



ACT Multi Hazard Advisory Council Minutes

Date: 7 September 2022

Time: 4 pm – 7 pm

Location: ESA HQ, 9 Amberley Avenue Fairbairn, Webex

Attendance	
Chair	Sally Troy – Chair, ACT Multi Hazards Advisory Council
Attendees	Dylan Kendall – Deputy Chair, ACT Multi Hazards Advisory Council Tony Bartlett – Member Kylie Coe – Member Len Morris – Member Asha Naznin – Member Marta Yebra – Member
Apologies	John Brickhill – Member
Guests	Georgeina Whelan – Commissioner, ESA Rohan Scott – Chief Officer, ACT Rural Fire Service Stephen Alegria – EBM, EPSDD Victor Martin – EBM, Health Protection Services, ACTHD Daniel Iglesias – EBM, City Presentation, TCCS Phil Gritti – Senior Director, Security & Emergency Management, TCCS Anita Perkins – EGM, Communities, CSD Tracey Allen – Senior Director, Risk, Security & Emergency Management, ED Kristen Laurent – EBM Governance, ED Peter Robinson – EBM, Wellbeing Indicators Project, CMTEDD
Secretariat	Lianna Luton – ACT Emergency Services Judith Bielleman – HorizonOne Recruitment (Minute taking)

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair acknowledged that the Council was meeting on Ngunnawal country, land that has never been ceded, and on behalf of the Council, paid respects to elders, past, present and emerging of the Ngunnawal people and other traditional owners of ACT lands.

The Chair welcomed participants from five ACT Government Directorates, as well as the ESA Commissioner and other representatives from the ESA and EPSDD.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

3. Acceptance of Minutes from 6 July meeting

The draft minutes were accepted with no amendments.



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4. Review of Council Action items

Council action items were reviewed and updated.

5. Correspondence for noting

The Chair advised letters had been sent to ACT Government Directorates inviting them to attend the MHAC meeting. A representative from SEMD was not able to attend but will attend the October meeting instead.

6. Council Strategic Priorities – ESA Commissioner

The Chair welcomed the Emergency Services Commission, Ms Georgeina Whelan, to discuss strategic priorities for the Council from the ESA's perspective for the next 12-24 months.

The Commissioner thanked the Council for the document outlining the MHAC's strategic priorities. She advised the ESA is keen to engage with the MHAC as a key consultative partner in the review and development of ESA's planning program. This would include early pre-briefings, provision of draft plans and a back briefing/feedback process over a 12 – 18 month cycle to allow the ESA to work with the Council on practical implementation measures.

The Commissioner also outlined plans to engage with the Council through the ESA's annual bushfire reporting and review cycle, with a pre-preparedness session, including presentations and a workshop, prior to the bushfire season. At the end of the season, an after-action review process will also be conducted to identify lessons learned across all hazards, with a focus on continuous improvement for the agency.

The Commissioner also noted the role the Council could play in the development of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan v.5 and the Strategic Flood Management Plan. She proposed a workshop be run with the Council to review the SBMP, with more focus on the strategic outputs and how to embed the plan at a Whole-of-Government level. The inaugural Strategic Flood Management Plan will also be available as a draft for consideration early next year.

The Commissioner identified that a priority for the ESA is the issue of Recovery. Work on this is starting to be developed and will be another area for potential engagement with the MHAC. The ESA would also like to work closely with the MHAC on submissions for Commonwealth grants to promote and facilitate activities around community recovery and resilience.

The Council sought clarification on the role of the MHAC in assessing and independently monitoring the quality of Bushfire Operational Plans (BOP). The Commissioner acknowledged the need for independent oversight and identified that this would occur through the pre-season preparation and post-season review workshops and indicated that ESA would seek input from MHAC on how to operationalise the tenure-blind bushfire risk planning and monitoring over the coming years. Chief Officer Rohan Scott also noted that the post-season review activities would be an opportunity for the Council to be involved in the mitigation strategies for consideration in the following version of the BOP. Dr Bartlett queried whether the pre-season workshops would commence this year or next. The Commissioner proposed a small pre-season presentation in November to brief Council on preparedness, with a larger one to be conducted next year. The Chief Officer also advised the RFS will be holding an online pre-season brief for stakeholders and invited Council members to attend too.