



# ACT Bushfire Council Meeting

3 June 2015  
16:00 to 18:20  
Black Mountain 1 & 2  
Meeting Rooms  
ACTESA Headquarters

<b>Chair:</b>	Kevin Jeffery	<b>Secretariat:</b>	Andrew Stark
<b>Attendees:</b>	Ms Cathy Parsons, Deputy Chair Mr Steve Angus, Member Ms Christine Goonrey, Member Mr Andrew Joyce, Member Ms Marion Leiba, Member Mr Michael Lonergan, Member		Mr David Foot, A/g Commissioner Mr Andrew Stark, Chief Officer ACT Rural Fire Service Mr Conrad Barr , A/g Chief Officer ACT Fire & Rescue Neil Cooper, TAMS Manager Forestry and Fire Management Greg Potts, Manager, Community Protection RFS

## Minutes

**Agenda item: 1.0 – Apologies** **Presenter: Chair**

The chair welcomed Members and Officers to the meeting.  
 The chair welcomed Acting Commissioner Mr. David Foot to the meeting.  
 Apologies received from:

- Tony Bartlett, Member
- Dominic Lane, Commissioner
- Tony Hanson, Ag Manager, Bushfire Planning and Coordination

**Agenda item: 2.0 – Disclosure of “Conflict of Interests” of Council Members** **Presenter: Chair**

No Conflicts of Interest were reported by Council Members.

**Agenda item: 3.0 – Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting** **Presenter: Chair**

The minutes from the previous meeting, of 1 April 2015, were accepted as a true record.  
 Moved: Andrew Joyce. Seconded: Christine Goonrey.

**Discussion:**

Council noted the field trip to Lower Cotter Catchment conducted in May and the need to produce a formal report on the observations/recommendations of BFC.  
 Cathy Parsons noted that Tony Bartlett had committed to produce a first draft.

**Action: Kevin Jeffery to follow up out of session on the development of a field trip report**

**Agenda item: 4.0 – Update on action items arising from previous meetings** **Presenter: Chair**

Item 1 - Council Members to review Terms of Reference in early 2015 and provide feedback to

Commissioner Council Members to consider any amendments and provide to Tony Hanson prior to the next meeting. Discussion to occur at the April Meeting.

Council noted that his action has been included in the formal review of the *Emergencies Act 2004*. Paper to be tabled as part of this meeting – action “closed”.

Item 2 – Indigenous presentation for Council - “closed”.

Item 3 – Ministers response to BFC Annual Report “closed”.

Item 4 - Council would like an update on the Treasury Review

Andrew Stark briefed the BFC that a formal report was not produced by the Treasury Review, that financial findings were incorporated into the 2015/16 Budget for ESA and other finding were being incorporated into the Strategic Reform Agenda lead by the Committee.

Council agreed that this was “closed”.

Item 5 – Presentation on Forestry Production “closed”.

Item 6: That Council requests a briefing on the “as-is” Study of the ESA Review.

Carried over to July meeting for Commissioner.

Item 7: Council requests more information on numbers and composition of attendees at RFS scheduled training events.

Andrew Stark tabled the RFS quarterly report from January to March and will table future quarterly reports as they are produced. Andrew Stark invited questions out of session from BFC members.

Council agreed that this was “closed”.

Item 8: Position Paper for fire management in the Lower Cotter Catchment February 2015: Clarify role of BFC in relation to this paper.

Update: Kevin Jeffery to follow up out of session on the LCC report with Tony Bartlett and Tony Hanson.

**Agenda item: 5.0 – Correspondences**

**Presenter: Chair**

No correspondence was received or sent.

**Agenda item: 6.0 – Commissioner’s Report to Bushfire Council**

**Presenter: Chair**

The reports were introduced by Andrew Stark.

- (a) National Bushfire Mitigation Program (emailed prior to meeting)
- (b) Draft Strategic Bushfire Capability Framework (emailed prior to meeting)
- (c) Progress on Incident Management Team Capability (tabled at meeting)
- (d) Review of *Emergencies Act 2004*

**Discussion:** Andrew Stark briefed BFC on each report.

Michael Lonergan raised the number of L# Incident Controllers identified in the Progress on Incident Management Team Capability report.

Andrew Stark and Conrad Barr provided an update on the competency and accreditation in place in ESA, and briefed BFC on the AFAC national IC accreditation program in development. Neil Cooper was invited to offer further detail of this AFAC initiative.

BFC endorsed the participation by ESA in the AFAC program and the upcoming cross border IMT exercises in NSW.

BFC discussed the funding outlined in the National Bushfire Mitigation Program.

BFC questioned the limitations of RAFT crews in the Draft Strategic Bushfire Capability Framework.

Andrew Stark advised that when flame heights and rates of spread were beyond the capacity of RAFT, the teams would not be deployed to remote locations and this was nominally at an FDI of 25. At AFDI’s of 25 in Forests with high fuel load (25t/ha), flame heights are expected to be 14m, rate of spread 750m/hr and spotting potential of 2.1km. (McArthur Forest Fire Danger Meter Mk5).

**Action: BFC requested that the review of the *Emergencies Act 2004* be placed on the agenda for the July meeting**

**Action: BFC requested that the National Bushfire Mitigation Program be placed on the agenda for the July meeting**

(Notation: Whilst an apology for the meeting, Mr Bartlett provided written feedback and discussion points on the draft Strategic Bushfire Capability Framework and National Bushfire Mitigation Program)

**Agenda item: 7.0 – Presentation on ACT Forestry Operations**

**Presenter: Peter Langdon**

Mr Peter Langdon, ACT Forestry Manager presented to BFC on the forestry operations of the ACT and provided an overview of operation in surrounding areas of NSW for context.

The presentation included information on economic performance, fire mitigation, trail network maintenance, community use of forests, planting and other forestry practices.

**Discussion:** Council discussed trail widening works and hazard reduction in the northern parts of Kowen Forest.

**Agenda item: 8.0 – Land Managers Report to BFC**

**Presenter: Neil Cooper**

Neil Cooper tabled the TAMS Parks and Conservation report

Items noted included:

Parks and Conservation were busy ensuring as many jobs were completed as possible for this financial year – currently only at 75% but envisage lots of paperwork to come in to finalise jobs and mark as complete.

Escaped burn at the Cotter has rehab completed.

Mt Franklin Road/Cotter Hut Road upgrade is complete.

TAMS have completely updated and refined their Fire Management component of the web site to make it far more advisory and informative.

**Discussion:** [http://www.tams.act.gov.au/parks-recreation/bushfire\\_management](http://www.tams.act.gov.au/parks-recreation/bushfire_management)

People can now subscribe to RRS feeds which can become an automatic email notification of updates and progress.

Future amendments will be Google map embedded in page enabling zooming to see burn shape with an associated information box relating to each burn.

Two senior officers attended a 2 day Planned burning workshop in Victoria. Neil Cooper was one of the two theme coordinators.

Christine Goonrey noted the positive feedback from the community for the implementation and outcomes of the Hazard Reduction Burns conducted on Mt Painter.

**Agenda item: 9.0 – Next Meeting**

**Presenter: Chair**

- (a) The Council noted that its next meeting is scheduled for 1 July 2015, and that the feature topic will be Indigenous Presentation, plus TAMS BOP, National Bushfire Mitigation Program and Review of *Emergencies Act 2004*.

**Closing:** The meeting was declared closed at 6:20pm. The next meeting is scheduled for 1 July 2015. Members were invited to adjourn to the RFS awards ceremony at the National War Memorial