



# ACT Bushfire Council Minutes

Date: 2 June 2021

Time: 4 pm – 7 pm

Location: Black Mountain Room HQ ESA and WebEx

Attendance	
<b>Chair</b>	Sarah Ryan – Chair, ACT Bushfire Council
<b>Attendees</b>	Tony Bartlett – Member Steve Angus – Member Cathy Parsons – Member David Snell – Member Nick Lhuede – Member Jeremy Watson – Member Kylie Coe – Member Georgeina Whelan – ESA Commissioner Rohan Scott – Chief Officer, ACT Rural Fire Service (ACTRFS) Daniel Iglesias - Executive Branch Manager, Parks and Conservation Service, Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD)
<b>Apologies</b>	Bhiamie Williamson-Member Natarsha Jakubaszek – Deputy Chair, ACT Bushfire Council
<b>Guests</b>	David Horner - ESA Steven Gianakis – Manager, Greenfields Planning, EPSDD Nathan Kearns – Eco Logical Australia David Thornhill – Program Manager, Greenfields, Suburban Land Agency Greg Potts – ACT Rural Fire Service Neil Willis – ACT Fire and Rescue

	Neil Cooper - Parks and Conservation Service, Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD)
<b>Secretariat</b>	Tara Bucknall – Executive Officer ESA Deputy Commissioner

<b>Item</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Action or Decision</b>	<b>Area Responsible</b>	<b>Due</b>
1.	<b>Welcome and Apologies</b>			
	<p>The Chair acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land that the meeting was on, the Ngunnawal people. She expressed acknowledgement and respect towards their continuing culture and the contributions they make to the life of this city and this region.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were noted from Bhiamie Williamson and Natarsha Jakubaszek.</p>			
2.	<b>Update on Emergencies Act review</b>			
	An update on the process being followed by Justice and Community Safety in the legislated review of the 2004 ACT Emergencies Act was provided by David Horner from ESA. Council was provided with a brief summary and advised that the matter is still being considered through the Cabinet process. They were invited to provide any comments or questions through to ESA for inclusion in the consideration.			
3.	<b>Declaration of Interest</b>			
	The Chair asked for any declaration of interest – Nil.			
4.	<b>Forward planning for protection of new suburbs from bushfire – presentation from EPSDD</b>			
	Steven Gianakis from Greenfields planning, EPSDD provided a presentation on the planning process for new suburbs (greenfield sites). It included the various points in the process where bushfire risks are assessed and appropriate actions considered .			
5.	<b>Western Edge Preliminary bushfire risk assessment – presentation by Eco Logical Australia</b>			
	Nathan Kearns from Eco Logical Australia provided a presentation on the Western Edge Preliminary bushfire risk assessment conducted as part of the planning process outlined previously by EPSDD. Council sought clarification of a number of components of the presentation including the basis for a number of assumptions made and the methodology of the assessment. Several Council members questioned the assessment finding that 95% of the study area, including areas such as Mt Stromlo, were rated as low bushfire risk. Discussion occurred around options for additional considerations and	EPSDD to identify if Council can be provided with the methodology used by the consultants in the risk determination.	EPSDD	TBC if able

