



ACT Multi Hazard Advisory Council Minutes

Date: 6 July 2022

Time: 4 pm – 7 pm

Location: 220 London Circuit, Webex

Attendance	
Chair	Dr Sally Troy – Chair, ACT Multi Hazards Advisory Council
Attendees	Mr Dylan Kendall – Deputy Chair, ACT Multi Hazards Advisory Council Dr Tony Bartlett – Member Mr John Brickhill – Member Ms Kylie Coe – Member Mr Len Morris – Member Ms Asha Naznin – Member Dr Marta Yebra – Member
Apologies	Mr Andrew Geikie – Member
Guests	Ms Lynda Scanes – ACT Emergency Services (standing in for Mr Rohan Scott – Chief Officer, RFS) Mr Anthony Draheim – Chief Officer, ACT Emergency Services Mr David Rose – Assistant Director Strategic Plans, ACT Emergency Services Mr Scott Hanckel – Senior Director Planning and Preparedness, ACT Emergency Services Mr Matt Smith – General Manager (Operations), ACT Ambulance Service Mr Stephen Alegria – Executive Branch Manager, ACT Parks and Conservation Service
Secretariat	Ms Judith Bielleman – HorizonOne Recruitment (Minute taking)

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair acknowledged and paid respects to the traditional custodians of the land, the Ngunnawal people, and other custodians of the lands in the ACT. The traditional people cared for the land for time immemorial, including the management of fire, and their care and knowledge has shaped the land we enjoy and depend on today. The Chair hopes that knowledge and care continues and is injected into the way in which the ACT manages this land.

The Chair advised Mr Andrew Geikie has tendered his resignation from the Council.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

3. Acceptance of Minutes from 1 June meeting

The draft minutes were accepted with no amendments.



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4. Review of Council Action items

Council action items were reviewed and updated.

5. Correspondence for noting

Nil correspondence for noting.

Dr Bartlett noted that the SBMP Governance and Assurance Plan that had been circulated appears to be a draft plan as there were no reporting schedule dates for the actions under each objective. Ms Scanes confirmed that this was the original plan. It is a working document and is linked to the spreadsheet and database presented at the last meeting. The Chair asked if there was a high-level timetable or schedule and Ms Scanes advised that could be provided.

Action: Circulate a high-level schedule for the SBMP Governance and Assurance Plan

Person responsible: Lynda Scanes

6. Presentation from ESA Operations Branch

Emergency Sub-plans – Review and Development Process

The Council received a presentation from Mr Scott Hanckel on the framework for Hazard Specific Sub-Plans in relation to Flood, Extreme Heat, Elevated Fire Danger and Storms. These plans are reviewed following major operational events, or as per scheduled review timelines, and are in line with the national emergency risk assessment guidelines.

The Council noted the focus of the plans around improving preparedness within the community and sought clarification on how community engagement is conducted and whether there is a standard way to look at community resilience. Mr Hanckel advised that consultation is led by each agency and depends on the type of review being undertaken. This can also include learnings from other states' reviews of major events. The Council noted that the assessments of risk focused on likelihood and consequence but did not include vulnerability, which contrasts with international approaches to disaster risk assessment and reduction.

The Council queried whether the information in the ACT Territory-wide Risk Assessment was available as map-based information, with the potential to identify geographic locations of people by age and economic status. Mr Hanckel confirmed it was not available in this form and identified it would be good to engage further with the Council on mechanisms to improve communication with the public around preparedness. The Council agreed they would also like to pursue this issue further.

Members thanked Mr Hanckel for his presentation.

7. Presentation from ACTAS

Extreme Heat Sub-Plan



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The Council received a presentation from Mr Matt Smith on the ACT Ambulance Services' Extreme Heat Sub-Plan. The presentation set out how heatwaves are determined, in line with changes advised by the Bureau of Meteorology, and the effect of heatwaves on human morbidity and stress, costs to the economy and increased demand for energy. The Plan being developed outlines the responsibilities of different agencies and sets out ways to minimise the impacts of heatwaves, including targeting vulnerable people, establishing heat shelters or refuges, and improved community messaging.

The Council questioned whether humidity is taken into consideration and Mr Smith advised this would be part of the discussion between ACT and the Chief Health Officer in the activation of the plan. They also questioned whether there are initiatives to prepare or reduce the impact of heatwaves in advance of them occurring. Mr Smith advised this was mainly done through public messaging. There will also be upcoming discussions with stakeholders to identify refuge areas and mitigation measures for energy usage.

The Council questioned whether there was a correlation between morbidity and low socio-economic status. Mr Smith advised that there was no specific data but that there appeared to be a correlation. Mr Alegria advised there may be some data from CSIRO around heat mapping which could be used to produce targeted messaging to vulnerable groups.

The Council noted the potential for concurrent fire danger and heatwave ratings to be confusing; however Mr Smith identified there had been work with stakeholders to ensure messaging is different but consistent. More work will also be undertaken going forward on whether refuges need to be made available overnight.

Members thanked Mr Smith for his presentation.

