



ACT Bushfire Council Meeting

4 April 2012
16:00 to 19:00
Black Mountain 1 & 2
Meeting Rooms
ACTESA Headquarters

Chair: Simon Katz

Attendees: Christine Goonrey, Member
Michael Lonergan, Member
Cathy Parsons, Member
Tony Fearnside, Member
Marion Leiba, Member
Simon Katz, Deputy Chair
Peter Beutel, Member
Natalie Hile, Member
Sarah Sharp, Member
Tony Bartlett, Member

Secretariat: Lynda Scanes
Andrew Stark, CO ACT Rural Fire Service
Michael Joyce, DCO ACT Rural Fire Service
Paul Swain, CO ACT Fire Brigade
Neil Cooper, Mgr Fire Forest and Roads, PCS

Invited Guest:

Meeting commencement: 16.15 **Meeting concluded:** 19.07

Minutes

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

Cathy Parsons, Natalie Hile, Kevin Jeffery, Neil Cooper and Andrew Stark

Agenda item: 2.0 – Acceptance of minutes of 7 March 2012 meeting **Presenter:** Chair

Discussion: The Chair (Simon Katz) welcomed all to the meeting.

The minutes from the previous meeting held on 7 March 2012 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Michael Lonergan
Seconded: Christine Goonrey

Noted for all future minutes, that acronyms/abbreviations not to be used in the first instance.

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:** Chair

Discussion: Nil

Action item: • Nil

Agenda item: 5.0 – *Chief Officer's Report*

Presenter: CO ACTRFS

Discussion: Michael Joyce reported that ACTRFS had a quiet fire season. However; ACTRFS brigades have been assisting the ACT State Emergency Services throughout the storm season.

The Mobile Data Terminals (MDT's) rollout is progressing well with completion expected in the next 3 to 4 weeks. This is part of the process of the Concept of Operations for Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) to enable the Communication Centre to dispatch the nearest and most appropriate vehicle/appliance to an incident. Dispatch is done via MDT and backed up by a radio message. When units call in they will no longer be required to provide a map reference it will be automatically done via the Automatic Vehicle Locater (AVL). The system is on the 3G network with a trunk radio network backup.

The weather report for the upcoming season was provided. There is a possibility that an El Nino weather pattern for late 2012; however, it is too early to be definite.

Action item: • Nil

Agenda item: 6.0 – *Concept of Operations*

Presenter: ESA Commissioner

Discussion: **Paper Tabled:** Map of the Built Up Area and Draft Concept of Operations for Bush and Grass Fires in the Australian Capital Territory.

The Commissioner tabled and provided a detailed overview of the Map of the Built Up Area (BUA) and the Draft Concept of Operations for Bush and Grass Fires in the Australian Capital Territory. The ACT Bushfire Council were advised they were the first to be consulted; further consultation with stakeholders is impending.

The Commissioner advised of jurisdiction in the *Emergencies Act 2004* identifies that the Chief Officer of the ACT Fire and Rescue (ACTF&R) is responsible for fire response in the built up area and the Chief Officer of the ACT Rural Fire Service (ACTRFS) is responsible for fire response in rural area.

The Commissioner advised that the intent is to have one set of arrangements known at the Concept of Operations. The built up area and response to bush and grass fires is a shared responsibility between ACTRFS and ACTF&R.

Detail of the doctrine discussed was the nature of bush and grass fires, requirements of the *Emergencies Act 2004*, community expectations, capability to combat bush and grass fires in a unified approach.

The Chief Officer ACTF&R and the Chief Officer ACTRFS conducted the review of the Built Up Area (BUA) map, which had not been updated since 2006. The final BUA map will be reviewed yearly.

ACT Bushfire Council Members were requested to review the map and read the draft discussion paper (out of session) and provide the Commissioner with comments.

It was agreed that members provide comments via Peter Beutel who will coordinate a response to the ESA Commissioner. Comments to be provide to Peter Beutel by Wednesday 25 April 2012.

