

# MINUTES



## ***ACT BUSHFIRE COUNCIL (BFC)***

**6 October 2010**

***ESA HEADQUARTERS***

***9 AMBERLEY AVENUE***

***FAIRBAIRN ACT***

**Wednesday 6 October 2010**

**AGENDA**

- 1. Opening and Introduction by Chairman**
- 2. Attendees/ Apologies**
- 3. Minutes of previous meeting**
- 4. Actions running sheet**
- 5. Correspondence**
  - Incoming
  - Outgoing
- 6. Reviewing Pre-season and Bushfire Preparedness**
- 7. Other Business**
- 8. Outstanding Items/Issues**
- 9. Confirmation of next meeting**

**AGENDA ITEM:** 1 – 5

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**DATE:** 6 October 2010 1600-1900Hrs

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**LOCATION:** ESA HQ, Fairbairn

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**Meeting Opened** Time: 1614 **Close: 1845**

**1. Welcome by Chairman**

Kevin Jeffery opened the meeting at 1614

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**2. Attendees/Apologies:**

Kevin Jeffery	(KJ) Chair / Member
Michael Lonergan	(MIL) Member
Simon Katz	(SK) Member
Marion Leiba	(ML) Member
Christine Goonrey	(CG) Member
Andrew Stark	(AS) RFS Chief Officer, Executive Officer to BFC
Michael Joyce	(MJ) RFS Deputy Chief Officer
Cathy Parsons	(CP) Member
Tony Bartlett	(TB) Deputy Chair / Member
Amy McLenaghan	(AM) Secretariat

**Apologies:**

Neil Cooper	(NC) Ex-officio ACT Parks Conservation and Land Management
Tony Fearnside	(TF) Member

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**3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

Minutes of the 1 September 2010 meeting were unavailable and KJ will circulate them to members of the council at a later date. Council agreed to review and approve the minutes from the September meeting at the November meeting.

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**4. Actions Running Sheet:**

There are no outstanding actions from the previous meeting.

Current Actions:

ACTION: BFC members are to provide RFS any feedback they have regarding the SBMP2.

ACTION: RFS to investigate as to whether there is any requirement for Federal Agencies such as CSIRO and Defence to provide a BOP to the RFS.

**Federal Agency BOPS**

- *Depends on lease versus own as working with them to get BOP across all their land, rather than a BOP + a LMA.*
- *NC remind about LAPS Land, especially land near Stromlo (eg; arboretum)*
- *Council is concerned about any area to the west of town.*
- *Some has building work on it.*
- *Some land around Stromlo settlement.*
- *TAMS will be slashing breaks.*
- *Farm leases west of Narrabundah Hill on LMAs.*

- No instruments to enforce the ACT ability to remove hazards.
- Area of land east of Eucumbene, an old CSIRO sawmill.
  - **RFS to produce maps for next meeting.**

### **Mt Franklin Process**

- 1<sup>st</sup> meeting held.
- ESA/TAMS/ACTPLA/IECEW?
- Followed journey of Mt Franklin approval.
- Definitions different across ACT's
- ACTPLAS as approver – Full EIS vs Merit passed.
- If we meet requirements of different acts, we should be able to go to merit based but need to map all laws to get an idea if it can be done.
- Also a minister PASS (A224)
- Also could develop a code.
- Aim is to create a sound process that takes it out of ACTPLAS planning space.
- Possible minor legislative amendments could be made to clear some ambiguities.

### **Next Steps**

- Create a way to stay out of ACTPLAS process.
- Sometimes things might fall into ACTPLAS process, so need to look at potential change to ACTPLAS processes.

### **Changes to report as includes:**

- EPBC
  - List of experts being consulted.
  - They have extended timeframe.
  - FFMG
    - Supports re: unplanned fire
    - Putting policy to COAG re; definition of planned fire.
  - NB Commonwealth response to Royal Commission supporting annual fire preparations and needs to sit under EPBC.

We have an excellent regional plan in the ACT and could go under TAP for this reason. Appropriate resources need to be made available to monitor this and research it.

### **BAZ Arrangements Review**

- Workshop/review is underway.

### **RFS Horse Agistment Report**

- Consultants spoke to a lot of people.
- No output yet.
- RFS
  - Producing fact sheets.
  - Looking to holding workshop.
  - Idea is that with logistics of moving horses, people need to know what to do on a bad day (even before fire starts)
- Council commends this as an excellent target segment for focussed communications.

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## **5. Correspondence**

Incoming: Letter from Minister.

MJ Distributed copies of SBMP 2 Implementation Plan for Council members to review.

Outgoing: Nil

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**AGENDA ITEM:** 6

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**SUBJECT: Reviewing Pre-season and Bushfire Preparedness**

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RFS has developed an implementation plan for the SBMP 2 that includes an action timeline with reporting requirements and a timeline. MJ ran through each action in detail with members and they provided some feedback. Discussions were held, and feedback was captured by MJ into his draft plan.

AS discussed the upcoming Bushfire Awareness Week schedule for the activities. AS also discussed advertisement and awareness campaigns. A discussion was held regarding the inclusion of CFUs in Bushfire Awareness Week and possibly in other RFS education campaigns.

A question was asked of the RFS in regard to the provision of BOPs by various agencies, particularly relating to Commonwealth Agencies. The most important from the perspective of large and important land areas were CSIRO and Defence. AS noted that he was not sure about the status of BOPs from these two agencies, and he would follow this up.

Discussions were held regarding the process of preparing the Seasonal Capability Report for the Minister. Sections of the report were allocated to various members of the Council, and the RFS agreed to provide briefings on those areas, and any other information as required.

**ACTION: BFC members are to provide RFS any feedback they have regarding the SBMP2 Implementation Plan.**

**ACTION: RFS to investigate as to whether there is any requirement for Federal Agencies such as CSIRO and Defence to provide a BOP to the RFS.**

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**AGENDA ITEM:** 7

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**SUBJECT: Other Business**

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**MIL** asked for an update on the issue regarding the community at Uriarra Village requesting to have their own RFS Brigade established. AS responded that we are unable to form a brigade unless there are enough members to staff this. This would mean Uriarra need to join their local brigade being Rivers, And when there are numbers a brigade can be formed. The Council concurred with the suggestion that community leaders within the Uriarra Village start to bring together the volunteers, get them all to join up to the RFS, and start discussions with Rivers and the RFS about their engagement process.

**AS** informed the Council that RFS are reintroducing a Group Officers role, and there are four nominations from volunteers who are being selected as Group Officers and Deputy Group Officers. AS noted that they will be announced at the next Captains meeting.

**AS** advised the Council that the Commissioner will be putting together a working group tasked with reviewing the Bushfire Abatement Zone aims, needs, issues and legal status, with the aim of resetting the BAZ in a way that meets the needs of the ACT for bushfire protection. .

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**AGENDA ITEM:** 8

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**SUBJECT:** Outstanding Items/Issues

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NIL

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**AGENDA ITEM:** 9

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**SUBJECT:** Next Meeting

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**Time and Date of Next Meeting:**

3 November 2010 at 1600hrs at Fairbairn (new ACTRFS HQ)

**Meeting closed at 1843**