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| act rural fire service | ACT Bushfire Council Meeting | 7th August 2013 |
| 16:15 to 18:05 |
| Black Mountain 1 & 2 Meeting Rooms  ACTESA Headquarters |

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| Chair: | | Kevin Jeffery (KJ) | | | | Secretariat: | | | Leandra Parker (LP) |
| Attendees: | | Christine Goonrey (CG), Member  Michael Lonergan (ML)  Tony Bartlett (TB), Member  Sarah Sharp (SS), Member | | | | Richard Woods (RW) A/g DCO ACTRFS  Neil Cooper (NC) Mgr Fire Forest and Roads, PCS  Dominic Lane (DL) ESA Commissioner  Conrad Barr, (CB) DCO, ACTF&R | | | |
| Meeting commencement: | | |  | **Meeting concluded:** | | | |  | |

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| Minutes |
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| Agenda item: | ***1.0 – Apologies*** | Presenter: | **Chair** |
| Natalie Hile (NH), Paul Swain (PS), Andrew Stark (AS), Cathy Parson (CP), Marion Leiba (ML). | | | |
| Agenda | ***2.0 – Acceptance of minutes of 6 Apr 13 meeting*** | Presenter: | **Chair** |
| ACTION: | The minutes from the previous meeting held on 3rd July 2013 were accepted as a true and accurate record.  Accepted by Christine Goonrey and seconded by Sarah Sharp.  **Secretariat to add new standing agenda Item – Disclosure of “Conflict of Interest” of Council Members.** | | |
| 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 – Correspondences*** | Presenter: | **CO RFS** |
| Discussion:  ACTION: | Kevin Jeffery has written to the LDA, response still pending. DL to follow up the response to the BFC directly.  Kevin Jeffery has sent confirmation back to the Auditor General confirming the BFC’s receipt of the report.  **Commissioner Lane to follow up on a response from the LDA to the BFC.** | | |
| Agenda item: | ***5.0 – Chief Officers Report*** | Presenter: | **CO RFS** |
| Discussion: | RW provided the Chief Officers Report on behalf of AS.  **RFS Ops July 2013**  There were no significant fires within the Territory during July 2013.  The current operational focus has been in completing the preparatory functions for the coming season.  The 2013 Pre-Season Brief will be held on Thursday 19 September 2013. This planned to be held at the CSIRO Discovery Centre. All BFC members are welcome to attend. Brian Murphy will send out formal invitations.  Michael Joyce retired from RFS on 12 July 2013. Michael is planning to stay involved through volunteer brigade membership.  **Public Events/Community Awareness**  During the period the ACTRFS has continued to participate in a number of public and community events including.  The display continues at the Mt Stromlo observatory to promote and educate the public on bushfire safety.  Open Day is planned to be held at the Hume Heli base again on 20 October.  **Bushfire Council Membership**  A brief recommending the reappointment of Council members, other than Sarah Sharp who indicated that she would be unable to seek reappointment, has been forwarded to the Minister. | | |
| Agenda item: | ***6.0 – Land Managers Report (TAMS)*** | Presenter: | **Neil Cooper** |
| Discussion: | The 2013/14 BOP is now in version III and has been provided to the Commissioner of the ESA for review. This version identifies activities that will be done within the resource envelope identified from TAMS. A copy of the activities that will NOT BE DONE was also provided.   1. Mt Franklin Road will not be completed in 2013/14 2. The 2013/14 MOU between ESA and TAMS has been worked on over the past month and is now 99% ready for final signature. This MOU was mentioned in the Auditor General’s report. 3. The Auditor General’s has been received by TAMS and a formal joint response (with the ESA) has been prepared to go through the necessary process to Cabinet in September. 4. TAMS have completed more than 90% of the pre-season equipment checks and and expect to be completed in the next week. 5. The summer season workers have been recruited (extension of those that were trained and worked for TAMS last year) – 3 are already in place, 12 will re-commence next week while the other 3 will be staggered over the coming months. 6. Working on the designated positions to ensure TAMS meet the requirement of 140 fully trained and available fire fighters with in TAMS. 7. The PCS Preparedness day is now two days and a detailed agenda has been finalised. The dates are the 29th and 30th August, 19th and 20th September and the 10th and 11th October. NC invited the Bushfire Council, ESA and the RFS to attend. 8. TAMS have two staff presenting at the 2013 AFAC Conference in Melbourne in September. 9. The TAMS Fire Unit held a strategic planning day to map for the coming 12 months – a report on last year’s list of impressive achievements will be produced and sprovided to the BFC. 10. PCS is undergoing a government review into services – this will involve extensive work for PCS over the coming 6 months. 11. TAMS hosted a Bushfire CRC Research Group workshop on the Carbon and Water Research Project and the 3 year outcomes.   Statement by ML  Canberra is known as the Bush Capital 350,000 - 360,000 the ACT has spent 10 Million on Broad acre Bushfire Mitigation, ML concerned if the Government begins to erode that allocation Canberra will be in a position similar to 2003. | | |
