



# ACT Multi Hazard Advisory Council Minutes

Date: 3 August 2022

Time: 4 pm – 7 pm

Location: 220 London Circuit, Webex

Attendance	
Chair	Dr Sally Troy – Chair, ACT Multi Hazards Advisory Council
Attendees	Mr Dylan Kendall – Deputy Chair, ACT Multi Hazards Advisory Council Dr Tony Bartlett – Member Mr John Brickhill – Member Mr Len Morris – Member Ms Asha Naznin – Member Dr Marta Yebra – Member
Apologies	Ms Kylie Coe – Member Rohan Scott – Chief Officer, ACT Rural Fire Service
Guests	Mr Stephen Alegria – Executive Branch Manager, ACT Parks and Conservation Service
Secretariat	Ms Lianna Luton – ACT Emergency Services Ms Judith Bielleman – HorizonOne Recruitment (Minute taking)

## 1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair acknowledged the traditional owners of the land, the Ngunnawal people, and paid respects to the traditional custodians and to elders, past, present and emerging. She particularly acknowledged the role custodians played, and continue to play, in shaping the land on which we live and their role in supporting the land and country to thrive.

The Chair advised Mr Andrew Geikie has tendered his resignation from the Council. She acknowledged his contribution to the council and expressed the council's regret he was unable to continue in the role.

## 2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

## 3. Acceptance of Minutes from 6 July meeting

The draft minutes were accepted with the amendments provided by Dr Bartlett and Dr Troy.

## 4. Review of Council Action items

Council action items were reviewed and updated.



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## 5. Correspondence for noting

The Chair advised that letters had been sent to ACT Health and the Community Services Directorate seeking their engagement on the issue of community resilience. A response has been received from ACT Health identifying that Victor Martin, Executive Branch Manager of the Health Protection Service could attend the September meeting.

## 6. Council Consideration of Strategic Priorities

The Chair flagged that the MHAC had written to both the ESA and EPSDD in May 2022 requesting their input into the Council's strategic priorities and seeking advice on the consultation processes the Council could be engaged in over the next few years. A response from ESPDD has not yet been received. The finalised Terms of Reference have also not been received which is making it difficult to plan the Council's work.

Mr Alegria apologised for the delay in response and advised this would be provided shortly. He noted the key strategic matter the MHAC could be involved in was the review of the Regional Fire Management Plan due next year. The Council also sought an update on the current review of planning legislation and Territory-wide risk assessments. Mr Alegria advised that there was some preliminary work underway in relation to the western edge of Canberra, but there was no definite picture yet.

Dr Bartlett asked if there had been an update on the bushfire risk assessment in response to the previous Council's report. He also requested an update on the status of the review of the Murrumbidgee River Corridor Management plan. Mr Alegria advised he would seek an update from EPSDD and provide a response out-of-session. He also took on board the need for the Council to be given prior notice on plans in order to allow sufficient time for them to fit into strategic priorities.

**Action:** EPSDD to provide information on the status of the review of the Murrumbidgee River Corridor management plan and any action taken to update the bushfire risk assessment.

**Person responsible:** Stephen Alegria

The Chair updated the Council on her meeting with Anthony Draheim, Chief Officer of ACT Emergency Services. She confirmed his interest in the Council being involved in the development of the strategic flood risk management plan and the Council agreed they should be consulted as early as possible to understand its scope and objectives. Mr Draheim will review the project plan and provide advice on when consultation with the Council could occur. The Council also discussed the overall remit for the Council and its move towards having a more strategic long-term focus, in line with the Minister's direction. The Chair undertook to bring to the next Council meeting a proposal that integrates information from the EPSDD, the strategic flood plan process and the SBMP process, in order to map the timelines for the Council's work.

**Action:** Plan to be developed to map timelines to Council priorities based on information from ESA and EPSDD agencies.

**Person responsible:** Chair and Secretariat



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## 7. Community Resilience Frameworks

Mr Kendall provided a presentation to the Council on Community Resilience Frameworks and the approaches taken by different countries in relation to disaster and emergency management. He outlined the difference in the way resources are managed through Government and community-centric approaches, identifying the potential for the community to take a more hands-on role to improve their ability to respond to increasing hazards.

Mr Kendall further explained how this has already been recognised in the United Nations' Sendai Framework, the Department of Home Affairs' National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework and in the Minderoo Fire and Flood Resilience Blueprint. Overarching frameworks for community resilience have also been developed by Tasmania, South Australia and Victoria to improve preparedness and assess risks for the most vulnerable groups, taking an holistic approach rather than one siloed by the type of hazard.

