



**ACT Bushfire Council Meeting  
Minutes**

Wednesday 10 July 2019

4pm – 7pm

ESA Headquarters  
Black Mountain Meeting Room

<b>Attendees:</b>		
<b>Chair:</b>	Sarah Ryan, ACT Bushfire Council	
<b>Secretariat:</b>	Lynda Scanes	
<b>Council Members</b> Natarsha Carney Tony Bartlett Marion Leiba Jeremy Watson Kylie Coe David Snell Margaret Moreton Bhiamie Williamson Cathy Parsons Steve Angus	<b>Officials</b> Georgeina Whelan, Acting Commissioner, Emergency Services Agency (ESA) Justin Foley, Executive Branch Manager, Parks and Conservation Service, Environment Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (PCS, EPSDD) Joe Murphy, Chief Officer, ACT Rural Fire Service (ACTRFS), ESA Mark Brown,	<b>Invited Guests</b> Ben Ribbons, Senior Operations Officer, ACTRFS Jeff Dau, Community Safety, Risk and Planning, ACTF&R Tony Scherl, Manager Fire Planning, PCS Janelle Wheatley, Project Officer SBMPv4
<b>Apologies:</b>	Margaret Moreton, Tony Bartlett, Bhiamie Williamson, Mark Brown and Georgeina Whelan	

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**AGENDA ITEMS**

1	Acknowledgement of country	Presenter:	Chair
	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. She also acknowledged and welcomed other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people attending the meeting.		
2	Welcome, introductions, apologies and nomination of member to monitor performance checklist	Presenter:	Chair
	The Chair welcomed all meeting and apologies were noted.		
3	Declarations of interest	Presenter:	Chair
	Sarah Ryan declared a former interest in the drafting of the Molonglo River Reserve Management Plan.		
4	Acceptance of minutes from the 5 June 2019 meeting	Presenter:	Chair
	The draft minutes from 5 June 2019 were then accepted as a true and accurate reflection of the meeting.		

5	Review action list – attached to minutes	Presenter:	Chair
<p>The Council reviewed the outstanding action items and noted they were either complete, not yet due or covered in the meeting agenda.</p> <p>The Chair stepped out of the meeting for action item 190605-06 to avoid conflict of interest.</p> <p>Council discussed their response to the letter from the Conservation Council in relation to the Molonglo Valley land release objection. Council was briefed on the fire zoning issue by ESA, the land is in the Bushfire Prone Area, however; there is no potential development planned in the future. If a development does proceed it will have to go through the planning process that involves public consultation. Council agreed that the ESA advice was appropriate and Council will reply as such to the Conservation Council</p> <p>Action item 190605 – 9.02 was discussed and Council agreed to close this action off and request a new action. Council would like EPSDD to provide a presentation at the August meeting in relation to managing the risk within the pine plantation estate and provide the rationale for planting back in the area previously burnt in the 2003 Canberra Bushfire.</p>			
<p><b>5.1 Action:</b> A response will be provided to the Conservation Council in relation to the Molonglo Valley land release objection.</p> <p><b>5.2 Action:</b> Secretariat to invite Peter Langdon, Manager Forests, PCS to the August BFC meeting to provide a presentation on managing the risk within the plantation estate plus the rationale for planting back in the area previously burnt by wildfire.</p>			
6	Correspondence	Presenter:	Chair
<p>Correspondence for noting: Email from an ACT RFS volunteer to an ACTBFC member in relation to the draft SBMPv4. The same email was sent to the SBMP 'Have Your Say' facility and the comments have been addressed. No further action is required.</p>			
7	Report on activities attended on behalf of Council since the last meeting	Presenter:	Chair
<p>The Chair advised of her attendance at the Bushfire Management Plan Committee on (today) Wednesday 10 July 2019. This was the final meeting of this Committee.</p> <p>The Chair attended the ACTRFS Long Service Awards Ceremony on Friday 5 June 2019.</p> <p>Regional Fire Management Plan comments made by Tony Bartlett and Sarah Ryan were circulated to BFC members.</p>			
8	Items from the ACTBFC 2019 Business Plan	Presenters:	ESA and EPSDD
<p>The CO ACTRFS provided an overview of how the below Objectives have been implemented over the life of the SBMPv3.</p> <p>8.1 Objective 2 – Effective firefighting operations by skilled and motivated personnel Objective 3 – Effective firefighting operations with the necessary equipment and resources</p> <p><b>Paper noted:</b> The paper addressed the varieties of tools ACTESA utilises to assist when deploying assets; a component of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan version 3, Objective 2 Effective firefighting</p>			

operations by skilled and motivated personnel and Objective 3 – Effective firefighting operations with the necessary equipment and resources– Integrated measure for bushfire protection at the urban edge

