



ACT Bushfire Council Minutes

Date: 7 July 2021

Time: 4 pm – 7 pm

Location: Online Teams Meeting

Attendance	
Chair	Sarah Ryan – Chair, ACT Bushfire Council
Attendees	Natarsha Jakubaszek – Deputy Chair, ACT Bushfire Council Bhiamie Williamson-Member Tony Bartlett – 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) Matthew Mavity – A/g Chief Officer ACT Fire and Rescue (F&R)
Apologies	Steve Angus – Member Daniel Iglesias - Executive Branch Manager, Parks and Conservation Service, Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD)
Guests	Lynda Scanes – ACTRFS Alison McLeod - ACTRFS Greg Potts – ACTRFS Ailish Milner - ACTRFS Neil Cooper - Parks and Conservation Service, EPSDD

Item	Topic	Action or Decision	Area Responsible	Due
1.	Welcome and Apologies			
	<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, particularly this week as NAIDOC week.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were noted from Steve Angus and Daniel Iglesias.</p>			
2.	Declaration of Interest			
	The Chair asked for any declaration of interest – Nil.			
3.	RFS Business Plan – presentation from RFS			
	<p>RFS provided a comprehensive presentation on the new Business Plan and the staffing structure of RFS. The Council had some questions on details and commented favourably on the thoroughness of the presentation and the increased understanding of how RFS is structured.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the presenters for their time.</p>	Distribute a copy of the Business Plan to Council members	Secretariat	
4.	Officials Reports			
	<p>14.2 The ESA Commissioner expanded on the comments that had been raised during the presentation from RFS about engagement with local Indigenous custodians across ESA. This is continuing to contribute a greater understanding within ESA about the way it does business across all components of the Agency. The Commissioner spoke about the focus across the agency in the last two weeks in support of ACT Health, ACT Policing and other government directorates in response to the current COVID environment.</p> <p>14.2 EPSDD provided a report with updates of actions undertaken and planned as in their written report. EPSDD confirmed that an out of session paper would be provided to Council in response to their questions regarding the Conservation Research report.</p> <p>14.3 The CO RFS report covered:</p>	<p>EPSDD to circulate out of session a response to questions from Council regarding Conservation Research report.</p>	EPSDD	August

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RFS Brigades are currently conducting their AGMs, with two new Captains already confirmed. RFS volunteers, along with other SES, F&R volunteers have been assisting with COVID support over the last two weeks. The Divisional Leaders Course mentioned last month will be commencing this month All Brigades are in the preparation period for the next bushfire season 			
5.	Bushfire Preparedness Report – update from members			
	All Council member provided an update on their progress and confirmed outstanding information requirements.	RFS to provide written update on progress against recommendations from 2020 report.	RFS	ASAP
6.	Acceptance of Minutes from meetings			
	Minutes from May meeting were confirmed. Minutes from June meeting were confirmed.			
9.	Correspondence for noting			
	NIL			
10.	Report on activities undertaken			
	NIL			
11.	Reports from SBMP Governance Committee			
	The CO RFS advised that the last Governance Committee meeting had not occurred due to unavailability of members.			
12.	BFC Business Plan			
	Council confirmed activities / presentations for August to be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of bushfire management zones – presentation by ESA Progress report on the systems for monitoring fire risks and fuel mitigations on a tenure blind basis - RFS Presentation on Burnability map – EPSDD 	ESA to confirm if the Commissioner intends to seek Council advice on the BOP, in accordance with Section 10 of		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential presentation from Indigenous land managers - EPSDD • Discussion in response to questions on draft Conservation Research report – EPSDD (moved from July) • Presentation on what goes into constructing a BOP – EPSDD • 2019-2020 BOP annual report - EPSDD PCS • 2020-21 Draft BOP - EPSDD PCS 	the <i>ACT Emergencies Act 2004</i>		
13.	Review of Action items and adoption of action items from meeting			
	Action items reviewed and updated.			
	Action items arising from meeting were confirmed.			
	The Chair recorded appreciation for the support provided by the Secretariat.			
14.	Other business			
	<p>Cathy Parsons, on behalf of Council, acknowledged and congratulated the Chair on her recent Member of the Order of Australia honour. All Council members concurred. The Chair thanked the Council and acknowledged that it was also a recognition of the support of all Council members during her tenure as a member and Chair of the ACT Bushfire Council.</p> <p>The Chair, on behalf of Council, acknowledged and thanked Natarsha Jakubaszek for her work and efforts as a member / Deputy Chair of the Council. The Council wished her well for the impending birth of her baby and her time with a new child.</p>			
15.	Meeting closed 7.10 pm. Next meeting: Wednesday 4 August 4-7 pm			