



ACT Bushfire Council Meeting

7 May 2014
16:00 to 18:20
Black Mountain 1 & 2
Meeting Rooms
ACTESA Headquarters

Chair: Kevin Jeffery (KJ), Chair

Secretariat: Leandra Parker

Attendees: Andrew Joyce (AJ), Member (*Arrived 1710hrs*)
Christine Goonrey (CG), Member
Michael Lonergan, (ML), Member
Nicola Lewis, Member

Andrew Stark(AS), CO ACTRFS
Dominic Lane (DL), ESA Commissioner
(*Arrived 1614hrs*)
Steve Edwards, ACTF&R
Nick Lhuede (NL) SBMP Project Lead
(*Arrived 1625hrs*)
Scott Farquhar (SF), A/g Mgr Fire Forest
and Roads, PCS

Minutes

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

Tony Bartlett, Member
Marion Leiba, Member
Neil Cooper, TAMS
Conrad Barr, DCO ACTF&R

Cathy Parsons, Member
Natalie Hile, Member
Paul Swain, CO ACTF&R

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

Andrew Joyce (arrived 1710hrs) and declared his conflict of interest in relation to the Productivity Commission Review.

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

Discussion: The minutes for the previous meeting held on 5 March 201 were accepted as a true and accurate record upon changes.

The minutes from the previous meeting held on 2 April 2014 were accepted as a true and accurate record upon amendment:

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

Discussion: Refer to implementation of action items report (Attachment A).

March Minutes

CORFS reported that the March Minutes have been uploaded to the website with updated Member list to be done by next week.

10 Year Report

Ms Goonrey asked if the 10 year report be moved from the ESA site to the BFC website and placed into the publications area

Actions:

- BFC Membership list to be updated and upload to website.
- 10 Year report to be moved from ESA web page to BFC website.

Agenda item: 5.0 – Correspondences **Presenter:** Chair

Discussion. Correspondence IN:
Chair has received an invitation to Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) Summit.

Correspondence OUT:

Nil sent.

Agenda item: 6.0 – SBMP Project Manager’s Report to BFC & Bushfire Prone Maps **Presenter:** Nick Lhuede

Discussion N Lhuede provided progress report on SBMP:

- Six Community consultations evenings have been held and well received.
- Ms Goonrey expressed appreciation for ESA members participating in the community consultations.
- Briefing has been held with Conservator and EPA Commissioner, with good engagement with conservation council.
- Currently drafting SBMP with key issues addressed.
- Currently working with ESDD on ACTMapi, web based system.

N Lhuede provided a progress report on Bushfire Plan Areas:

- Draft bush fire prone map was tabled and overview provided. Map also out with Stakeholders for comment. N Lhuede outlined insurance and rebuild costs is an issue.
- A draft discussion paper on bushfire prone areas was tabled and discussed. Nick indicated that there is a process of continual refinement.

Members thanked Nick Lhuede for providing update. (N Lhuede Departed 1730hrs)

Agenda item: 7.0 – ESA Commissioner’s Report to BFC **Presenter:** Commissioner

Discussion: Productivity Commission Review
The Commissioner informed that the Productivity Commission is undertaking a review on national relief and disaster planning arrangements, with initial discussions to be held next week between the ACT Government and the Commission.

Council discussed the cost shifting on fire and storm surge insurance, and with developers offering to bear the cost of fire mitigation. It was also noted that people under insure and then rely on Government for their support.

The Commissioner discussed gaps that have been identified in relief and recovery arrangements within small jurisdictions and with the current system demonstrating small jurisdictions are being disadvantaged.

Discussion was held in relation that proper planning regulations needed to be undertaken to move people out of disaster areas.

Chair asked members to provide some dot points to support the Commissioner to forward to DG to assist with the initial discussions.

Council discussed several options with Chair asking members to forward dot points to Secretariat to collate with Ms Goonrey, Mr Lonergan and Chair to prepare a draft Minute for Commissioner.

Commissioner departed meeting at 1700hrs.

Action:

- Members to submit dot points to Secretariat to collate, forward to Mr Lonergan and Chair to prepare a Minute for Commissioner.

Agenda item:	8.0 – RFS Chief Officer Report to BFC	Presenter:	Andrew Stark
---------------------	--	-------------------	---------------------

Discussion: CORFS tabled and provided an update to the 2013-14 BOP audit summaries on TAMS, Land Development Agency and Community Services Directorate.

CORFS tabled Chief Officer's report to Bush Fire Council and provided an overview.

He further informed that:

- Koren Forest is under new management.
- Nicola Lewis (BFC member) will be commencing with RFS soon and will seek a leave of absence from Council for conflict of interest. Council congratulated Ms Lewis on her appointment.
- Marion Leiba has accepted an offer to be reappointed to the Bush Fire Council. CORFS also informed another nominee from the Land Management Agency is still with the Minister's office and is awaiting endorsement to progress through to Cabinet. An email will be sent to Members once confirmed.
- He will be attending a briefing with BoM to discuss weather forecasting

Mr Joyce informed Council that he will be absent from the next two BFC meetings due to leave arrangements.

Actions: CORFS to inform Council on additional appointment to Council

Agenda item:	9.0 – TAMS Land Managers Report to BFC	Presenter:	Scott Farquhar
---------------------	---	-------------------	-----------------------

Discussion: A report was provided to Council on recent actions.

Agenda item:	10.0 – General Business	Presenter:	Chair
---------------------	--------------------------------	-------------------	--------------

Volunteer Brigade Members

Mr Joyce provided an update from the previous meeting relating to time and costs contributed by volunteer brigade members. At Council's request refinement was undertaken from costings essentially close to figures on an overall trend with costs flattening out on an Australian weekly average earnings indicating earnings have gone backwards this year with the standards of living dropping. An update and response will be distributed to Members.

Action: Mr Joyce to provide an updated report and response to Council.

PHD Student Invite

Ms Goonrey informed she has received an invitation from Samantha Strong who is undertaking a PhD in language media and policy around bushfires and would like to interview Council members.

Council agreed to be interviewed by Ms Strong if invited.

Rural Slip Ons

CORFS discussed Rural Slip Ons with some coming to the end of their replacement cycle. It was questioned whether they be transferred over to Lease Holders. Council requested Rural Slip Ons be placed on June agenda.

Action: CORFS to place Rural Slip Ons on June agenda.