



ACT Bushfire Council Minutes

Date: 6 April 2022

Time: 4 pm – 7 pm

Location: 220 London Circuit, Webex

Attendance	
Chair	Sally Troy – Chair, ACT Multihazard Advisory Council, also known as the ACT Bushfire Council
Attendees	Dylan Kendall – Deputy Chair, ACT Bushfire Council Tony Bartlett – Member Kylie Coe – Member Asha Naznin – Member Marta Yebra – Member John Brickhill - Member
Apologies	Len Morris – Member Andrew Geikie – Member
Guests	Rohan Scott – Chief Officer, ACT Rural Fire Service (CO ACTRFS) Professor Mark Howden - Director of the Institute for Climate, Energy & Disaster Solutions Dr Sophie Lewis – Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Sam Engele – Coordinator General for Climate Action
Secretariat	Lianna Luton – Emergency Services Agency (ESA) Collaboration Team Tash-Elouise Andrade – ESA Collaboration Team

Item	Topic	Action or Decision	Area Responsible	Due
1.	Welcome and Apologies			

	The Chair acknowledged and paid respects to the traditional custodians of the land that the meeting was on, the Ngunnawal people, and to the traditional custodians of other lands in the ACT.			
2.	Acceptance of Minutes from 2 Mar meeting			
	The draft minutes were amended and agreed pending changes to section 5.		Secretariat	
3.	Review of Council Action items			
	Council action items were reviewed and updated. 2022 02 03 - Write to Minister with consideration for new MHAC TOR - Extend Terms of Reference action item for 2 weeks to 20 April 2022			
4.	Correspondence for noting			
	Nil correspondence received by Secretariat			
5.	Presentation. ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment			
	Council received a presentation from Dr Sophie Lewis, ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment with regards to Climate change and work being undertaken with ACT. Council discussed options for further studies building on the 2020 State of Environment report, and lessons learned from the implementation of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan and work to support a stronger voice for the environment. Members thanked Dr Lewis for the comprehensive and insightful presentation			
6.	Presentation. Director of the Institute for Climate, Energy & Disaster Solutions			
	Council received a presentation from Professor Mark Howden - Director of the Institute for Climate, Energy & Disaster Solutions with regards to Climate change - understanding risks within ACT and Surrounds. Council discussed a number of items raised in the presentation relating to high risk weather, intensified and prolonged bushfire and storm seasons, and what this means for the ACT and the combat agencies supporting the response effort to any natural			

	disaster. The Chair thanked Professor Howden for his comprehensive and accessible advice presentation.			
7.	Presentation. Sam Engele – Coordinator General for Climate Action			
	<p>Council received a presentation from Sam Engele – Coordinator General for Climate Action with regards to Climate change and work being undertaken within ACT Government.</p> <p>Council discussed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Bartlett raised that the proposed report focuses only on risks internal to the ACT Government and should look deeper on impacts, including built assets from a local community perspective. • Important to note - the Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACS) is doing a Territory Wide risk assessment separately to the Climate Risk Assessment • Mr Kendall asked what would be next following this assessment and what will the ACT Government funding process look like <p>Mr Engele explained that a Business Case will be submitted to Cabinet promoting a systematic approach focusing on the long-term and projected risks. More to follow on the published report which should be released next month</p>	Invite Mr Engele back to speak at the May or June meeting to elaborate further on the published report	Secretariat	
8.	Council member updates			
	<p>The Chair – provided an update on her meeting with the Minister for Police and Emergency Services including updates to the Council’s Terms of Reference, expertise on Council including the appointment of additional members, and the timing of advice provided to the Minister. The Minister also spoke about work on access trails within Namadgi National Park. The intent is to meet with the Minister every 3 to 6 months to provide an update on Council matters.</p> <p>Ms Naznin – provided a further update on work she is involved with ANU in the development of a bushfire related application.</p> <p>Dr Bartlett – provided an update of a review on the 2019-20 bushfire impact (Victoria).</p> <p>Mr Brickhill – provided information on an online magazine article about research into the effects of hazard reduction burns in forest areas.</p>	<p>Send an email to the Secretariat asking for ACTRFS experts to participate in an ANU project on developing a fire detection application</p> <p>Circulate an executive summary of a review on the 2019-20 bushfire impact</p>	<p>Ms Naznin</p> <p>Dr Bartlett</p>	

