



# ACT Bushfire Council Meeting

6 June 2012  
16:00 to 19:00  
Black Mountain 1 & 2  
Meeting Rooms  
ACTESA Headquarters

---

**Chair:** Kevin Jeffery  
**Attendees:** Christine Goonrey, Member  
Michael Lonergan, Member  
Cathy Parsons, Member  
Tony Fearnside, Member  
Marion Leiba, Member  
Simon Katz, Deputy Chair  
Peter Beutel, Member  
Natalie Hile, Member  
Sarah Sharp, Member  
Tony Bartlett, Member  
**Invited Guest:** Rohan Samara  
**Meeting commencement:** 16.15  
**Meeting concluded:** 19:50

**Secretariat:** Lynda Scanes  
Andrew Stark, CO ACT Rural Fire Service  
Greg Potts, Acting DCO ACT Rural Fire Service  
Paul Swain, CO ACT Fire and Rescue  
Neil Cooper, Mgr Fire Forest and Roads, PCS

---

## *Minutes*

---

**Agenda item:** *1.0 – Apologies* **Presenter:** Chair

Michael Joyce, Natalie Hile, Michael Lonergan and Neil Cooper

**Agenda item:** *2.0 – Acceptance of minutes of 4 April 2012 meeting* **Presenter:** Chair

**Discussion:** The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

The minutes from the previous meeting held on 2 May 2012 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Tony Bartlett

Seconded: Simon Katz

**Agenda item:** *3.0 – Update on action items arising from previous meetings* **Presenter:** Chair

**Discussion:** Refer to implementation of action items report (attached to end of minutes).

**Agenda item:** *4.0 – Community Awareness Update* **Presenter:** Rohan Samara

**Discussion:** Presentation: What ACTRFS is doing in social media?

Rohan Samara provided an overview of the ACT Rural Fire Service (ACTRFS) social media communications project. This communication strategy has enhanced

## Community Engagement and Awareness.

What ACTRFS is doing in social media:

- Gathered the current users
- Trained up a group of people
- The ACTRFS Social Media Team
- Facebook
- 43% female 57% male
- 25 – 34yr olds 25% of followers Not just Gen Y
- 18-24 & 35-44 = 23% of followers
- 530 followers. 225 people on average view each post. Potential reach via virality of over 145,000 people. Friends of followers.
- ACTRFS Blog
- Average 850 visitors per month viewing over 1,660 posts.
- Open discussions with people with questions.
- Since launch over 36,600 pages viewed with over 14,000 visitors. (It is important to note that during this time there was no major incidents)
- ACTRFS Twitter
- 740 followers – all Facebook postings automatically go on to Twitter

Information and discussions that ACTRFS have with followers are:

- Bushfire Survival Plan reminders and links.
- Daily updates during summer with the FDR
- Community events that have been attended
- Training activities
- Upcoming events
- Special dates – St Florian's Day, International Women's Day, Volunteering Week and Mother's Day

The ACTRFS has formed a Social Media team who dedicate their time to developing relationships with ACTRFS supporters. The group adhere to the Social Media Guidelines/Policy and have administration access to the ACTRFS Facebook page, each posting is as the ACTRFS.

The ESA has a single source of truth concept communication strategy for all operational activities. The ESA media team send incident notification via a blackberry smart phone that automatically updates the ACTRFS website.

Council members asked questions relating to social media issues and provided very positive feedback.

Tony Fearnside stated that social media communications doesn't extend to the older and vulnerable population within the ACT.

Andrew Stark advised that ESA/ACTRFS continues to undertake a range of measures to ensure community engagement, social media is an addition. Social media has enhanced emergency preparedness and resilience across all aspects of the community.

Members expressed interest in following up on the broader communications strategy and asked for further briefing on the planning framework and long term strategies for the communications plan.

Motion Moved: The Bush Fire Council supports the ACTRFS Social Media framework and thanked Rohan Samara for the presentation.

Moved: Christine Goonrey Seconded: Marion Leiba

Action item: • Nil

Agenda item: **5.0 – Correspondence** Presenter: **CO ACTRFS**

Discussion: • Nil

Action item: • Nil

Agenda item: **6.0 – Chief Officer’s Report** Presenter: **Andrew Stark**

Discussion: Andrew Stark provided an update on ACTRFS activities:

- The date for the ACTRFS Open Day has been set for the last weekend in October. Bushfire Council Members will be invited
- Staff movements
- Staff are focusing on core business
- The Tidbinbilla Bushfire Brigade to officially open
- Rivers Bushfire Brigade car park issue has been resolved
- Farm FireWise is continuing with 110 completed (out of 160)
- ACTRFS are working with Territory and Land Management assisting with the development of the Bushfire Operational Plan

Action item: • Nil

Agenda item: **7.0 – Tenth Anniversary Report to The Minister** Presenter: **Tony Fearnside and Marion Leiba**  
**‘Effectiveness of Community Education, State of CFU’s, Interface Zone Situation – preliminary report’**

Discussion: Paper Tabled: Towards 2013 Preliminary report by Tony Fearnside and Marion Leiba.

There was general discussion regarding the ‘Effectiveness of Community Education, State of CFU’s, Interface Zone Situation –preliminary report’.

The format of Tenth Anniversary Report to the Minister was discussed. Andrew Stark enquired if Council had considered advising the Minister that the report is being prepared. It was agreed that the Chair write to the Minister to inform Bushfire Council are preparing the report.

Tony Bartlett advised the deadline for lodgement of the first draft of the report topics is August 2012. Any outstanding draft reports other than those scheduled for July and August meetings require circulating out of session. It was agreed that Council members send reports to the secretariat for circulation.