| Agenda item: | ***7.0 – Update from Auditor General*** | Presenter: | **Dominic Lane** |
| Discussion:  ACTION: | Commissioner DL advised that the Auditor General tabled the Bushfire Preparedness Audit report to the speaker for the Legislative Assembly on Friday 26 July 2013. A key point was the confusion in the ACT Community with private lease holders regarding their bushfire prevention roles and responsibilities particularly with the BAZ. The Auditor General was very complimentary towards the ESA and TAMS with their efforts during the audit process and acknowledged the considerable work already conducted during the twelve (12) month audit process. The report consisted of twenty four (24) recommendations with only six (6) of the recommendations marked as high priority, and a two (2) year implementation timeframe for high priority, the Commissioner advised that ideally he sought implementation timeframe before the bushfire season.  The report was tabled to the Assembly on Tuesday 6 August; the Government is looking to respond back to the Assembly mid October 2013, in the meantime ESA is working hard to implement the recommendations.  DL has drafted a brief to the Minister for Emergency Services in relation to the implementation of the recommendations. A Bushfire Plan Management committee is being established, key representation of this committee will consist of TAMS PCL, Bushfire Council, Lease Holders Association, Conservation Council and the Volunteer Brigades Association (VBA). The review for SBMP version lll is scheduled for Tuesday 17September (subject to the Ministers availability)  RW & DL acknowledged the efforts of RFS & TAMS staff during the audit process.  **The Commissioner to table back to the BFC at various times, updates to the recommended actions of the Auditor General and seek Councils advice where required.** | | |
| Agenda item: | ***8.0 – Response from the Minister re: 10 Yr Report*** | Presenter: | **Chair** |
| Discussion:  ACTION: | DL advised that he was still waiting on the Minister’s approval to publish the report to the website.  **Secretariat to distribute to Council Members the Minister’s response to the 10 Yr Report.** | | |
| Agenda item: | ***9.0 – 2012/13 BOP Review*** | Presenter: | **Chair** |
| Discussion: | 2012/13 TAMS BOP Plan was provided at the previous BFC meeting on 3 July 2013.  KJ tabled the following comments on behalf of the BFC.  ***ACT Bushfire Council Comments on***  ***2013/14 TAMS Bushfire Operations Plan 24 July 2013***  ***Background***  *The ACT Bushfire Council received an overview presentation from Department of Territory and Municipal Services (TAMS) officers on the process for developing the 2013 TAMS Bushfire Operations Plan (BOP) and an update on achievements under the 2012 BOP at its meeting of 4 July 2013. Following that presentation, the Council agreed that a sub-group of members would meet the following week to discuss the BOP in more detail.*  *This sub-group meeting was held at ESA on 11 July 2013 (4.00 – 6.30 pm).*  *Present at that meeting were Kevin Jeffery, Tony Bartlett, Christine Goonrey, and Sarah Sharp (part). Officials present were: ESA – Dominic Lane, Andrew Stark; TAMS - Neil Cooper, Dylan Kendall.*  *The Commissioner indicated that he had received the draft TAMS BOP and that he now had 40 days to approve it and that he was looking to receive Council’s comments on the draft BOP in a timely manner.*  *TAMS officers indicated that there was still uncertainty about the magnitude of the 13/14 fire management budget, but that it was likely that the budget would be less than in 12/13 due to loss of Commonwealth NDRMP funds as well as Capital Works funds for Coombs and SBMP V2. Council noted that the Government had provided additional funding to implement the SBMP V2 and that for the past 3 years the TAMS fire management budget exceeded $10 million ($10.347m in 12/13). Council also noted that there was about $4.47m of fixed fire management costs within TAMS, associated with salaries, vehicles, offices and the post 2003 fire commitments on Rapid Response Plant and Crews, as well as about $1.48m nominally allocated to fire management slashing within the TAMS City Places budget.