

MINUTES



ACT BUSHFIRE COUNCIL (BFC)

07 April 2010

ACTRFS HEADQUARTERS

4 POINT COOK AVENUE

FAIRBAIRN ACT

Wednesday 7th April 2010

AGENDA

1. Opening and Introduction by Chairman

2. Attendees/ Apologies

3. Minutes of previous meeting

4. Actions running sheet

5. Correspondence

- Incoming
- Outgoing

6. Agenda Items

6.1 Virginia Dixon and Michael Joyce to present the outline of current policy and arrangements with ACTPLA

6.2 Re-appointment of Council Members

6.3 Rick McRae and Jason Sharples to present the Highfire Risk Project

7. Other Business

8. Outstanding Items/Issues

9. Confirmation of next meeting

AGENDA ITEM: 1 – 5

DATE: 07 April 2010 1600-1900Hrs

LOCATION: ASOC Fairbairn

Meeting Opened

Time: 1620

Close: 1900

1. Welcome by Chairman

Kevin Jeffery opened the meeting at 1620

2. Attendees/Apologies:

Kevin Jeffery	(KJ) Chair / Member
Tony Bartlett	(TB) Deputy Chair / Member
Michael Lonergan	(MIL) Member
Marion Leiba	(ML) Member
Tony Fearnside	(TF) Member
Cathy Parsons	(CP) Member
Simon Katz	(SK) Member
Kenn Batt	(KB) Member
Peter Kanowski	(PK) Member
Conrad Barr	(CB) Ex-officio Chief Officer ACT Fire Brigade
Andrew Stark	(AS) Ex-officio RFS Chief Officer
Michelle Jenkins	(MF) Secretary

Apologies:

Christine Goonrey	(CG) Member
Mark Crossweller	(MC) Ex-officio ESA Commissioner
Neil Cooper	(NC) Ex-officio ACT Parks Conservation and Land Management

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Minutes of the 3rd March 2010 meeting tabled.

Changes to the minutes to be updated:

NIL

Motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting was moved by MIL and by seconded ML, and carried by the meeting.

- MIL would like to see BFC Minutes more reader friendly for the public.
- AS feels BFC Minutes should be placed on the front page of ESA website.
- KJ to look at outsourcing Minute taking and review change at that stage in how Minutes produced.

4. Actions Running Sheet:

Action Required:

6.1 Victorian Bushfire Field Trip 8th June 2009 meeting

- Probably to be late May now 24/25 May 2010.
- BFC Members that have been nominated to go are Cathy Parsons, Marion Leiba, Michael Lonergan and Christine Goonrey.

AGENDA ITEM: **6.1**

SUBJECT: Virginia Dixon and Michael Joyce to present the outline of current policy and arrangements with ACTPLA

Virginia Dixon/Michael Joyce presented current policy and arrangements for comment and consultation with ACTPLA for Territory plan.

- ACTPLA forward proposed plan/s to ESA for comment.
- RFS/FB comments even if no general area of responsibility applies.

Process – Concept Stage → Land Release Stage → Estate Development Plan.

Virginia/Michael gave a very detailed description of the Inner/Outer/Ember Zone building standard requirements.

- Any variation from the required standard must be discussed with ESA via ACTPLA.
 - Enforced within Community Title.
- (CG) Communication with LDA?
(VD) No direct consultation with LDA, Usually left with sub consult.
- ACTPLA set the guidelines, LDA must follow these guidelines.

ACTPLA policy does not allow for colour bond fencing which could be used as a protection barrier against fire.

(CG) Should BFC take the issue back to ACTPLA focussing on the role colour bond fencing can play in fire protection?

KJ to look into further, to be an agenda item on future meeting.

AGENDA ITEM: **6.2**

SUBJECT: Re-appointment of Council Members

- Membership for most of the current members will expire in June 2010.
- AS handed out a form to be completed and returned indicating each members decision to continue or stand down.
- AS is required to write to the “Office of Woman in Government” AS well as seeking an Indigenous member with Land Management experience of which Andrew will write to another area within the Chief Ministers Department.
- Council should have a min of 5 members including Chair and Deputy Chair and up to 10 including Chair and Deputy Chair.
- AS to advertise for potential new members.
- Résumé to be emailed to Michelle Jenkins for Andrew Stark.

AGENDA ITEM:**6.3****SUBJECT:**

Rick McRae and Jason Sharples to present the Highfire Risk Project.

- Rick McRae and Jason Sharples provided handouts to the BFC Members along with a detailed presentation based on scientific evidence researched and gathered over several years from many fire events.
- The project focuses on weather anomalies in the High Country that have significant effect on fire behaviour.
- The fohen event was described by Jason to BFC Members. Jason presented and described several abnormal fohen events that occurred when most would expect minimal fire behaviour in the early hours from midnight onwards.
- A short video clip was shown to demonstrate the fire intensity and impact of wind created by an F2 category tornado created by the fire event during the 2003 fires.
- One copy of each paper was left with the Council. Jason will give Michelle a web link for the BFC Members to research further information.

AGENDA ITEM:**7****SUBJECT:****Other Business****Cotter Catchment – MIL**

- Has spoken to Brian Somers.
- PCL manager the Lower Cotter Catchment.
- TaMS managers' fire control.
- Area full of blackberry.
- (CG) - Weeds operation Plan (WOP) identifies a significant amount of money to be used in the catchment area.
- MIL proposed that the BFC visit area and submit comment accordingly to TaMS. Review sub plan prior to the visit. Use sub plan as basis for comment.
- AS to locate and send electronic copies of plan/s to BFC Members.
- (KJ) – Christine Goonrey, Tony Fearnside and Michael Lonergan to work through plan with Kevin Jeffery.

Kenn Batt's Resignation from BFC

- Kevin Jeffery thanked Kenn for his valuable input to the BFC.
- Andrew Stark acknowledged Kenn on behalf of the RFS/ESA and the South East Australia as a whole for his valuable contribution over many years.

AGENDA ITEM:**8****SUBJECT:****Outstanding Items / Issues****NIL****Time and Date of Next Meeting:**

03 May 2010 at 1600