Action item: • **Kevin Jeffery to send correspondence to the Minister to inform the Tenth Anniversary Report is being prepared**  
• **Council to send reports to Secretariat for circulation to Bushfire Council Members**

**Agenda item:** *8.0 – Other business* **Presenter:** **All members**

**Discussion:** There was general discussion regarding what is being done for the Tenth Anniversary of the 2003 Canberra Bushfires.

Andrew Stark advised that ACTRFS and ACT State Emergency Service (ACTSES) requested endorsement from the Minister for a Ten Year Service Medal. The Minister has approved the medals and it is planned that the medals will be presented for the Anniversary of the 2003 Canberra Bushfires.

The Anniversary coincides with the Centenary of Canberra. The ACT Government would be the lead for any remembrance proceedings.

**Action item:**

- **Kevin Jeffery to send correspondence to Jeremy Lasek requesting clarification regarding what the ACT Government will arrange for the Tenth Anniversary of the 2003 Canberra Bushfires**

#### **Additional Items**

**Agenda item:** *9.0 – Presentation on the 2003 fires, impact of plantations and buffers on house losses* **Presenter:** **Tony Bartlett**

**Discussion:** An informative presentation on the 2003 fires, impact of plantations and buffers on house losses was provided by Tony Bartlett.

The Bush Fire Council commended Tony Bartlett for the presentation.

**Action items:**

- **Nil**

**Agenda item:** *12.0 – Next meeting* **Presenter:** **Secretariat**

The meeting was closed at 7.50 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for 4 July 2012.



# ACT BUSHFIRE COUNCIL IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION ITEMS

## ~Principles~

- The register will include all action items that have yet to be implemented or where implementation is in progress. The status of implementation should be reviewed at each Bushfire Council meeting.
- The status update information is the only information that will be regularly updated in the relevant column. The only exception to this is if a revised completion date is suggested, the status must clearly detail rationale for this change.
- Status of implementation will continue to be regularly updated until action item is fully implemented.
- Action items will only be indicated as “Complete” after due consideration by the Bushfire Council.
- The progress status legend (Red, Amber Green) represents the action officer’s assessment of the status of progress to the Bushfire Council. Green indicates implementation on track, amber indicates some delays in implementation or receipt of status update information, red indicates significant delays and/or no information on the status of implementation.

Action Item / Issue <sup>1</sup>	R	A	G	Originating Meeting date	Responsibility	Proposed / Revised completion date	General Comment	Status Update
Presentation on how RFS is changing as an agency, to be added as an agenda item				4/5/11	ACTRFS		Andrew Stark to provide update at the June Council Meeting	Ongoing

Explanation on progress of IMT roles and personnel to be added onto the next suitable agenda			2/2/11	ACTRFS		Update to be provided at the June Council Meeting	<b>Ongoing</b>
Training needs analysis to be tabled at the next Bushfire Council Meeting.			7/3/12	ACTRFS			
Council to be advised of TAMS restructure when process is finalised.			5/10/11	Kevin Jeffery		9/2/12 Andrew Stark advised that he has not heard additional information at this time. Neil Cooper advised Cabinet are still considering arrangements/endorsement.	To remain on agenda
Strategic priorities for BFC Meetings 1) <b>ACTION:</b> Copy of community preparedness survey to be provided to all members. 2) <b>ACTION:</b> Manager ACTRFS Community Awareness to be invited to next Bushfire Council Meeting to speak about specific ACTRFS strategies for public communications.			9/2/2012	Kevin Jeffery		1) Greg Potts advised that the survey was conducted in the Duffy area by Bushfire CRC and Latrobe University. 2) Completed 6 June 2012	1) Greg Potts to send copy of community preparedness survey to Bushfire Council Members. 2) Presentation completed 6 June 2012.
TAMS quarterly report on the Bushfire Operational Plan			9/2/2012	Neil Cooper	On-going		On-going
Request that Jason Sharples be approached to present the research relating to bushfire behaviour to the Committee.			9/2/2012	Kevin Jeffery	4/4/2012	To remain on agenda	

<p>The ACT Bushfire Council 2012 Performance Management Inquires Recommendations into the 2003 Canberra Bushfires — Revision of Fire Fighting Equipment and System report.</p> <p>1) <b>ACTION:</b> Bushfire Council to put a formal recommendation that the comments become an action in the 2012 report.</p> <p>2) <b>ACTION:</b> ACTRFS to follow-up procurement methodology regarding availability of machinery, drivers and provide clarity around conditions of contract arrangements.</p> <p>3) <b>ACTION:</b> ACTRFS — Andrew Stark to provide Bushfire Council with the trial of fire retardant report conducted by Bushfire CRC.</p>			7/3/2012	<p>1) Bushfire Council 2) ACTRFS 3) Andrew Stark</p>			On-going
<p>Include the next topic 'Fire fighting relationships.</p>			4/4/2012	<p>Simon Katz Natalie Hile</p>		<p>Report to be circulated out of session.</p>	<p>To be carried over to the agenda in June 2012</p>
<p>Arrange the Manager ESA Media and Community Information to provide a calendar of upcoming ACTRFS public awareness campaigns.</p>			2/5/2012	<p>Secretariat</p>			
<p>Send correspondence to Jeremy Lasek requesting clarification regarding what the ACT Government will arrange for the Tenth Anniversary of the 2003 Canberra Bushfires</p>			6/6/2012	<p>Chair</p>			

<p>Send correspondence to the Minister to inform the Tenth Anniversary Report is being prepared.</p> <p>Secretariat to circulate individual reports to Bushfire Council Members.</p>			6/6/2012	Chair			
--	--	--	----------	-------	--	--	--