**Presentation:** Update on the development of tools used to assist when deploying assets and resources for Bushfire

ACTRFS Senior Operations Officer, Ben Ribbons provided an overview of the ESA Emergency '000' Call Centre (Comcen) Computer Aided Dispatch System (CAD). The business rules used for each type of incident are set to find the closest most appropriate fire truck for incident type. The Farm FireWise data that is available to the Comcen Operator is in Farms Layer. Mobile Data Terminals are in every frontline vehicle and can track each vehicle with a wallboard function used for forward planning.

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) provides a forecast briefing weekly for the ACT for the coming week and is attended by ESA, ACT Government and utility providers. The Dynamic Cover Tool (DCT) allows ESA to run resource coverage models based on available resources and increased fire danger ratings. DCT is used by the Incident Management Team (IMT) to preposition resources based on risk from 15 plus years of data.

A Fire Tower early detection network is available throughout the bushfire season, there are four towers and they are stood up as the fire danger index rises. The Common Operating Picture (COP) is an online display of the resources available/not available or attending an incident. Incident Control On Line (ICON) also provides NSW state wide view of incidents to ACT personnel. ACT ESA and PCS incidents and prescribed burns are also logged into ICON, providing local and NSW based operational intelligence. ICON COP overlays include weather station observations and lightning strike data. ARENA is an online aviation dispatch tool developed and managed by NAFC on behalf of fire agencies across Australia. ARENA identifies the closest most appropriate aircraft for tasking and is coordinated by the NSWRFSS State Air Desk in Sydney. TRACPLUS is a GPS tracking device installed in all aircraft, ACTRFS have six portable devices.

A Line Scan aircraft provides thermal, visual images and links data into ICON. The Special Intelligence Gathering Aircraft (SIG) is contracted by ACT, and is flown by an experienced fire officer air observer. The thermal/optical camera is operated by a specialist camera operator. Images can be overlaid on mapping data in aircraft and transferred to the IMT. ESA Risk and Planning team have developed online data storage for the transfer of mapping products and incident data, this data can be accessed on a smart phone and quickly available for frontline firefighters and incident personnel. The new Harris radios provide situational awareness and allow ground crews to identify where other crews are located.

Council noted the significant enhancement in capability and use of technology to assist when deploying assets for Bushfire. Council thanked the ACTRFS Senior Operations Officer for the very informative presentation.

## 8.2 Objective 10 and 11 – Effective land-use policy and planning that reduces risk

**Paper noted:** The paper provided an overview of the Planning and Development Assessment System from a bushfire protection perspective. The information provided Bushfire Council with awareness of the processes, constraints and opportunities for the effective input of bushfire protection advice to new developments.

**Presentation:** Development Application process and Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) Assessment

Bushfire & Development Assessment Officer, Jeff Dau, provided a presentation explaining why ESA provides advice on new developments in the ACT. Under the *Planning and Development Act 2007*, ESA is considered a referral agency for the review and input into certain development applications (DAs). The SBMPv3 recognises the value of effective land-use policy and the inclusion of bushfire protection

