



ACT Multi Hazard Advisory Council Minutes

Date: 1 June 2022

Time: 4 pm – 7 pm

Location: 220 London Circuit, Webex

Attendance	
Chair	Dr Sally Troy – Chair, ACT Multi Hazards Advisory Council
Attendees	Dylan Kendall – Deputy Chair, ACT Multi Hazards Advisory Council Dr Tony Bartlett – Member Mr John Brickhill - Member Mr Andrew Geikie – Member Mr Len Morris – Member Ms Asha Naznin – Member Dr Marta Yebra – Member
Apologies	Ms Kylie Coe – Member
Guests	Mr Rohan Scott – Chief Officer, Rural Fire Services (CO RFS) Dr James O’Donnell – ANU School of Demography Ms Lynda Scanes – ACT Emergency Services Mr Scott Seymour – ACT Emergency Services
Secretariat	Ms Judith Bielleman – HorizonOne Recruitment (Minute taking)

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair acknowledged the traditional custodians of Ngunnawal country and other lands in the ACT. The Ngunnawal people have a history of caring for the land, including the management of fire, and the Council hopes the long history of connection between indigenous custodians and the land continues. The Chair acknowledged the wisdom and care they delivered.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

3. Acceptance of Minutes from 6 April meeting

The draft minutes were discussed and accepted with some amendments.

Action: Secretariat to update minutes as per agreed revisions.

4. Review of Council Action items

Council action items were reviewed and updated.



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5. Correspondence for noting

The Chair advised she had sent the following correspondence on behalf of the Council:

- Letter to the Minister outlining the MHAC progress, its strategic priorities, the Terms of reference and the Council's focus on the topic of Community. The issue of the Council's advice being made public was accidentally omitted but will be included in the ESA's response to the Minister.
- Letter to the ESA Commissioner seeking an indication of the issues planned by ESA over the next 3 years to understand how it will affect the Council's strategic plans.
- Letter to the DDG EPSDD seeking an indication of the issues planned by EPSDD to understand how it will affect the council's strategic plans.
- Letter to Ian Walker of the EPSDD concerning the prescribed burning issue.

A response has been received from Ian Walker in relation to prescribed burning which will be circulated to the Council.

Action: Circulate communication from Ian Walker in response to prescribed burning.

Person responsible: Chair

6. Presentation from ANU School of Demography.

Population Change in the ACT

The Council received a presentation from Dr James O'Donnell from the ANU School of Demography. The presentation covered population changes in the ACT, including the changes in social, economic and demographic composition, and their effect on wellbeing and social cohesion.

The Council noted the trends for Canberra concerning emerging social inequality and reduced sense of belonging and trust in Government. They also noted the increases in people being born overseas, speaking another language and people with a disability. Dr O'Donnell also advised of the potential for more research to be conducted on social cohesion following Covid-19.

The Council discussed the issue of community resilience and the importance of trust and social capital within the community during times of crisis. They considered behavioural attitudes to have important implications for the community's capacity to deal with disasters and looked forward to Dr O'Donnell being able to provide further information on research outcomes, once available.

Council discussed how the information in the presentation could shape consultation around the topic of Community. Mr Morris advised there had also been reports on Social Capital in Disaster Recovery and Management and he undertook to find out more information on these reports.

Action: Len Morris to advise Council on Social Capital in Disaster Recovery and Management

Person responsible: Len Morris



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7. Presentation from ESA

- SBMP Dashboard

The Council received a presentation from Lynda Scanes on the SBMP Governance and Assurance Plan and the Dashboard created to track the 92 actions arising from the SBMP. The actions are categorised under 12 Objectives and reports are provided to the EPSDD Governance Committee to monitor the implementation of actions.

Action: Circulate copy of SBMP Governance and Assurance Plan to Committee

Person responsible: Lynda Scanes via Rohan Scott

The Council expressed an interest in receiving an update on Objective 3, but also identified some other actions of specific interest. They noted that draft reporting against Objectives was due to be presented shortly to the EPSDD Governance Committee.

Action: Circulate an update on progress towards Objective 3 of SBMP

Person responsible: Lynda Scanes via Rohan Scott

- SBMP-5 Planning

The Council received a presentation from Scott Seymour on the SBMP 2024-2029 planning process. The schedule of the Plan is based around the 12 Objectives, with the aim to ensure actions are simple, measurable, accountable and include responsible delivery and tracking. Mr Seymour also outlined the timeframe for public consultation, Cabinet approvals and publication by November 2024.

