



ACT Bushfire Council Minutes

Date: 2 March 2022

Time: 4 pm – 7 pm

Location: 2 Constitution Ave, Webex

Attendance	
Chair	Sally Troy – Chair, ACT Bushfire Council
Attendees	Dylan Kendall – Deputy Chair, ACT Bushfire Council Tony Bartlett – Member Kylie Coe – Member Andrew Giekie – Member Len Morris – Member Asha Naznin – Member Marta Yebra – Member John Brickhill - Member
Apologies	
Guests	Rohan Scott – Chief Officer, ACT Rural Fire Service (CO RFS) Daniel Iglesias – Executive Branch Manager, Parks and Conservation Service (EBM PCS) Anthony Draheim, Chief Officer, ACT State Emergency Service (CO SES) Scott Hanckel– Senior Director Planning and Preparedness, ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA)
Secretariat	Tara Bucknall – Deputy Commissioner Office

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. The Ngunnawal people have lived, laughed, loved and cared for			

	the lands we now enjoy for thousands of years. Dr Troy acknowledged their deep lessons of the land and in particular, the lessons of fire, that has helped to shape our understanding of how we can work together to ensure a productive and meaningful relationships in the future			
2.	Acceptance of Minutes from 2 Feb meeting			
	The draft minutes were amended and agreed.		Secretariat	
3.	Review of Council Action items			
	Council action items were reviewed and updated.	Council member to provide input on calendar of topics for consideration by 15 March.	Council Secretariat	
4.	Correspondence for noting			
	The Chair confirmed that she had received from the Minister the Government response to the BFC 2021 Preparedness Report and that there was an agenda item to discuss in detail later in the meeting.			
5.	Update – Strategic Bushfire Management Plan Governance Committee (SBMP GC)			
	<p>Chief Officer RFS and Chair provided an update on the last SBMP GC, with key points being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update of the action items • Confirmation that the elevated fire danger plans can't be finalised until the Nation Fire Danger Rating system is released • An update of the planned work for the next 12 months in order to inform the expected progression of SBMP objectives <p>In accordance with s199(3) of the <i>ACT Emergencies Act 2004</i>, Chief Officer Rural Fire Service, on behalf of the Commissioner ESA, consulted the Council on the intent to close the high-risk fire season early. Council agreed to support this.</p>			
6.	Presentation. Climate change - understanding work being undertaken within ACT Natural Environment			
	Council received a presentation from Scott Hanckel, Senior Director Planning and Preparedness with regards to Climate change - understanding work being undertaken within ACT Natural Environment.			

	<p>Council discussed a number of activities being undertaken across ACT Government and expected engagement with Council. This included the Territory Wide Risk Assessment (TRWA), SBMP5 development and the Climate Risk Assessment.</p> <p>Council discussed with officials areas that Council could provide input and advice on including future areas of opportunity for ACT Government, input into evidence based funding proposals and pathways to address specific risk identified due to climate change.</p>			
7.	Review and Discussion of Strategic Topic – Land Management			
	Council confirmed scoping statement and a number of sub-elements for the Strategic Topic – Land Management.	Members to provide input on any changes / recommendations by 15 Mar	Council	
8.	Review and Discussion of 2021 Bushfire Council (BFC) Preparedness Report			
	Council reviewed the Government response to the 2021 BFC Preparedness Report. Council confirmed which matter the considered were still live, noting response to previous recommendations, and allocated these against the strategic topics for inclusion on consideration.			
9.	Council member updates			
	<p>The Chair - provided an update on the Climate Risk Assessment presentation she, Dr Bartlett and the Secretariat attended. She also updated council on the intent for attendance at the Biodiversity Conservation Forum.</p> <p>Ms Coe – provided an update on the recent ACT Property Council outlook on Urban Development in the ACT that she attended.</p> <p>Mr Morris – provided an update on the ESA Volunteer Public Information and Education Group he is involved with</p> <p>Mr Brickhill – indicated that he had seen progression on works been undertaken in Namadgi National Park trails and tracks.</p> <p>Ms Naznin – provided an update on work she is involved with ANU in the development of a bushfire related application.</p>			

	Mr Geikie – indicated that the concept of greater involvement of Rural Land Holders in risk reduction and mitigation strategies with RFS would be welcomed.			
8.	Confirmation of Topics for April and May Meeting			
	<p>Secretariat confirmed presentations at April meeting would be from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Professor Mark Howden - Director of the Institute for Climate, Energy & Disaster Solutions - Dr Sophie Lewis – Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment - ACT Office for Climate Action <p>Council confirmed that they were seeking presentations at the May meeting on the topic of <i>Population change - expected risks around natural hazards within ACT and surrounds.</i></p> <p>Secretariat to seek presentations around the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Population forecasts for ACT - Impact of projected population changes - ACT Government actions and consideration for this 	Seek 20 min presentations from relevant areas / people	Secretariat	
9.	Other Business			
	<p>Council discussed options to enable consideration of the strategic topics under discussion in order to enable completion of Council reports and recommendations.</p> <p>It was agreed to consider use of the Teams page wiki function to better enable that capture.</p>			
10.	Agreed Meeting Communiqué			
	<p>The draft meeting communiqué was discussed and agreed.</p> <p>On 2 March 2022, the ACT Multi Hazard Advisory Council (Bushfire Council) met and were provided with a presentation from ESA. The presentation was on the topic of climate change - expected risks around natural hazards within ACT and surrounds. Council discussed the Government response to the 2021 Council Preparedness Report in order to inform their considerations for 2022.</p>			

11.	Meeting Protocol reminder		
	The Chair.		
12.	Meeting Close		
	<p>The chair thanked the Secretariat for all the work undertaken in preparation for the meeting and in support of the council.</p> <p>Next meeting 6 April 2021 – location either 2 Constitution Ave or 220 London Circuit dependant on renovations being undertaken at 220 London Circuit.</p>		