



ACT Bushfire Council Minutes

Date: 3 March 2021

Time: 4 pm – 7 pm

Location: Black Mountain Room HQ ESA and WebEx

Attendance	
Chair	Sarah Ryan – Chair, ACT Bushfire Council
Attendees	Natarsha Jakubaszek – Deputy Chair, ACT Bushfire Council Tony Bartlett – Member Steve Angus – Member Cathy Parsons – Member David Snell – Member Nick Lhuede – Member Jeremy Watson – Member Kylie Coe – Member Georgeina Whelan – ESA Commissioner Rohan Scott – Chief Officer, ACT Rural Fire Service (ACTRFS) Daniel Iglesias, Executive Branch Manager, Parks and Conservation Service, Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD)
Apologies	Bhiamie Williamson-Member Glenn Brewer – A/g Chief Officer, ACT Fire and Rescue Ray Johnson – ESA Deputy Commissioner
Guests	Michael Mahy- Synergy Stuart Brown – Synergy
Secretariat	Tara Bucknall – Executive Officer ESA Deputy Commissioner

Item	Topic	Action or Decision	Area Responsible	Due
1.	<p>Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>The Chair acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land that the meeting was on, the Ngunnawal people. She expressed acknowledgement and respect towards their continuing culture and the contributions they make to the life of this city and this region. She also acknowledged and welcomed the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people attending the meeting.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies confirmed. It was noted that Jeremy Watson would be dialling in late due to travel to work.</p>			
2.	<p>Declaration of Interest</p> <p>The Chair asked for any declaration of interest – Nil.</p>			
3.	<p>SBMP Progress Report – Presentation CO RFS</p> <p>CO RFS provided a presentation on progress against the SBMP 5. This is a change from previous monthly presentations to a biannual progress report. In addition to an update on the items, it was also confirmed that this report and SBMP progress is provided to the SEMSOG (Security and Emergency Management Officials Group) to enable highlighting of status of action items within their directorates or agencies.</p> <p>Council requested confirmation of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of MOU with EPSDD. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CO RFS confirmed that has all been signed • Confirmation of which agency is responsible for policy development for in the integration of the urban edge. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CO RFS confirmed that this is EPSDD • Status of Item 11, specifically what is the next steps for RFS to complete this. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CO RFS confirmed that all the data from various inputs is being captured in one map in order to better understand if mitigation action is required via either Government agencies or in partnership with relevant Rural Landholders. Additionally, the annual meetings / planning forums are being better structured in order to ensure that all stakeholders are involved and clearly understand what actions are being undertaken 			

	<p>across the Territory. This is intended to have all understand what the situation is and what will be the best approach to ensure risk reduction across the Territory.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 63 – what analysis and work has been undertaken within this item in relation to the 2020 events. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RFS and PCS Fire Unit have commenced reviewing the data available, this includes undertaking an evaluation of decisions made during the Orroral Fire with RFS Brigade Captains (inlcuidng PCS). ○ Tony Bartlett offered to provide a report written with respect to a review undertaken previously in Gippsland (1980’s). ○ Commissioner ESA invited Tony Bartlett and BFC members to attend the evaluation meetings. • Item 87 – Has it been confirmed that an edge road is included in the final development plans within Canberra, particularly in the Denman / Prospect area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ESA / EPSDD confirmed that this is still outstanding and needs to be followed up. 	<p>Provides dates of meetings with RFS Brigade Captains for Tony to attend to assist in the evaluation.</p> <p>ESA to raise matter at next SEMSOG</p>	<p>ESA</p> <p>ESA</p>	<p>ASAP</p> <p>Next SEMSOG</p>
4.	ESA Operational Review – presentation by Synergy			
	<p>Synergy provide a presentation with regards to the ESA Operational Review undertaken in response to the 2020 emergency events. This presentation looked at the methodology and approach used for the review and the key findings.</p> <p>Council sort clarification of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification regarding RFS integration into the IMT. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Synergy and ESA Commissioner clarified that this was related to the communications issues between the IMT and the coalface that gave a perception of lack of integration and understanding of the whole picture from strategic to tactical level. There was discussion regarding how this was addressed during the events, improvements made during the events and future intent for addressing to reduce the likelihood to happen in the future. • What involvement did PCS / EPSDD have in the review? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Although interviews with PCS staff was not completed, their submissions to the Royal Commission and input through the AAR’s undertaken post the events were all considered. 			
5.	Interactive grass fire risk map – report on out of session presentation			