	<p>Ms Coe – provided information on an ABC program ‘People’s Republic of Mallacoota’ a multi-part series about the community’s response and recovery from the 2019-20 fires.</p> <p>Chief Officer ACTRFS – The ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) is anticipating significant rainfall with 70+mm expected in the coming days. This rain will impact the ability to conduct burns during the Autumn season. La Nina conditions are predicted to continue into the winter early spring season.</p> <p>ACTRFS and the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development (EPSDD) have recently completed a few hazards reduction burns however, further rainfall is likely to impact future hazard reduction plans this Autumn/Winter</p> <p>He also provided an update on ACTRFS activities including the National Emergency Medal and ACT Emergency Medal Brigade presentations, Brigade training, preparations for the 2022-23 high risk weather season.</p> <p>Additionally, he provided an update on the national agreement on the new Australian Fire Danger Rating System.</p>	<p>(Victoria) once made publicly available and provide an update at the next meeting</p> <p>Provide a link to the article on effects of HR burn in forest areas to Council members</p> <p>Invite Chief Officer ACTRFS to the May Meeting to provide an update on the Australian Fire Danger Rating System</p>	<p>Mr Brickhill</p> <p>Secretariat</p>	
9.	Confirmation of Topics for April and May Meeting			
	<p>Secretariat confirmed presentations at May meeting would be from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Paul Roberts – ACT Treasury <p>Council confirmed that they were seeking presentations at the May meeting on the topic of <i>Population change - expected risks 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 	<p>Seek contact for Subject Matter Expert from the Australian National University (ANU) Head of Population Change department</p> <p>Seek contact for a subject matter expert who is a veteran and share with council and to seek contact for ACT Multicultural Affairs</p>	<p>Dr Yebra</p> <p>Ms Naznin</p>	
9.	Other Business			
	<p>Council discussed</p> <p>Council asked if funding is available to sponsor 1-2 Council Members to attend the International Wildland Conference (June 2022) and the AFAC Conference (August 2022).</p>		<p>Chief Officer ACTRFS</p>	

	<p>Council Members would like to invite Chief Officers from ACT State Emergency Service (ACTSES) and ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) to present on their capacity and responsibilities for different types of emergencies (i.e., heatwave response and support from ACTAS).</p> <p><u>Key questions for May presentation – Population Change (who is the ACT and how is it projected to change?)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is known about the ACT’s age cohorts, ethnicity, density and housing, socio-economic profile, people with Disability and LGBTIQ communities? • What are experts already thinking for future in addition to their data? • Is it worth considering holding a workshop with all relevant peak bodies/NGOs, organisations and experts to help bridge the knowledge gap on where to start to foster development on community empowerment (to be discussed in November) • Is there a clear starting point or framework the Council can use to understand the ACT’s community/population? 	<p>Invite Chief Officers ACTSES and ACTAS to speak on relevant sub-plans</p> <p>Strategic Priority Six (6) Dr Troy and Council Member Kendall to create a hybrid version of the two alternative options and to re-circulate to members for revision</p>	<p>Secretariat</p> <p>Dr Troy and Mr Kendall</p>	
10.	Agreed Meeting Communique			
	<p>The draft meeting communique was discussed and agreed.</p> <p>On 6 April 2022, the ACT Multi Hazard Advisory Council (Bushfire Council) met and were provided with presentations from Dr Sophie Lewis, ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment; Mark Howden, Director of the ANU Institute for Climate, Energy & Disaster; and Sam Engele, Coordinator-General for Climate Action, ACT Office for Climate Action. The presentations were on Climate change – expected risk associated with natural hazards within ACT.</p>			
11.	Meeting Protocol reminder			
	<p>The Chair reminded Members of the agreed meeting protocols and to advise of any issues/shortcomings, noting that time would be made within one meeting each quarter to proactively review the Council’s processes.</p>			

12.

Meeting Close

The chair thanked the Secretariat for all the work undertaken in preparation for the meeting and in support of the council.

Next meeting 4 May 2022 –220 London Circuit.