

# Minutes



## ***ACT BUSHFIRE COUNCIL (BFC)***

**3 February 2010**

***ACTRFS HEADQUARTERS***

***4 POINT COOK AVENUE***

***FAIRBAIRN ACT***

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**DATE:** 3 February 2010 1600-1900Hrs

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**LOCATION:** ASOC Fairbairn

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**Meeting Opened Time: 1615 Close: 1900**

**1. Welcome by Chairman**

Kevin Jeffery opened the meeting at 1615

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**2. Attendees**

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
Christine Goonrey	(CG) Member
Ken Batt	(KB) Member
Peter Kanowski	(PK) Member
Conrad Barr	(CB) Ex-officio Chief Officer Fire & Rescue
Andrew Stark	(AS) Ex-officio RFS Chief Officer
Phil Canham	(PC) Ex-officio ACT Fire Brigade
Michelle Fleming	(MF) Secretariat

**Apologies:**

Simon Katz	(SK) Member
Mark Croweller	(MC) Ex-officio ESA Commissioner

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**3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

Minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2009 meeting tabled.

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Changes to the minutes to be updated:

As discussed by Bushfire Council members and the Secretariat

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

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## 4. Actions Running Sheet:

### Victorian Bushfire Field Trip

- Last week in April first week in May.
- Cathy to make contact with Victorian colleagues.
- Council Members to resolve at next meeting who and how many to go on the fieldtrip.
- Also need to discuss and finalise the content for the trip.

### Pre-formed IMTs

- All parties displayed a willingness to form pre-formed IMTs
- Now have in place pre-formed IMTs consisting of RFS, ACTFB, PCL and SES
- Now have defined criteria's for forming IMTs as well as a method for recording all information relating to the forming of the IMTs.

Andrew outlined the criteria for stand up arrangements which included weather and a personnel roster.

Planning is underway to conduct a three day major exercise, probably over winter, to exercise all services and appropriate stakeholders. This exercise will also test our pre-formed IMT process.

Andrew outlined the process that will be undertaken within Comcen to cater for a growing incident.

The plans for the new building have been altered to help the IMT function more efficiently.

### ACTION ITEM

The Pre-formed IMT proposal has been endorsed by all CO's and a document is being prepared for submission to the Commissioner for sign-off. A copy will then be give to the Council.

### Fire Management Strategies for Pine Plantations near Urban Areas.

A. Michael Lonergan and Tony Fearnside reviewed Tony Bartlett's paper.

A few questions were raised;

- 1) Nangwarry Pines were thinned and seemed to work in Ash Wednesday, what was the difference between them and the Duffy Fires?
- 2) Small focus on wicks between houses, feels there should be a stronger focus.
- 3) NSW RFS publication, PBFP, Planning for Bushfire Protection accept nationally as a viable for designing asset protection zones. Some content of this PBFP may add to the integrity of Tony's paper.
- 4) Paper concentrated on pine forest rather than the difference between Pine V's Eucalypt.

Tony's Response

- 1) Not sure where he could find any data on the SA situations.

- 2) Will await comments back from reviewers.
- 3) Did trawl available literature. Note that the Duffy asset protection zones exceeded all documented standards.
- 4) A separate paper to be written regarding pine v eucalypt. It was noted by the meeting that it is very difficult to find pine forests that are available to conduct the types of Project Vesta experiments that were run in eucalypt.

b. A problem has been identified for the future suburb of Coombs, as it appears from early briefings that no provision has been made by the LDA for a 300mtr asset protection zone.

Confirmation needs to be sought from LDA/ACTPLA as to what advice was requested from ACTESA/ACTBFC.

### **ACTION ITEM**

Conrad Barr to make contact with ACTPLA to confirm current status of Coombs.

### **Uriarra Village.**

Date for visit: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February @ 2pm

### **Early Warning Messages**

Discussion was held regarding the NEWS, and its application to the ACT. There appears to be some confusion on a national scale. The meeting recognised that there is a need to tailor the messages to better suit the ACT. BFC are comfortable the messages at this time are handled as a media message/public message.

Concern that the printed material has not been received at all homes. Possible options could be considered such as the use of CFU's to distribute material and assist home owners. AS and CB noted that a program to use CFUs was being developed.

**AGENDA ITEM:** 6.1

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**SUBJECT:** Jason Sharples' and Rick McRae's work on the High Fire Risk Project

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**BACKGROUND:**

Marion attended the AMOS Conference week and found the paper presented by Jason Sharples on their work on the HighFire Risk Project very interesting. I was speaking to him and Rick McRae afterwards and Rick said that they last spoke to the Bushfire Council about it two years ago.

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**CURRENT SITUATION:**

Rick McRae says that a lot of work has been done since they last talked to the Bushfire Council and they would like to give us an update.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That we invite Jason Sharples and/or Rick McRae to give us an update on their work on the High Fire Risk Project.

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**SOURCE:** Marion Leiba

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**RESOLUTION AND/OR DECISION:**

Marion Leiba gave a quick explanation in reference to a paper delivered by Jason Sharples and Rick McRae. The Council thought it appropriate to extend an invitation to both Jason and Rick to present their paper to the Council.

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**ACTION REQUIRED:**

Andrew Stark to send a formal invitation to Jason and Rick to present their paper.

**AGENDA ITEM:** 7

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**SUBJECT:** Other Business

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### **BFC future and direction**

(TB) would like the Council to look strategically and discuss a forward work plan for the next 12 months. (PK) made a request that the meetings were more structured and shorter.

(CG) and (MIL) noted that the current informal approach to certain items is also important for adding intellectual content, and should not be lost.

### **ACTION ITEM**

Next meeting BFC members to prepare a list of strategic issues they would like to see addressed.

### **Cotter Catchment**

(MIL) raised concern over the management of this area. Has noticed a significant increase in noxious weeds e.g. Blackberries.

### **ACTION ITEM**

MIL to talk to Daniel Iglesias.

**AGENDA ITEM:** 8

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**SUBJECT:** Outstanding Items / Issues

**NIL**

**Time and Date of Next Meeting:**

1600 - 03 March 2010