



ACT Bushfire Council Minutes

Date: 2 February 2022

Time: 4 pm – 7 pm

Location: ESA HQ, Webex

Attendance	
Chair	Sally Troy – Chair, ACT Bushfire Council
Attendees	Dylan Kendall – Deputy Chair, ACT Bushfire Council Tony Bartlett – Member Andrew Giekie – Member Len Morris – Member Asha Naznin – Member Marta Yebra – Member John Brickhill - Member
Apologies	Kylie Coe – Member
Guests	Rohan Scott – Chief Officer, Rural Fire Service (CO RFS) Daniel Iglesias – Executive Branch Manager, Parks and Conservation Service (EBM PCS) David Horner – Director Policy and Legal, ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA)
Secretariat	Tara Bucknall – Deputy Commissioner Office

Item	Topic	Action or Decision	Area Responsible	Due
1.	Welcome and Apologies			
	The Chair acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land that the meeting was on, the Ngunnawal people. The Ngunnawal people have a history of thousands of years of relationship with, and stewardship of, the land we enjoy. She thanked them for this and			

	hope that we can continue to work together to enjoy this in the future for many years to come.			
2.	Acceptance of Minutes from 15 Dec meeting			
	The draft minutes were agreed.			
3.	Review of Council Action items			
	<p>Council action items were reviewed and updated.</p> <p>An action item was added to create a calendar to reflect the priority of topics as confirmed at Dec meeting</p>	Create Strategic calendar identifying topics for discussion at each meeting.	Secretariat	
4.	Correspondence for noting			
	<p>The Chair discussed the correspondence she had received from the Minister and Deputy Director General of Environment, Planning, and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD).</p> <p>Council discussed this input and decided to add an additional topic for consideration. The Topic is to be titled Land Management. It was identified a need to establish a sub-group to develop the points for consideration for that topic.</p> <p>Council invited input from ESA and EPSDD on their planned strategic topics. EBM PCS and CO RFS provided input on this, and Council will take this into account for the 2022 work schedule.</p>	Sub-group to develop topic further	Dr Bartlett Mr Kendall Dr Yebra Ms Naznin	
5.	Discussion on changes to Emergencies Act 2004			
	<p>Council received a presentation from David Horner, Director Policy and Legal with regards to the changes to the <i>ACT Emergencies Act 2004</i>. There was a particular focus around the transition to the Multi Hazard Advisory Council (MHAC).</p> <p>Council identified a number of components related to the MHAC that could be expanded on and more detailed in an updated Terms of Reference (TOR). Council will provide that advice to the Minister for consideration in the development of the new TOR.</p>	Write to Minister with considerations for new MHAC TOR.	Chair / Secretariat	

6.	Review and Discussion of 2021 Bushfire Council (BFC) Preparedness report		
	Council reviewed the 2021 BFC Preparedness report. They noted that they would need to compare the recommendations against the Government response in order to confirm which matters would remain live during their term. Council confirmed that live matters would then be allocated against the strategic topics for inclusion on consideration.		
7.	Council member updates		
	<p>The Chair provided an update on the submission to EPSDD on the Murrumbidgee River Corridor Plan and future opportunities for the Council to be involved in this public consultation, including receiving a presentation from the EPSDD team undertaking the redevelop of the plan.</p> <p>Mr Morris – provided an update on the ESA Volunteer Public Information and Education Group he is involved with</p> <p>Mr Bartlett and Mr Brickhill – discussed the erosion of fire trails around Canberra and the possible impact.</p> <p>Mr Kendall – discussed his observation in two recent incidents, that the information available to the community from other community members via social media was both more timely and more accurate than that available via official channels.</p> <p>Dr Yebra – provided information regarding engagement she was having with groups interested in understanding the bushfire risk on Canberra’s Western Edge</p>		
8.	Confirmation of Topics for March and April Meeting		
	<p>Council confirmed that they were seeking presentations on the topic of <i>Climate change - expected risks around natural hazards within ACT and surrounds.</i></p> <p>Secretariat to seek presentations from: Professor Mark Howden - Director of the Institute for Climate, Energy & Disaster Solutions Dr Sophie Lewis – Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment ACT Office for Climate Action EPSDD ESA</p>	Seek 20 min presentations from listed areas / people	Secretariat

9.	Other Business			
	NIL			
10.	Agreed Meeting Communique			
	<p>The draft meeting communique was discussed and agreed.</p> <p>On 2 February 2022, the ACT Bushfire Council met and considered the feedback they received from Minister for Police and Emergency Services and Deputy Director General of Environment, Planning, and Sustainable Development Directorate regarding areas of strategic priority. They reviewed the changes to the <i>ACT Emergencies Act 2004</i> to commence the transition to the Multi Hazard Advisory Council. Council commenced examining the 2021 Council Preparedness report in order to inform their considerations for 2022</p>			
11.	Meeting Protocol reminder			
	The Council undertook a quarterly review of the meeting protocols and identified a couple of areas for improvement but no matters that were impeding Council business or effectiveness.			
12.	Meeting Close			
	<p>The chair thanked the Secretariat for all the work undertaken in preparation for the meeting and in support of the council.</p> <p>Next meeting 2 March 2021 – location to be confirmed.</p>			