	<p>measures for new development to address bushfire risk. ACTF&amp;R and ACTRFS work in partnership with EPSDD and other Government agencies to provide oversight and comment of new DAs in the ACT, from residential developments to new subdivisions.</p> <p>ACTF&amp;R Risk and Planning provides advice in areas such as bushfire protection, water supplies, emergency management, access, construction standards and modified landscapes for asset protection purposes. Bushfire protection standards and policies (Asset Protection Zones, Construction, and Water supplies) have improved and advanced, driving a need to adapt local standards and policies. New standards are due out by the end of the year.</p> <p>Council members were provided with a number of examples via google map image of suburbs and land managed by National Capital Authority and an explanation of how ESA's advice was adopted (99 % of comments provided by ESA are adopted).</p> <p>Council thanked the Station Officer Jeff Dau for the very informative presentation.</p>		
	<p><b>Meeting brief – Land Use and Planning (Future Urban Development) (EPSDD)</b> The report was taken as read.</p> <p>The following topics were highlighted in the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EPSDD is working very closely with ESA on the draft SBMPv4</li> <li>• EPSDD and ESA are working in partnership to formally implement best practice bushfire mitigation measures</li> <li>• The ACT Planning Strategy 2018 was released in December last year and includes strategic direction and action to reduce vulnerability to natural hazards and to adapt to climate change</li> <li>• A review of planning policy and statutory mechanisms</li> <li>• Reviewing the Territory Plan's Bushfire Mitigation General Code for parts of the ACT most exposed to bushfire risk</li> <li>• Extending the BPA declaration into two parts of the urban area of the ACT</li> <li>• Adopting the AutoBAL model to indicate dwelling bushfire attack level rating</li> <li>• Adopting a maximum BAL29 for all new greenfields</li> </ul> <p>Council thanked Mr Gianakis for preparing the report and asked for a presentation at the August BFC meeting.</p>		
	<p><b>Action:</b> Secretariat to arrange a presentation from Steven Gianakis and the development assessment team regarding land planning and development application process</p>		
9	Update Draft Regional Fire Management Plan	Presenter:	EPSDD
	<p>The Regional Fire Management Plan (RFMP) is in the final process of working through public, key stakeholder and internal comments, and adjusting the plan as necessary. Further work is being done on the document that describes the processes and background information on the risk analysis and residual risk process and concept. Fuel management zones and standards are being revised. The new mapping zones and locations and the way they are applied will reflect a change from the past. The RFMP process will be extended to allow further stakeholder consultation.</p> <p>Some of the comments received about the RFMP will contribute to the final version of the SBMPv4. Other general comments about reserves, smoke, asthma will be addressed in the RFMP. NSW is very interested and NSW National Parks and Wildlife Services are keen to obtain the final results in relation to the Brindabella Ranges and Kosciusko National Park.</p> <p>Three members from PCS will be presenting on the BOP at the August BFC Meeting.</p> <p>Council thanked PCS for the update and noted the good progress.</p>		

10	<b>Strategic Bushfire Management Plan</b>	<b>Presenter:</b>	<b>CO ACTRFS and Commissioner</b>
<p>10.1 Update finalisation project SBMPv3</p> <p>The CO ACTRFS advised the SBMPv3 Evaluation Report is nearing completion and the final version will be available to EPSDD and Council members (with limited distribution). There will be strong focus on reporting and governance to improve the reporting process for SBMPv4. The SBMPv3 Evaluation Report will be provided to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, in conjunction with the Draft SBMPv4.</p> <p>Council thanked the CO ACTRFS for the update on SBMPv3.</p>			
<p>10.2 Draft SBMPv4 for noting</p> <p>The Project Manager SBMPv4 provided an overview of the progress with the draft SBMPv4 and thanked Council Members for their feedback. The latest version was sent to Council on Monday 8 July 2019. The Project Team continues to work with PCS in regarding to the RFMP comments. The meeting notes from the extraordinary meeting held with Council on 17 June 2019 have been sent to Council members. Council was advised the Draft SBMPv4 would be sent to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services with an accompanying brief and SBMPv3 Evaluation Report. If Council members had any further comments they can send them to the Secretariat and they will be included in the accompanying brief.</p> <p>Council acknowledged the efforts the SBMP Team and their constructive approach and response to Council's previous advice in relation to draft SBMPv4.</p> <p>Council requested the CO ACTRFS to follow up on a couple of action items relating to Objective 4.</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> Council members provided their support for the Draft SBMPv4 to progress to the Minister.</p>			
<p><b>10.2-01 Action:</b> CO ACTRFS to follow up an apparently missing action for Objective 4 in SBMPv4 – The training of firefighters</p> <p><b>10.2-02 Action:</b> CO ACTRFS to follow up an apparently missing action for Objective 4 in SBMPv4 - to ensure IMT training and exercises are conducted</p> <p><b>10.2-03 Action:</b> Secretariat to draft letter of endorsement of the SBMPv4 from BFC to Minister for Police and Emergency Services</p>			
11	<b>Officials' Reports</b>	<b>Presenter:</b>	<b>Officials</b>
<p>Officials' reports for noting:</p> <p><b>11.1 EPSDD PCS Report</b> The report was taken as read.</p> <p>The following topics were highlighted in the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PCS, EPSDD 2018-19 Bushfire Operational Plan delivery</li> <li>• PCS, EPSDD 2018-19 Bushfire Operational Plan preparation</li> <li>• Regional Fire Management Plan update</li> <li>• PCS Fleet replacement</li> </ul> <p><b>11.2 Commissioner's Report</b> The Commissioner's report and the July 2019 ESA Snapshot Plan (Edition 13) were taken as read.</p> <p>The following topics were highlighted in the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SBMPv4 overview</li> <li>• 2019-20 Bushfire Season Planning</li> </ul> <p><b>11.3 Chief Officer ACTRFS Report</b> The report was taken as read.</p>			