*  *Major issues needing to be taken into account in the preparation of this year’s BOP included:*   * *It is desirable to complete the upgrading of the Mt Franklin Road (remaining costs for completion are estimated to be $680,000).* * *There is an aim to complete the two year program to catch up the planned burns previously deferred due to a series of wet years.* * *There needs to be sufficient planned works to productively use the Rapid Response Plant when they are not required for firefighting.* * *TAMS need to allocate sufficient tasks for mechanical removal of roadside vegetation to justify bringing the specialist plant from interstate.* * *Some budget needs to be set aside for recovery operations following fire suppression and also to deal with unforeseen fire management issues.* * *Extra staff time will be needed for monitoring and reporting activities associated with the Auditor General’s recommendations.*   *Following the sub-group meeting, copies of the TAMS BOP and other information materials were provided to the remaining members of Council.*  *Three members of the subgroup met on 15th July to discuss the TAMS BOP and aspects of a draft set of comments. Some clarifications on some of the planned activities were sought from the TAMS Fire Management Unit. Council members provided additional comments during an email-based discussion between the 17th and 20th of July. The results of this discussion are reflected in this report.*  *This report has been endorsed by all Council members via email. The use of the email endorsement process is due to the timeframes imposed on the process by the Emergencies Act, where the Council advice to the Commissioner is to assist him in his 40-day period for approving the BOP.*  ***General Comments***  *Given that the SBMP V2 and associated regional fire plans established the strategic basis for fire management on TAMS-managed land, it is critical that the ACT Government continues to provide adequate funding to enable both the associated fire management operations and the TAMS contributions to RFS fire suppression capability to be implemented. Council is of the opinion that a fire management budget to implement the BOP in the order of $10m per year is required to achieve the desired level of fire management operations.*  *Given the relatively high proportion of the budget associated with fixed costs and slashing, the allocation of remaining funds must ensure that there is an appropriate balance across all other fire management activities, and that important activities such as monitoring, research and attendance at national meetings are provided for.*  *Council notes that the total resource availability for PCL staff days has decreased from 3,960 (12/13) to 3,355 (13/14) and is concerned about this trend. Council notes that staff days allocated to training has increased from 1033 (12/13) to 1102 (13/14)[[1]](#footnote-1). This demonstrates a consistent high commitment to training in the Parks brigade. Council notes that the number of days allocated to Auditing and Monitoring has doubled to 148 and increased by 20% for Planning and Research to 625.*  *In reviewing the planned activities within the draft TAMS BOP, Council has provided its comments on the basis that there will be approximately $10m available to implement these activities. If the TAMS fire management budget was to be reduced substantially, Council would wish to reconsider the priorities and provide further comments.*  ***Fuel Management***  *Council has reviewed the fuel management plan proposed in this BOP in conjunction with a review of activities from the previous year and a discussion about the upcoming years. Council sees that particularly in woodland and forest areas hazard reduction plans must be understood on a multi-year basis.*  *Council believes that because of the remaining backlog of planned burns due to wet seasons, TAMS should set all of this year’s planned hazard reduction burns to a priority 1 status in order to take advantage of favorable conditions whenever they arise.*  *Overall the Council is comfortable with the logic proposed by TAMS in arriving at the proposed number and priorities of burns for 2013/14.*  *Maps were tabled for 2013/14 planned burns. Points noted by Council members included:*   * *The importance of establishing strategic zones with reduced fuels is commended, e.g. FB087 (north and east of Mt Franklin Rd in upper Cotter, which was scheduled in 12/13 but subsequently replaced by the Smokers Gap burn FB072) and north of Bendora Break (which doesn’t seem to be in the tables?), both also offering strategic protection to ACT water supply from large landscape fire.