## 8. Council Discussion Community Resilience in the ACT

The Council discussed Mr Kendall's presentation and noted some of the findings of other studies on the cost-benefit ratio return of taking a community co-design approach. They noted the potential to align more with the NDRFF and other states' strategies to identify focus groups, understand risks and barriers in the community, and ensure decision-making is more inclusive. They also discussed some of the community and non-Government approaches, including greater use of technology, which have already been taken following disasters.

Dr Bartlett noted the ongoing cost to implement and evaluate strategies and the challenge of maintaining community interest, information and preparedness. The Council discussed the change in focus from a disaster-centric approach to an impact-based approach. They also noted the Wellbeing Framework established by the ACT Government and its focus on government and community working in partnership. The Council questioned whether there was any consideration for a national strategy for community resilience and what Federal Government funding might be available to assist in improving disaster preparedness and resilience.

The Council discussed the next steps and proposed that for the next meeting the Council members each consider the gaps that currently exist and what attributes should exist in a community resilient approach. A document will be established for collective input and further discussion at the next meeting.

**Action:** Council members to provide input into a draft document on a community resilience strategy or framework.

**Person responsible:** Council members

**Action:** Information to be sought from ESA on whether plans exist for a national strategy on community resilience. Advice to also be sought on what Federal Government funding is available, and has already been requested by ESA, to improve disaster recovery and preparedness.

**Person responsible:** Secretariat



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## 9. Council Member Updates

Council members provided updates on recent activities:

- Mr Brickhill attended a demonstration on ‘cool burning’ by First Nations people in Bywong.
- Mr Martin advised he will be attending the Rotary Clubs Emergency Committee meeting.
- Ms Yebra advised she had circulated a link from a recent conference. She will also circulate promotional information from the ANU on different technology being used in the ACT.
- Mr Kendall advised he would be attending the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in September.
- Dr Bartlett advised he had circulated a link on the fire in Yosemite and the use of different technology and land management practices.
- Ms Naznin advised the FireApp team at ANU had been awarded a student prize for innovation. The team has also been invited by Mr Rohan Scott to visit the rural fire service at the end of August.
- Dr Troy outlined her meetings with the SBMP governance committee and secretariat, her meeting with Anthony Draheim and also with ESA senior staff to discuss resourcing the Council. She also advised of her discussion with Mr Geikie, who indicated some dissatisfaction from rural landowners on how fire is managed, and offered to speak with any people further to understand their concerns.
- Dr Troy also updated the Council on new members joining the Council, advising that this has progressed and is at the approval stage, but is unlikely to be resolved in time for the next meeting.

## 10. Confirmation of presenters/topics for September/October meetings

The Council discussed plans for the next meetings. They agreed the September meeting should be a discussion on priorities and the Work-plan for the next 12-18 months. The group’s document on community resilience will also be discussed. The meeting will also include presenters from ACT Health and CSD.

The Chair undertook to find out more information on the Wellbeing Framework and the area of responsibility for this in the ACT Government to potentially invite an attendee or presenter on this. Attendees should also include representatives from ESA and EPSDD to discuss what currently exists in terms of a community resilience framework. It was suggested that Assistant Commissioner Wayne Phillips be approached to attend too.

**Action:** Seek more information on the ACT Government’s Wellbeing Framework and the area of responsibility for this.

**Person Responsible:** Chair and Secretariat

**Action:** Invite presenters and attendees from ACT Health, CSD, ESA, EPSDD. Invite the Assistant Commissioner to attend the meeting.

**Person Responsible:** Secretariat



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For the October meeting, it was proposed that the Chair and Mr Martin provide a presentation on the AFAC conference. It was also suggested that the Council be provided with an update on the status of the Territory plan to better understand how it interacts with emergency management.

**Action:** Seek an update on the status of the Territory-wide ACT plans.

**Person Responsible:** Chair and Secretariat

## 11. Other Business

No other business was identified.

## 12. Confirmation of Communique

The draft meeting communique was discussed and agreed.

*On 3 August 2022, the ACT Multi Hazard Advisory Council (formerly ACT Bushfire Council) met and discussed approaches to community disaster resilience and how to develop advice to the Minister on what the ACT may need in this regard.*

## 13. Meeting Protocols

The Chair sought confirmation from the Council Members on whether they believed meeting protocols had been met over the last three months. The Chair asked members to provide advice, concerns and observations on anything that may have been missed or if there were further suggestions for additional protocols. No issues were identified by members.

**Action:** Meeting protocols to be made available on the Teams page.

**Person Responsible:** Secretariat

## 14. Meeting Close

Next meeting 7 September 2022 – 220 London Circuit