



ACT Bushfire Council Minutes

Date: 5 May 2022

Time: 4 pm – 7 pm

Location: 220 London Circuit, Webex

Attendance	
Chair	Sally Troy – Chair, ACT Bushfire Council
Attendees	Dylan Kendall – Deputy Chair, ACT Bushfire Council Tony Bartlett – Member Kylie Coe – Member Asha Naznin – Member John Brickhill - Member Len Morris – Member
Apologies	Andrew Geikie – Member Marta Yebra – Member
Guests	Wei Wang – ACT Treasury (representing Paul Roberts) Ailish Milner – ACT Rural Fire Service Kristin Zeitlhofer – ACT Rural Fire Service
Secretariat	Tara Bucknall – ACT Emergency Services Judith Bielleman – HorizonOne Recruitment (Minute taking)

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 and cared for the land for thousands of years, including the management of fire and other natural disasters. This			

	has shaped the land we all enjoy today and we should continue to work collectively to care for the land.			
2.	Declarations of Interest			
	No declarations of interest were made.			
3.	Acceptance of Minutes from 6 April meeting			
	The draft minutes were discussed and accepted with some amendments.		Secretariat	
4.	Review of Council Action items			
	Council action items were reviewed and updated.	Circulate details of upcoming conference concerning climate change and fire management.	Dr Bartlett	
5.	Correspondence for noting			
	Nil correspondence received by Secretariat			
6.	Presentation from ACT Treasury. Population Change – Forecast and Modelling in the ACT			
	<p>Council received a presentation from Mr Wei Wang from ACT Treasury, concerning population change forecasts and modelling in the ACT.</p> <p>Council noted the population trends for Canberra concerning natural growth, overseas migration and interstate migration. They discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The flow of people between NSW and the ACT and the demand for cross-border emergency services. It was noted there are existing MOUs in place between the regions, with mechanisms to support cross-border responses. Dr Bartlett suggested more information on population trends might also be useful to assist with strategic planning on where additional resources will be required in future. • There is a need for more granular information to obtain a richer view of the community in relation to sub-categories like language, ethnicity, disability, diversity. Mr Wong advised that Census data, Skills Canberra or the Economic Development area of the ACT Government might have more information. <p>Members thanked Mr Wang for his informative presentation.</p>			

7.	Presentation from RFS. Australian Fire Danger Rating System			
	<p>Council received a presentation from Ailish Milner and Kristin Zeitlhofer from the Rural Fire Service on the implementation of the new Australian Fire Danger Rating System from 1 September 2022.</p> <p>The Council discussed the importance of a nationally consistent approach to help the community better understand fire danger ratings and the actions required. They noted the potential for the new system to provide more targeted and relevant local information. Members sort a clarification of the rationale for reducing the number of electronic Fire Danger warning signs on urban arterial roads.</p> <p>Members thanked Ms Milner and Ms Zeitlhofer for their clear and helpful presentation.</p>			
8.	Council discussion and confirmation of future topics for presentation.			
	<p>EPSDD Workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Bartlett advised that he and the Chair had attended an Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) workshop at ANU which included a presentation on research on logging and prescribed burning. He spoke to an agenda paper he had prepared outlining his concerns regarding the validity of the science behind the analysis presented and its inconsistency with the 'lived experience' in Namadgi National Park. He requested that Council consider examining this matter further in order to provide some advice to the Minister. After discussion Council decided not to focus on this issue in the next few months but to seek advice from EPSDD on next step for EPSDD after the workshop. <p>Strategic Topics and Draft Council Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council discussed the strategic topics that have been developed and how these could be progressed by the Council. They agreed that a focus on one specific topic in more depth, rather than spending 2 months on each topic, would add more value, provide more collective expertise and help the Council formulate useful advice to Government. • The Council also noted that focusing on one topic would help establish planning processes and a framework for consultation, engagement and the provision of advice. They suggested the planning process also include ESA. • The Council agreed that the topic of 'Community' be the first topic for the remainder of 2022 and that this decision be presented to the Minister. 	<p>Write to Deputy Director General EPSDD to seek clarification of the outcomes from the workshop and the next steps for EPSDD in reviewing its fire management strategies. Chair to draft letter and seek feedback from Council.</p> <p>Write to Minister to advise the broad structure of strategic topics of interest and to propose the initial focus to be on Community, with further advice to be provided by the end of this year.</p>	<p>Dr Troy</p> <p>Dr Troy</p>	

9.	Council member updates			
	The Chair requested members provide any Council updates via email.	Updates to be sent to generic Bushfire Council Admin inbox and circulated to Council Members with the minutes	Council members	
10.	Confirmation of Topics for June and July Meetings			
	Secretariat to obtain another presentation on population and also follow-up with demography expert from ANU.	Seek contact from other areas of Government for presentation on population change.	Secretariat	
	Secretariat to obtain presentation on SBMP Dashboard and SBMP-5 development.	Seek contact to do presentation on SBMP Dashboard and SBMP-5 development.	Secretariat	
	Secretariat to obtain presentation for July from ESA on sub-plans, together with a presentation from the planning area responsible for entire emergency sub-plan development.	Seek contact from ESA to do a presentation on sub-plans, including entire emergency sub-plan development.	Secretariat	
	Secretariat to identify the different sectors and representative groups to understand mechanisms for engagement. There are defined bodies who could be invited to give presentations during 2022 within their areas of interest. Flyers are also being sent out to defined bodies and community sectors to encourage applications to join the Council.	Determine if there is an area in Community Services with a list of offices, agencies, peak bodies and community groups that would be useful to consult. Chair to draft letter to agencies seeking engagement and presentations to the Council.	Secretariat and Dr Troy	
11.	Other Business			
	The Chair asked members to review the draft Terms of Reference and provide feedback. If there are significant comments, the draft TOR will be discussed further at the next meeting. Dr Bartlett advised the Council that he had been invited to meet the Minister's advisor to discuss his views about fire science and future fire management in Namadgi.	Chair to circulate TOR to members by 6 May and seek comments by 20 May.	Dr Troy	

12.	Agreed Meeting Communique			
	<p>The draft meeting communique was discussed and agreed.</p> <p>On 4 May 2022, the ACT Multi Hazard Advisory Council (Bushfire Council) met and were provided with presentations from ACT Treasury on the topic of Forecasting Population Change in the ACT. They also received a presentation from Rural Fire Services on the Australia Fire Danger Rating System. The Council also agreed on the content and process for providing its first advice to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services.</p>			
13.	Meeting Protocol reminder			
	<p>The Chair drew attention to the meeting protocols and invited members to review the list and provide any feedback on whether these were being met.</p>	<p>Feedback to be sent to generic Bushfire Council Admin inbox and circulated to Council Members with the minutes</p>	<p>Council members</p>	
14.	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 1 June 2022 –220 London Circuit.</p>			