8. Presentation from ACTSES

Flood/Storm Sub-Plans

Mr Draheim explained the SES' roles within the ACT's emergency management context. The Council received a presentation from Mr David Rose on the planning operations for Storms and Floods, including strategic flood risk management and searches for persons, noting that the Storm sub plan was approved in 2021 and the 2019 Flood sub plan will be revised by the end of 2022. The new strategic flood risk management plan will be an equivalent document to the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan and will follow the prevention, preparedness, response and recovery model. It is being jointly developed by ESA/EPSSD/TCCS and is scheduled for release in last 2022/early 2023. Mr Rose noted the SES' interest in further engagement with the Council to identify ways to enhance community safety and gain more understanding of community expectations.

The Council questioned the availability of flood alerts and Mr Rose confirmed there was some work being done around this, but that it is in very early stages of development. He also advised there were some activities to target people living in flood risk areas and that more work needs to be done on flood risks associated with urban infill areas. Dr Bartlett noted the link between bushfires and storms and suggested there be some integration with the bushfire plan, and Mr Draheim took that on board for consideration.

The Council discussed how they could be involved in the preparation of the new strategic flood risk management plan and indicated that they considered providing input into the first version of this plan as priority in its work program. Further discussions will be held with the ACTSES to determine how the Council



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can be included in the planning program. The Council also questioned whether the ACTSES had a set definition for “community” and Ms Scanes advised she would follow this up.

Members thanked Mr Rose and Mr Draheim for the presentation.

Action: Further discussion to be held with Mr Anthony Draheim on how to facilitate engagement between the Council and ACTSES.

Person Responsible: Chair

Action: Council to be provided with the ACTSES definition of community.

Person responsible: Lynda Scanes

9. Council member Updates

9.1 Len Morris – Presentation on disaster risk reduction and community resilience

Mr Morris provided a presentation on community resilience in a disaster and the different factors affecting how communities will respond. He explained how a community response depends on the resources applied to preparedness, drawing on different examples of community responses to the 2011 tsunami in Japan. He also highlighted the flow-on effect to other people through activities to promote proactive preparation.

The Council discussed whether mechanisms could be suggested to improve preparedness in the ACT but agreed the initial focus should be on identifying whether there is a systematic approach to community engagement at the strategic planning level.

9.1. Sally Troy – Meeting paper – Finalise workplan for the community resilience topic

The Chair advised she had undertaken some work to reformulate the Council’s plan to explore the community resilience priority during the remainder of 2022. She concluded that more work needs to be done within the Council to first determine the most appropriate framework to use to review ACT’s community resilience, to articulate the desirable state and to identify gaps in the information available from ACT Government agencies and in existing mechanisms and resources. She has drafted a letter to the CSD Director-General to explain the approach and proposed the next meeting focus on an analysis of information available at the strategic planning level. It was suggested that ACT Health also be approached for information too.

Action: Letters to be sent to the ACT Community Services Directorate and the ACT Health Directorate outlining the Council’s approach and seeking information on their engagement with the community.

Person Responsible: Chair

10. Confirmation of presenters for the Aug/September meetings

The Council agreed there should be further discussion on what information exists from ACT agencies and what an empowered community would look like. The next meeting will not include presenters and will



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instead be a workshop within the group to discuss community resilience and the approach required at a strategic planning level. Dr Bartlett noted it would still be useful to engage with a community organisation as part of this initial step and proposed a Community Council be approached for input, following the next meeting.

The Chair requested members review the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience and the Minderoo Foundation's Fire and Flood Resilience Blueprint to support the Council's discussion at the next meeting.

Action: Members to review the National Strategy for Disaster Resilience and the Minderoo Foundation's Fire and Flood Resilience Blueprint prior to the next meeting.
A Community Council to be invited to send a representative to the September meeting to participate in discussions on the Council will work on community resilience

Person responsible: Council Members

11. Other Business

Mr Kendall advised he had attended the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan Governance Committee. He noted it had been difficult to gain both a strategic overview and sufficient detail of the actions being taken due to the way information is presented. The Chair noted there would be value in having an independent person to critically review the data and actions.

The Chair proposed writing to the Independent Chair and Commissioner to make the observation that the process is lacking critical granular review by an independent person.

Action: Letter to Independent Chair and Commissioner concerning the need for a critical granular review of how actions and objectives are being met under the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan.

Person responsible: Chair and Mr Kendall

Dr Bartlett advised he would also be seeking advice on the status of the Terms of Reference and resourcing issues for the Council at the next meeting.

12. Agreed Meeting Communique

The draft meeting communique was discussed and agreed.

On 6 July 2022, the ACT Multi Hazard Advisory Council (Bushfire Council) met and were provided with presentations from the ACT Emergency Services Agency, ACT Ambulance Service and ACT State Emergency Services for the Emergency Sub-plans that these agencies are responsible for. The Council also considered a presentation on community resilience from one of the Council members and discussed next steps on preparing advice to the Minister.

13. Meeting Protocols

The Chair advised she had also made some changes to the meeting protocols and asked the Council members to review them. The key change is the change in title to the MHAC. Other changes are:

- Seek consensus for council decisions where possible; if not, document different views.



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- When required seek agreement on the position of a Council sub-committee to examine an issue or prepare draft advice for Council's consideration.
- Include all Council members in email communication using reply all, unless responding to specific requests by a member.

14. Meeting Close

Next meeting 3 August 2022 – 220 London Circuit