The Concept of Operations to remain on the ACT Bushfire Council Meeting.

Action item:

- Council Members to read the discussion paper and provide comments to Peter Beutel by Wednesday 25 April 2012.
- Concept of Operations to remain on agenda.
- Commissioner to provide Draft Concept of Operations discussion paper to Secretariat for circulation including Built up Area Map to Bushfire Council Members.

Agenda item: 7.0 – Horse agistment **Presenter:** Greg Potts

Discussion: Paper Tabled: Summary of recent key actions by ACTRFS regarding owners and fire safety.

Mr Greg Potts provided an overview of the work done with horse paddock coordinators and horse owners over the last few months. The horse owners are individuals with horse's agisted in public and private horse paddocks. The ACT RFS through Farm Fire Wise program is educating individuals of the appropriateness of having a personal bushfire survival plan to enact during high fire danger days.

Consultation regarding horse evacuation centres has commenced with the Equestrian Association, Will Andrew the ACT Government Veterinarian and the manager of Exhibition Park in Canberra. Mosaic grazing of paddocks for refuge use has been discussed.

The Chair thanked Mr Potts for his attendance at the meeting and the information provided.

Action item: • Nil

Agenda item: 8.0 – Community Awareness Update **Presenter:** Darren Cutrupi

Discussion: • To remain on agenda

Action item: • Nil

Additional Items

Agenda item: 9.0 – Bushfire Council Project Report — Residential Planning for bushfires risk management **Presenter:** Sarah Sharp

Discussion: Paper/s Tabled: Draft Residential Planning for bushfires risk management and recommendations 60 and 61 from the Smith Report

Sarah Sharp referred to the highlighted text in recommendations 60 and 61 from the Smith Report.

There was detailed discussion in relation to comments regarding residential planning for bushfires risk management. In particular the planning for houses in bushfire prone areas in the new development of the Molonglo area.

Asset protection zones, current building developments and building codes were discussed at length.

Greg Potts provided advice from documents of Strategic Bushfire Management Plan Version 2 and Planning for Bushfire Risk Mitigation by ACT Land and Planning.

Action items: • Greg Potts to email Sarah Sharp and Cathy Parsons with the Planning for Bushfire Risk Mitigation by ACTPLA document.

Agenda item: 10.0 – Tenth Anniversary Report to The Minister **Presenter:** Tony Bartlett

Discussion: Paper Tabled: Fire management strategies for *Pinus radiata* plantations near urban areas.

Due to time constraints Tony Bartlett's agenda items to be deferred until the next meeting.

The Tenth Anniversary Report to The Minister — topic for discussion at the next meeting 'Fire fighting relationships'.

Action item: • Secretariat to defer Tony Bartlett's agenda items to next meeting and include the next topic 'Fire fighting relationships'.

Agenda item:	11.0 – Other Business	Presenter:	All Members
Discussion:	The extension of next month's Bushfire Council meeting was discussed. Simon Katz to discuss extending the next meeting time with Kevin Jeffery.		
Action item:	• Simon Katz to discuss extending the next meeting time with Kevin Jeffery.		

Agenda item:	12.0 – Next meeting	Presenter:	Secretariat
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The meeting was closed at 7.07 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for 2 May 2012.



ACT BUSHFIRE COUNCIL IMPLEMENTATION 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.
- The progress status legend (Red, Amber Green) represents the action officer’s assessment of the status of progress to the Bushfire Council. Green indicates implementation on track, amber indicates some delays in implementation or receipt of status update information, red indicates significant delays and/or no information on the status of implementation.

