses the backlog of these operations that had arisen in recent years as a result of several wet autumn periods. Council also notes that this type of planned strategic fuel management is needed to implement the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan. The continuation of this important work under the Plan, which is a legislated imperative, requires both adequate and skilled resources as well as adequate funding to be available and committed by PCS when weather conditions allow. Moved: Tony BartlettSeconded: Christine GoonreyNC noted that there was still a lack of understanding generally about the constraints from the BOP. He has a meeting this week (with AS, KJ, ESA Commissioner, ESDD etc) about the expectation of the BOP being done by 30th June. This will identify all the stages of working through the project plan matrix. The budget is the biggest issue as they do not know what resources they have. |
| Agenda item: | ***8.0 – ACTF&R update*** | Presenter: | **Conrad Barr** |
| Discussion: | CB advised that the AAR (After Action Review) for the fire season has commenced to identify those things that went well and those that could be improved on.  |
| Agenda item: | ***9.0 – Others*** | Presenter: |  |
| Discussion: | Hazard Reduction burns: CG is concerned that the RFS crews should get more involved in these burns. It was noted that every effort is made to make this happen. AS advised members that the ABC ‘Catalyst’ program has done a feature on Jason Sharples and Rick McCrae’s research on the pyro-tornado that occurred in the ACT. This will air on 6th June.CG advised members that Vivian Thomson has released a book called “Ashes of the Fire-fighters” which is worth reading. This book documents the journey of nine people after experiencing a major bushfire event in the ACT. |
|  | ***9.0 – Next meeting*** | Presenter: | **Secretariat** |
|  | The meeting was closed at 1735. The next meeting is scheduled for 5 June 2013. |

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| RFS LOGO.png act BUSHFIRE COUNCILimplementation of ACTION ITEMS |

**~Principles~**

* The register will include all action items that have yet to be implemented or where implementation is in progress. The status of implementation should be reviewed at each Bushfire Council meeting.
* The status update information is the only information that will be regularly updated in the relevant column. The only exception to this is if a revised completion date is suggested, the status must clearly detail rationale for this change.
* Status of implementation will continue to be regularly updated until action item is fully implemented.
* Action items will only be indicated as “Complete” after due consideration by the Bushfire Council.

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| **Action Item / Issue1** | **Originating Meeting date** | **Responsibility** | **Proposed/Revised completion date** | **General Comment** | **Status Update** |
| 1. A briefing be sought to the Council from the LDA primarily to discuss the strategy they are applying to the Western Edge of Coombs and the broader area from the Sewerage Treatment Works south to the Stromlo office.
 | 1/5/13 | Kevin Jeffery | **June/July 2013** |  |  |
| .1. Following the LDA briefing, a field trip of the Coombs area to be organised
 | 1/5/13 | Members | **June/July/Aug 2013** |  |  |
| 1. A copy of the AFAC paper to be presented on the effect of cattle and grazing to be provided to Council
 | 1/5/13 | Neil Cooper | **June 2013** |  |  |
|  1. A statement to be formatted by members to summarize the Council’s recognition of the level of hazard reduction burning this year in line with the need to see resourcing for this continue.

 NC to provide photographs/narrative showing the results of the HR’s. | 1/5/13 | MembersNeil Cooper | **June 2013** |  |  |
| 1. A Financial year Business plan will be prepared by Council as part of the budget
 | 6/4/13 | Members | **May 2013** |  Commissioner requires input and advice from the CO’s on the budget. Ensure that Council is also supporting TAMS and the other Land management agencies. | **Ongoing** |
| 1. Chase up a response to the BFC Annual report and the 10 year report from the Minister
 | 6/4/13 | Andrew Stark | **May 2013** | Minister has signed it off and correspondence will be received by KJ soon | Complete |
| 1. Discuss the Communication strategies with Council members
 | 6/4/13 | Darren Cutrupi / TAMS Media | **June 2013** | The ESA Commissioner will organise a meeting with DC and TAMS in regard to the Communication Strategy discussions and then arrange for one or both to discuss with Council.**May update:** Commissioner to chase up. | Pending – DC has been transferred to JACS. |
| 1. The Commissioner has been provided the ‘resolutions’ from today’s meeting for further action. A **TOR** on the Councils role is to be prepared.
 | 6/3/13 | Commissioner,Secretariat3 Council members.3 ESA/RFS staff. | **May 2013** | To ensure the Councils role is clearly understood and documented it was agreed to prepare a TOR. Include the information on what material can be placed on the website. The ESA Commissioner will organise a secretariat and KJ will arrange 3 Council members and 3 RFS/ ESA staff.. | Ongoing |
| 1. Council will look to consider the NSWRFS proto type Category 6 Grasslands truck for future purchase.
 | 6/3/13 | Members | **No specific date** | The vehicle is presently touring NSW and when it comes to Canberra AS will arrange for Council to inspect  | Monitoring |
| 1. Email itinerary for the Mt Ginnini Field trip to members
 | 6/2/13 | Neil Cooper | **20/5/13** | Date confirmed as **Sunday 26th May**  |  |