Action: Council members to advise if they would like updates on any specific Objectives or Actions. Any updates to be included in the meeting papers for the next meeting.

Person responsible: Council members

The Council noted the schedule for a Draft project plan to be produced in August 2022 and requested further consideration on when MHAC might be involved in the consultation process. They also requested MHAC be considered as a representative of the community and not Government. Dr Bartlett also raised his concern that some of the timeframe for the plan covered the period over summer, which could impact stakeholder engagement. Mr Seymour advised there would be dedicated resources allocated to the Plan but acknowledged that time schedules may need to be reviewed to manage any risks.



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8. Council discussion and confirmation of future topics for presentation

Community Program

The Council discussed the work plan and the questions that could be used for consultation on Community resilience, preparedness and empowerment. They agreed that separate questions and processes be used for Government and community groups. They also recommended that members of the MHAC lead short presentations based on their expertise, with any papers to be provided in advance of meetings to ensure stakeholders are prepared for discussions.

Some suggestions were also made on how consultation could be done and when workshops or round tables could be conducted. The Chair requested that Council members advise of any relevant groups not already included in the list for consultation.

Action: Suggestions for community groups to be included in consultation to be forwarded to MHAC Inbox

Person responsible: Council members

The Council agreed to a two-part process with an initial workshop with Government in September to gain ideas on what a resilient Canberra looks like. A follow-up survey and/or workshop would then be held with the community, also in September, based on the outcomes of the first workshop. It was also recommended that presentations from ESA already planned for July be asked to include information on work with the community.

Action: Presenters for the ESA meeting to be asked to include their work to engage or partner with ACT Community.

Person responsible: Secretariat

In the July meeting Mr Morris will lead a discussion on Disaster recovery reduction and community resilience, with documents to be sent out prior to the meeting.

Action: Disaster risk reduction & community resilience presentation to be circulated to Council members prior to July meeting

Person responsible: Len Morris

The Chair also undertook to redraft the consultation plan and make it available to member for comment and edit.

Action: Comments to be provided on the revised consultation plan

Person responsible: Chair and Council members



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Amendments to Council operating Protocols

The Chair requested that any out-of-session commentary and decision-making be done through “reply all” messaging, unless people have a specific question to another member, to ensure more discipline around how Council members’ views are captured and shared. Members should also advise when they need more information to ensure they have a level of comfort on an issue.

Action: Updated meeting protocol to be drafted and shared for discussed.

Person responsible: Chair

Conference Attendance

The Council noted that four nominations had been received for the AFAC Conference with only two places available. It would be useful to forecast conference attendance over the next few years to share opportunity for growth and knowledge. Dr Bartlett offered to withdraw his nomination and Mr Scott advised he will confirm if the conference will also be made available online.

Action: Check if AFAC conference will be available online.

Person responsible: Chief Officer ACTRFS

9. Council member updates

The Chair drew attention to the template to be used for papers being presented to Council.

The Chair asked for Council member updates to also be submitted in a template for compilation and distribution in the agenda papers prior to the meeting.

10. Confirmation of Topics for July and August Meetings

The July meeting will include presentations from ESA staff and a presentation from Mr Morris on disaster risk reduction and community.

The August meeting will not include any presentations but will cover any discussions out of the July presentations and settle on what the two workshops in September will look like.

11. Other Business

The Council noted that a request has gone out for the recruitment of more members to the MHAC with the potential for 3 more members to be added later this year.



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12. Agreed Meeting Communique

The draft meeting communique was discussed and agreed.

On 1 June 2022, the ACT Multi Hazard Advisory Council met and were provided with a presentation by Dr James O'Donnell from the ANU School of Demography on the subject of Population Change within the ACT. They also received presentations on the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan (SBMP) governance dashboard and the process for the development of SBMP 5 from ACT Emergency Services Agency. The Council also discussed its work program to explore community resilience in disaster risk reduction and how best to engage with government and the community on this.

13. Meeting Protocol reminder

The Chair drew attention to the meeting protocols and invited members to review the list and provide any feedback on whether these were being met.

Action: Feedback on meeting using the meeting protocols to be sent to generic Multi Hazards Advisory Council Admin inbox and circulated to Council Members with the minutes

Person responsible: Council Members

14. Meeting Close

Next meeting 6 July 2022 –220 London Circuit.