	<p>The following topics were highlighted in the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACTRFS Long Service Awards held on Friday 5 June 2019</li> <li>• ACT State Emergency Service Indigenous Truck launch on Friday 5 June 2019</li> <li>• SBMPv3 Evaluation Report</li> <li>• SBMPv4 update</li> <li>• Community Protection Team – progressing Farm FireWise Program within the Bushfire Abatement Zone and 2018-19 financial year Bushfire Operational Plans auditing.</li> <li>• Crew leader course</li> <li>• ESA Open Day on 3 November 2019</li> <li>• Training Officer’s Mentor program</li> <li>• Operations Team very busy progressing the pre-season preparations</li> <li>• New Harris radio rollout</li> </ul> <p>The SBMPv3 Evaluation Report will be provided to BFC members after the clearance process.</p>		
<b>12</b>	<b>Any other business</b>	<b>Presenter:</b>	<b>Chair</b>
	<p>ACTBFC 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary discussion.</p> <p>Council agreed to reschedule the ACTBFC 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration from the August meeting to the December meeting to coincide with Christmas.</p>		
	<p><b>Action:</b> The CO ACTRFS to arrange a dinner for the ACTBFC 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and Christmas, after the December meeting</p>		
<b>13</b>	<b>Review and adoption of action items from this meeting</b>	<b>Presenter:</b>	<b>Chair</b>
	<p>Action items were reviewed and agreed to and put in the action table.</p>		
<b>14</b>	<b>Next meeting 7 August 2019</b>	<b>Presenter:</b>	<b>Chair</b>
	<p>Cathy Parsons advised she will be an apology for the August meeting. The Chair requested an agenda item be added to review Council member’s roles for the development of the BFC report to the Minister.</p>		
<b>15</b>	<b>In camera meeting if required</b>	<b>Presenter:</b>	<b>Chair</b>
	<p>Not required.</p>		
<b>16</b>	<b>Council’s performance checklist report</b>	<b>Presenter:</b>	<b>Council</b>
	<p>No issues were reported.</p>		

**ACTION ITEMS – ACT BUSHFIRE COUNCIL**

Action Items (OPEN)			at 10 July 2019	
Ref	ACTION	DUE	ACTION OFFICER	STATUS UPDATE
2018	Find a replacement for the vacant Bushfire Council Member	ASAP	CO ACTRFS	<b>Pending</b>
20190710-5.1	Draft a response to the Conservation Council in relation to the Molonglo Valley land release objection	17 July 2019	Secretariat/Chair	
20190710-5.2	Invite Peter Langdon, Manager Forests, PCS to the August BFC meeting to provide a presentation on managing the risk within the plantation estate plus the rationale for planting back in the area previously burnt by wildfire	7 August 2019	Secretariat	
20190710	Arrange a presentation from Steven Gianakis and the development assessment team regarding land planning and development application process	7 August 2019	Secretariat	
201907-10.2	10.2-01 Follow up an apparently missing action for Objective 4 in SBMPv4 – The training of firefighters	11 July 2019	CO ACTRFS	
	10.2-02 Follow up an apparently missing action for Objective 4 in SBMPv4 - to ensure IMT training and exercises are conducted	11 July 2019	CO ACTRFS	
	10.2-03 Secretariat to draft letter of endorsement of the SBMPv4 from BFC to Minister for Police and Emergency Services	17 July 2019	Secretariat	
20190710	Arrange a dinner for the ACTBFC 80 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and Christmas, after the December meeting	7 August 2019	CO ACTRFS	

<b>Ref Number</b>	<b>Actions Items (CLOSED)</b>	
<b>190206-09-9.2</b>	CO ACTRFS to arrange a more user friendly process for Council to access papers	<b>10 July 2019</b>
<b>190605-06</b>	ESA to provide input before Council sends a response to the Conservation Council re: Molonglo Valley land release objection	<b>10 July 2019</b>
<b>190605-09.01</b>	Email the website links for Council to view videos of the NSWRFBS Bushfire Campaign, the ACT seasonal launch of the CBR Be Ready Campaign 'It's been 15 years', the 'Complacency can kill' campaign, and ESA Open Day.	<b>10 July 2019</b>
<b>190605 – 9.03</b>	The Chief Officer to seek further clarification about ownership of the ACT Recovery Plan	<b>10 July 2019</b>
<b>190605 – 10</b>	Provide the documentation that supports the RFMP maps	<b>10 July 2019</b>
<b>190605 – 11</b>	Email the most up to date draft SBMPv4 to Bushfire Council	<b>10 July 2019</b>