	<p>possible sources of additional data and modelling approaches. Council requested that it be provided with the methodology used for determination of risk level.</p> <p>EPSDD confirmed that the presentation was based on a finalised report, that it was undertaken internal to government and that public consultation was not expected to occur (subject to government considerations) before the middle of 2022. EPSDD also confirmed that this assessment is just one step in the overall planning process and bushfire risk assessment will continue to be undertaken at further stages in the planning process.</p>			
<b>6.</b>	<b>Greenfields interface protection – Presentation by SLA</b>			
	<p>David Thornhill from Greenfields, Suburban Land Agency provided a presentation on the process and consideration for bushfire risk mitigation in the final stages of land development. This included a discussion on the development of site specific Bushfire Risk Assessment and Management Plans (BRAMP).</p> <p>Discussion occurred around the processes that were used in these BRAMPs and how the Bushfire Protection Areas are maintained post development. There was some discussion around specific places mentioned in the presentation. SLA agreed to provide more detailed information on those after the meeting.</p> <p>The Chair thanked all presenters for the information and discussions.</p>	<p>Cathy Parsons to provide the details of the areas of specific interest to enable SLA to provide the requested information.</p>	<p>Cathy Parsons / SLA</p>	<p>When available</p>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Discussion with ESA regarding Building Regulations</b>			
	<p>Cathy Parsons requested an update from Greg Potts on action being undertaken to update building regulations in particular those related to knock down and rebuild in bushfire prone areas. There was discussion about Action item 11.4 in the SBMP which refers to this issue for both new and substantially altered residential dwellings. EPSDD is currently considering how to refine the process so that changes to the Building Code of Australia in relation to bushfire protection are more seamlessly adopted.</p>			
<b>8.</b>	<b>Acceptance of Minutes from last meeting</b>			
	<p>Discussion occurred around Agenda item 3 from the May minutes. It was agreed that these would be reviewed and updated based around the discussion and circulated for out of session acceptance.</p>	<p>May minutes to be circulated out of session after updating.</p>	<p>Secretariat.</p>	<p>ASAP</p>

9.	<b>Correspondence for noting</b>		
	Letter from Council to the Commissioner on 14 May 2021. The Chair noted that Council will discuss this in Other Business.		
10.	<b>Report on activities undertaken</b>		
	Chair attended the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SBMP Governance Committee –20 May 2021</li> </ul>		
11.	<b>Reports from SBMP Governance Committee</b>		
	<p>The CO RFS advised that the focus of the last Governance Committee meeting had been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation by Greg Potts on Action 11.4 in relation to adopting requirements of the Building Code of Australia, as per the discussion held earlier in this meeting.</li> <li>- Presentation by Kaylee Rutland with regards to SBMP Objective 3 and the actions her area is responsible for.</li> </ul> <p>The Chair commended Kaylee on her presentation and indicated that she felt this work would provide great insight to the 2021 report. She will distribute the presentation to members.</p>		
12.	<b>BFC Business Plan</b>		
	<p>Council confirmed activities / presentations for July to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation on last AFAC RLMG meeting to be converted to a discussion paper – PCS</li> <li>• Presentation on Burnability Data – EPSDD</li> <li>• Discussion on draft Conservation Research report provided by EPSDD</li> <li>• Presentation on RFS business plan</li> </ul> <p>Council confirmed the process for development of its 2021 Bushfire Preparedness Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification by assigned Council members of additional information needed from ESA and/or EPSDD</li> <li>• Request this information through secretariat who will coordinate relevant officials being in contact with members</li> </ul>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RFS to provide progress against the recommendations and the Minister's responses in the last report and by the July meeting</li> </ul>			
13.	<b>Officials reports</b>			
	<p>14.1 EPSDD provided a report with updates of actions undertaken and planned as per their written report.</p> <p>14.2 ESA Commissioner had nothing significant to report.</p> <p>14.3 CO RFS updated as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RFS is finalising preparedness requirements for all hazards / extreme weather events with briefings to be completed by 1 September</li> <li>The latest BOM seasonal outlook currently has the winter season assessed as normal for bushfire risk in this region</li> <li>Crew Leader course has recently graduated</li> <li>24 Basic Firefighters will be graduating on the weekend 5/6 June</li> <li>Will be conducting a Divisional Leaders Course shortly</li> <li>The Director Ops position will be advertised shortly with the return of Rod Anderson to AFP after his secondment.</li> </ul>	RFS to provide link to BOM seasonal outlook	RFS / Secretariat	
14.	<b>Other business</b>			
	An <i>In Camera</i> meeting was conducted with the Council, ESA Commissioner and Secretariat			
15.	<b>Review of Action items and adoption of action items from meeting</b>			
	<p>Action items were reviewed and updated.</p> <p>Action items arising from meeting were confirmed.</p> <p>The Chair recorded appreciation for the support provided by the Secretariat.</p>			
16.	<b>Meeting closed 7.20 pm. Next meeting: Wednesday 7 July 4-7 pm</b>			