* * *Two large burns in Namadgi (FB089 and FB082), both identified in the Regional Fire Plans, are sensible contributions to the establishment of fuel mosaic (each about 2000ha), with the Orroral burn offering some strategic protection for farming land in Naas Valley. It also makes a good contribution to establishing the required fuel age mosaic within Namadgi. Council has a question regarding the exclusion of the square area from FB089 and we suggest that it should be reconsidered.* * *A large burn in the south of Namadgi (FB082 and FB291) around Lone Pine is about 20% of the long unburnt zone. Council supports the logic of treating this area to reduce the risk of wildfire impacting on all of the long unburnt vegetation. Council supports the burns in the southern end of Namadgi as they show regard for and offer protection for our NSW neighbours to the east (in conjunction with the hazard reduction activities recently undertaken within NSW).* * *A balanced program of mosaic burns in Canberra Nature Parks, Black Mountain, Aranda, Bruce Ridge, Cooleman Ridge, Red Hill, Farrer Ridge and Fadden. Planned burns around Hall are also supported to reduce identified risks. These areas should only be burnt at low intensity, ideally retaining areas of unburnt vegetation.* * *Council recommends that TAMS reconsider “dropping” FB406 at Dunlop grasslands, as it seems to offer quite strategic protection (unless biomass is low, in which case a burn may compromise ecological integrity of the site). Council suggests that FB406 would most likely be higher priority than FB412 at Chifley which is still scheduled.* * *FB237 at Red Hill could be divided into two and only half burnt, in order to protect sensitive species in this area, without any significant compromise of fire protection.* * *Council supports the increased allocation of planned burns for Volunteer Brigades including several bush burns at Bonython Hill, Oxley, Mitchell, Farrer and Tharwa.*   *Other comments:*   * *Once the backlog of burns is completed in Namadgi, there should be some consideration of how the significant fuel loads in the former pine plantations at Blue Range can be treated.* * *It appears that most if not nearly all of the burns done last year and planned for this year are located on eastern fall country. While it is fair to say that the general orientation of the ACT is eastern fall, there do exist many areas of western fall – e.g. east of the dams and the Cotter where very intense fire generated in 2003. As an example, the country between the pipeline road and the river would benefit from a burn now.*   ***Access Management***  *Council supports the strategic concept that TAMS has employed to inform decisions around access works, which ensures that all parts of the estate are no more than a set distance from a road or helipad (to minimize walking distance and thus maximize speed of initial attack).*   * *It is critical that upgrade of Mt Franklin Road is completed as planned, recognising that approximately $1m of original funding had to be spent on EIS/Planning processes.* * *We support upgrading works on Bendora break and resheeting of McArthur Hill trail.* * *Council is cautious that postponing track maintenance at Red Hill and Oakey Hill doesn’t result in lack of access for tankers. Some significant erosion already exists on Red Hill saddle trail.*   ***Infrastructure and Equipment***  *Council notes the following points relating to infrastructure and equipment.*   * *We support work to improve helipad safety and to clean out dams at Percival Hill and Dunlop* * *General fire management consumables has increased by $80,000 from last year, yet purchase of drum chipper ($75,000) and aerial drip torch ($50,000) has been postponed, though it is noted that the previous budget item of Operational Equipment for BOP activities ($80,000) has disappeared. Perhaps some of these funds could be allocated to purchase of equipment that is used regularly and where long term ownership would reduce high recurring hire costs.*   ***Training***   * *Council has strong support for including the attendance at National fire meetings, AFAC, CRC, FFMG etc.* * *Council is very concerned about the ongoing lack of progress with enhancing and maintaining the capacity of the RFS (including Parks Brigade) in relation to providing relevant competency based training for key roles in the Incident Control System, including Controller, Operations Officer, Planning Officer, Logistics Officer, Divisional Commander, Resources Officer, Fire Situation Officer etc. The draft TAMS BOP doesn’t allocate staff days to any planned training activities related to IMT competencies. This is of considerable concern, given the fact that this was one of the issues raised by Council in its 2003 Bushfires -10 Year Review report.