	<p>Tony Bartlett provided a summary of the presentation and his report. Discussion was held around the fact that the tool is a work in progress and how this is expected to evolve over the next two to three years. The Council expressed their appreciation in receiving the briefing.</p> <p>It was raised that the council would like to continue to receive updates on the progress of these systems. In particular, they would like to see how this will be linked to BOP and a whole of Territory approach. It was noted that was intended to include information available from Commonwealth and non-government land managers.</p>	RFS to provide a progress report on the systems for monitoring fire risks and fuel mitigations on a tenure blind basis.	RFS	August meeting
6.	End of Season report - RFS			
	The End of Season report was tabled by CO RFS and accepted by Council.			
7.	Update of 2019-20 Reviews – presentation by Commissioner ESA			
	<p>Commissioner ESA provided an update of the action being undertaken by ESA in response to the various reviews (internal, ACT, interstate and National). The Council was advised that as the ACT Government response to the Royal Commission was not able to be included as it was still to be finalised. It was noted that this presentation was specific to ESA and recommendations that were within ESA remit. EPSDD confirmed that they also are tracking recommendations across reviews.</p> <p>The tracking system is designed not only to track the actions being undertaken against individual recommendation but also link to future capability requirements and forward budget / business cases to support this.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the dashboard and supporting documents would be available for Council members to observe the progress of the action items. This will also be included in the annual preparedness briefing to Council for preparedness, with identification of critical actions and their status.</p> <p>Council sort clarification on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there overlap across recommendations between the differing reviews and report. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There are a number of overlaps and these will be identified within the tracker. • Are there linkages to the SBMP. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It is expected to be able to identify this as the Royal Commission, in particular, are finalised. These will be identified within the tracker as 			

	<p>well for ESA.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has the SBMP Governance Committee given thought to the priority of actions / recommendations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It was noted that given the nature of SBMP that some recommendations / actions cannot start until set periods within the five years of the SBMP. ○ It was noted that the SBMP would commence being reviewed and analysis undertaken for the development of SBMP 5 with current consideration being that it is due for a deep dive a rewrite, not just a refresh. 			
8.	Acceptance of minutes and actions from previous meeting			
	Council accepted the February minutes.			
	Action items were addressed and updated			
9.	Correspondence for noting			
	Chair wrote to minister providing the Bushfire Council 2021 Business Plan			
10.	BFC Code of Conduct and interaction with the media			
	The Chair discussed the BFC Code of Conduct and provided a reminder of Council members responsibilities aligned with the BFC TOR. This was a part of good practice and governance within ACT Boards and Committee for an annual reminder to be provided to members.			
11.	Report on activities undertaken			
	Nil undertaken since last meeting			
12	BFC Business Plan			
	<p>Council confirmed activities / presentations for April meeting as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SBMP workshop • AFAC Rural Land Managers Group presentation • Western Edge Preliminary bushfire risk assessment presentation • Aboriginal Fire Management Zones presentation <p>Council confirmed intended activities/presentations for May meeting as follows:</p>		<p>Council EPSDD EPSDD EPSDD</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarterly BOP, including an overview of how BOP are developed Forward planning for protection of new suburbs from bushfire presentation Recommendations from NSW Independent Inquiry relevant to Land managers presentation CFU and allocation of new units in bushfire prone areas presentation Urban Interface protection presentation 		EPSDD EPSDD EPSDD ACT F&R SLA	
13.	Reports from SBMP Governance Committee			
	Nil meeting since last BFC meeting			
14.	Officials reports			
	14.1 EPSDD report taken as provided			
	14.2 ESA Commissioner provided Statement against Resources and Capability which was discussed by Council. It was noted that SBMP 4 had a very different structure around this requirement to previous SBMP. It was agreed that the provided report would be withdrawn and restructured to meet Council's preferred format.	ESA to rewrite report and circulate for approval out of session	ESA	
	14.3 CO RFS End of Season report taken as provided.			
14.	Other business			
	Nil			
15.	Action items from meeting			
	Confirmed Action items arising from meeting			
	Meeting closed 6.59 pm. Next meeting: Wednesday 7 April 4-7 pm			