Action Item / Issue ¹	R	A	G	Originating Meeting date	Responsibility	Proposed / Revised completion date	General Comment	Status Update
Presentation on how RFS is changing as an agency, to be added as an agenda item				4/5/11	ACTRFS		Due to visit from the Minister, this item will be added as an agenda item to next suitable meeting	Ongoing

Explanation on progress of IMT roles and personnel to be added onto the next suitable agenda		2/2/11	ACTRFS		Concept of Operations to be provided to the March meeting. - Commissioner	Ongoing Commissioner will address in his presentation of Concept of Operations at April Council Meeting.
Training needs analysis to be tabled at the next Bushfire Council Meeting.		7/3/12	ACTRFS			
Horse Agistment working group to report back in September		1/6/11	ACTRFS		Report to next meeting.	Ongoing
Council to be advised of TAMS restructure when process is finalised.		5/10/11	Kevin Jeffery		9/2/12 Andrew Stark advised that he has not heard additional information at this time. Neil Cooper advised Cabinet are still considering arrangements/endorsement.	To remain on agenda
Request for Council to be updated on Elevated Fire Danger Plan by Greg Potts		2/11/11	Kevin Jeffery		Andrew Stark Plan has been endorsed and now been provided to ACT Govt agencies to action. Plan to be supplied to Council via Nick Lhuede.	Ongoing
Strategic priorities for BFC Meetings 1) ACTION: Copy of community preparedness survey to be provided to all members. 2) ACTION: Members to inform TB of their areas of interest in order of preference of the topics. 3) ACTION: Manager ESA Media and Community Awareness to be invited to next Bushfire Council Meeting to speak about specific ACTRFS strategies for public		9/2/2012	Kevin Jeffery		Send out to relevant section Greg Potts advised that the survey was conducted in the Duffy area by Bushfire CRC and Latrobe University.	Ongoing 1) Greg Potts to send copy of community preparedness survey to Bushfire Council Members. 2) On-going 3) For next agenda

communications.						
TAMS second quarter report			9/2/2012	Neil Cooper	7/3/2012	Circulate report via email to all Council members To remain on agenda
Request that Jason Sharples be approached to present the research relating to bushfire behaviour to the Committee.			9/2/2012	Kevin Jeffery	4/4/2012	To remain on agenda
<p>Concept of Operations</p> <p>Concept of Operations, item to be carried over to the next Council Meeting on 2 May 2012.</p> <p>Council Members to read the discussion paper and provide comments to Peter Beutel by Wednesday 25 April 2012.</p> <p>Commissioner to provide Draft Concept of Operations discussion paper to Secretariat for circulation including Built up Area Map to Bushfire Council</p> <p>Commissioner to be invited to May meeting if Council requires his attendance.</p>			7/3/2012	ACTRFS	2/5/2012	To remain on agenda
<p>The ACT Bushfire Council 2012 Performance Management Inquires Recommendations into the 2003 Canberra Bushfires — Revision of Fire Fighting Equipment and System report.</p> <p>1) ACTION: Bushfire Council to put a formal recommendation that the comments become an action in the 2012 report.</p>			7/3/2012	<p>1) Bushfire Council</p> <p>2) ACTRFS</p> <p>3) Andrew Stark</p>		

<p>2) ACTION: ACTRFS to follow-up procurement methodology regarding availability of machinery, drivers and provide clarity around conditions of contract arrangements.</p> <p>3) ACTION: ACTRFS — Andrew Stark to provide Bushfire Council with the trial of fire retardant report conducted by Bushfire CRC.</p>						
<p>1) ACTION: Provide Bushfire Council with an update — Subject MDS.</p> <p>2) ACTION: Provide Bushfire Council with an update — Subject ComCen arrangements.</p>			7/3/2012	<p>1) Michael Lonergan</p> <p>2) Michael Lonergan</p>		
<p>Email Sarah Sharp and Cathy Parsons with the Planning for Bushfire Risk Mitigation by ACTPLA document.</p>			4/7/2012	Greg Potts		
<p>Fire management strategies for <i>Pinus radiata</i> plantations near urban areas.</p>			4/7/2012	Secretariat		To remain on agenda
<p>Include the next topic 'Fire fighting relationships.</p>						
<p>Simon Katz to discuss extending the next Bushfire Council meeting time with Kevin Jeffery.</p>			4/7/2012	Simon Katz		