



ACT Bushfire Council Minutes

Date: 3 Nov 2021

Time: 4 pm – 7 pm

Location: 220 London Circuit and Online Webex Meeting

Attendance	
Chair	Sally Troy – Chair, ACT Bushfire Council
Attendees	Dylan Kendall – Deputy Chair, ACT Bushfire Council Tony Bartlett – Member John Brickhill – Member Len Morris – Member Asha Naznin – Member Marta Yebra – Member Georgeina Whelan – ESA Commissioner Rohan Scott – Chief Officer, ACT Rural Fire Service (ACTRFS) Matthew Shonk – A/g Chief Officer ACT Fire and Rescue (F&R) Ian Walker – Executive Group Manager, Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) Daniel Iglesias - Executive Branch Manager, Parks and Conservation Service, EPSDD
Apologies	Kylie Coe – Member Andrew Giekie – Member
Guests	Ken Hall – ACT RFS Lynda Scanes – ACT RFS Ailish Milner – ACT RFS Greg Potts – ACT RFS Tony Scherl – EPSDD

	Ryan Lawrey – EPSDD Julian Seddon – EPSDD Adam Leavesley - EPSDD
Secretariat	Tara Bucknall – Executive Officer ESA Deputy Commissioner

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. She acknowledged their management of the lands, including the traditional teaching of fire and the positive impact these have in supporting land and country to thrive. The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and confirmed apologies for Andrew Giekie and Kylie Coe.			
2.	Acceptance of Minutes			
	The proposed amendment from Andrew Giekie was tabled and discussed. It was confirmed that the level of detail to be included in minutes would be discussed later in the meeting. The amendment was accepted and the Minutes were agreed.			
3.	Correspondence for noting			
	Nil correspondence			
4.	Presentation by ACT Rural Fire Service			
	Council was provided with a detailed presentation by ACT Rural Fire Service on the operations and activities undertaken by the Service: Rohan Scott – Chief Officer Ken Hall – Ops Lynda Scanes – SBMP / PEEPS Ailish Milner – Strat Plans / FBAN			

	<p>Greg Potts – Community Protection</p> <p>Council members asked questions around the following subjects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding how RFS manages incident responsibilities with PCS and volunteers, including understanding the call out process • The biggest learning and opportunities identified from the 2019-20 Black Summer • How community education and engagement is assessed and measured • Understanding difference in monitoring within grassland vs forest for fuel loads • Confirming that ESA / RFS intend to continue with planned RFS Captain’s After Action / Lessons Learnt review subsequent to the outcome of the Coronial Inquiry • Whether the tenure blind system to monitor implement of BOP will be completed by Dec 2021 • Understanding future intent for a number of products in development by RFS • Understanding cross-jurisdictional arrangements • Requesting information on what issues would RFS consider were of strategic importance for consideration by the Council 			
<p>5. Presentation by Parks and Conservation Service (PCS), EPSDD</p>				
	<p>Council was provided with a detailed presentation on the operations and activities undertaken by PCS:</p> <p>Introduction by Ian Walker, Executive Group Manager Daniel Iglesias - Executive Branch Manager, PCS Tony Scherl – Ops Ryan Lawrey – BOP / GIS Julian Seddon – Fire Ecologist Adam Leavesley – Research Utilisation</p> <p>Council members asked questions around the following subjects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clarification regarding processes for bushfire risk assessment during land development • clarification regarding Council involvement in development of policy and processes • Better understanding of how the indigenous traditional custodians of the land 			

	<p>were engaged in land management</p> <p>Council members asked questions around the following subjects with the response to be provided out of session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribed burn planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Understanding how species composition was taken into account ○ Cultural burning and considerations ○ Understanding the residual risks after prescribed burning (planned and conducted) ○ Interaction with ACT water supply • Better understanding the impact of budget allocation against BOP planning • Requesting information on what issues would EPSDD consider were of strategic importance for consideration by the Council • 			
Break – Officials not required for remainder of meeting				
6. Action item review				
	<p>The chair deferred discussion of action items handed over from previous Council until next meeting due to lateness of meeting.</p>			
7. Council member updates				
	<p>NIL to report</p>			
8. Council meeting protocols & remainder of agenda				
	<p>Council commenced discussion regarding meeting protocols and plans for management of council business.</p> <p>It was agreed that 24 Nov meeting would not have presentations from officials and would focus on Council business.</p> <p>It was confirmed that Council minutes would not be a transcript but would be an accurate record of the substantive issues that were discussed. Noting the typical (5-week) timeframe for acceptance and publication of minutes, a short communique would be agreed at the end of each meeting with a view to being publicly available within a week of the meeting.</p>			

	It was confirmed that next meeting would be held at 220 London Circuit			
9.	Agreed Meeting Communique			
	On 3 November 2021, the ACT Bushfire Council met and were provided with detailed presentations from the ACT Rural Fire Service and the Parks and Conservation Service. Council continued to further refine areas of focus and their business model for their time in office, noting that action items and issues identified by previous Council should be taken into account.			
10.	Other Business			
	NIL			
11.	Meeting Close			
	Meeting closed at 7.00 pm			