

MINUTES



ACT BUSHFIRE COUNCIL (BFC)

2 March 2011

ESA HEADQUARTERS

9 AMBERLEY AVENUE

FAIRBAIRN ACT

Wednesday 2 March 2011

AGENDA

1. Opening and Introduction by Chairman

2. Attendees/ Apologies

3. Minutes of previous meeting

4. Actions running sheet

5. Correspondence

- a. Incoming
- b. Outgoing

6. Modified BOP

7. Other Business

8. Outstanding Items/Issues

9. Confirmation of next meeting

AGENDA ITEM: 1 – 10

DATE: 2 March 1600-1900 Hrs

LOCATION: ESA HQ, Fairbairn

**Meeting Opened
Welcome by Chairman**

Time: 1615

Close: 1800

1.
Kevin Jeffery opened the meeting at 1615

2. Attendees/Apologies:

Kevin Jeffery	(KJ) Chair / Member
Tony Bartlett	(TB) Deputy Chair / Member
Simon Katz	(SK) Member
Marion Leiba	(ML) Member
Cathy Parsons	(CP) Member
Michael Lonergan	(MIL) Member
Tony Fearnside	(TF) Member
Michael Joyce	(MJ) Ex-officio - RFS Deputy Chief Officer
Neil Cooper	(NC) Ex-officio - ACT Parks Conservation and Land Management
Dylan Kendall	(DK)

Apologies:

Christine Goonrey	(CG) Member
Andrew Stark	(AS) Ex-officio - RFS Chief Officer, Executive Officer to BFC
Paul Swain	(PS) Ex-officio - ACT Fire Brigade

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Minutes from the February meeting were accepted with minor wording changes.

4. Actions Running Sheet:

KJ sending letter to Minister regarding vulnerable groups and invite Minister to attend BFC meeting

AS to circulate IC and IMT position list to Council members

AS to contact Federal Agencies about BOP

KJ to draft endorsement letter and forward onto council

AMc to upload BFC minutes onto the ACT Rural Fire Service website

AMc to send copy of Draft report to NC and SK

AMc to review the last 12 months of BFC Minutes and load onto website, along with description of Bushfire Council and abstract on each member.

TB to collect abstracts from Council members for RFS to upload with Minutes

MJ to enquire with Darren Catrupi about possibility of the new ESA website containing a portal for Council members

5. Correspondence

Nil

6. Modified BOP – Presentation

TAMS presented its proposed modified BOP to Council. The modified BOP has been prepared in recognition that we have had one of the wettest summers on record with significant rainfall that has delayed or prevented a number of activities (originally identified in the approved 2010/11 BOP) from being completed or commenced. Council was very supportive of the modified BOP and fully endorsed its implementation for the remainder of this financial year.

Under the legislation TAMS is required to obtain BFC endorsement and final approval from the Commissioner of the ESA. TAMS will now seek the Commissioner's approval of the modified BOP.

ACTION: KJ to draft endorsement letter and forward onto council

7. Other Business

► CP raised concern about gaining access to documents and reports via some sort of intranet setup. Cathy drew attention to other committees that have a similar setup for ease of access to documents that may be too large to email and that council may need reference to at a later date.

ACTION: MJ to enquire with Darren Catrupi about possibility of the new ESA website containing a portal for Council members

► ML informed Council that the Minutes on the RFS outdated council minutes on the website. MJ also approved the idea of having a description of the role of the Bushfire Council and an abstract for each member in the BFC section on the website. MJ did inform council members that the ESA websites are currently in the process of being refurbished.

ACTION: AMc to review the last 12 months of BFC Minutes and load onto website, TB to collect Abstracts from Council members for RFS to upload with Minutes

► TF requested an update from MJ on the Horse Agistment report. MJ informed council that it was being worked on. A number of Council members who were interviewed requested a copy of the draft report.

ACTION: AMc to send copy of Draft report to NC and SK

► MIL questioned Fire Management staff on the relevancy of the Pack Hike test as a means of testing the fitness of individuals on fire ground. He expressed concern that the test doesn't line up with actual duties and expressed an interest in the current research being presently conducted. NC responded that this is a standard means of testing in lieu of nothing else.

► MIL questioned RFS on its views of the deployment of RFS vehicles to assist in NSW Incidents. MJ responded that the RFS holds strong view of support in this matter. He went on to explain the benefits to the ACT of building up the experience of our volunteers and staff members. RFS feels that it is also beneficial to building and sustaining relationships between jurisdictions. NC commented that there is a grey area currently being reviewed in the area of the Fire management area as the vehicles being used are RFS vehicles, and procedures currently in place mean that the Fire management team is unable to use the RFS vehicles in their deployments. KJ suggested that this area should be looked at and BFC supports the Fire management team to use RFS vehicles for deployment.

► MIL enquired about the IMT exercise that ESA had planned to run. MJ explained that this exercise was unable to go ahead due to the flooding of the building and there was some discussion at Headquarters about waiting until Comcen had moved back to Fairbairn before rescheduling. NC commented that the location of the exercise shouldn't matter and it was important to go ahead with it. KJ encouraged the exercise to go ahead stating it is necessary for it to be completed.

8. Outstanding Items/Issues NONE

Time and Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 6th April, 2011 at ESAHQ, Fairbairn.

Meeting closed 18:00