* * *Council is also concerned about the low number of burns allocated for RFS to complete, noting however that the number of allocated RFS burns has increased from 2012-13 and that not all the allocated RFS burns were completed last year. A total of 19 burns across 9 brigades may not give volunteers adequate exposure to live fire training events which in turn will not prepare these fire fighters for increased fire activity during the fire season. The RFS needs to work more proactively with the volunteer brigades (and where necessary with TAMS) to ensure that volunteers can undertake an adequate number of burns each year.*   ***Auditing, Monitoring, Planning and Research***  *Council notes that there are many actions identified by CPR as being of ecological concern. As a generalisation, there is a high number of proposed prescribed burns that CPR has indicated are outside the desired ecological fire frequency threshold. In these cases there appears to be an incompatibility between the proposed timing of fuel reduction burning and ecological values, although Council notes that for the large burning blocks there are obviously a range of ecological vegetation systems within the block.*  *Council also notes that a considerable number of actions have not yet been reviewed by CPR. Council relies on the comments made by CPR, given the extensive review that they undertake, with access to data and considerable on-site knowledge. Therefore Council requests that any actions that are of concern to CPR be brought to the attention of Council, and possibly to provide input into the decision-making process, if relevant.*  *Council supports the continuation of trials into the effectiveness of burning grassland (native and exotic) in winter, which provide cool burns in areas of ecological sensitivity.*  *Council remains concerned and would like to get assurance that monitoring does not get reduced if actions need to be dropped due to a reduction in funding. We request that we be provided with an update of what monitoring has occurred over the past four or five years, and how the results are being implemented.*  ***General Concerns and Comments***  *BFC members noted the following additional concerns, which were also raised last year but have not yet been resolved:*   * *The ACTPLA process for approvals for SBMP work is still not resolved and it is not sensible to make planning applications until the issue is resolved* * *The level of protection for new developments at Bonner and Amaroo in the northern part of the ACT is of concern - but this land is not managed by TAMS.*   *Council also notes the importance of managing this process over multiple years, and commends the efforts of TAMS in identifying those items that are carried over from last year’s BOP. There are a couple of recommendations that could improve this:*   * *Previously a map was provided showing burns proposed for this year in context with other years – that would be a useful tool for this analysis.* * *Provision of a mechanism to identify incomplete items from last year (or recent years) that have not been carried over.* * *It is necessary also to ensure that carry-over items are reviewed and re-rated to ensure they are still high priority, and not simply completed just because they are carried over from last year’s list.*   *Council believes that the BOP reflects an extremely strategic approach to bushfire management, and commends TAMS for the development of an excellent operational plan, acknowledging that it is an enormous effort to collate all these actions across the Territory, and at the same time taking into account the views and concerns of so many stakeholders.*  The Bushfire Council discussed the lack of budget allocated funding to complete the Mt Tenant road and discussions around the issue of the appropriateness of funding to enable TAMS to meet the priorities with in the BOP. | | |
| Agenda item: | ***10.0 – BOM Presentation*** | Presenter: | **Chair** |
| Discussion:  Action: | Council would like to have visibility at the pre-season briefing.  **RW to advise BFC of dates for the pre-season briefing.** | | |
| Agenda item: | ***11.0 – Seminar Notice of Fire Management*** | Presenter: | **Christine Goonrey** |
| Discussion:  Action: | CG asked the RFS to provide advice of any upcoming events/presentations regarding bushfire related issues to the BFC.  **Should ACTRFS become aware of events BFC Chair to be advised.** | | |
|  | ***13.0 – Next Meeting*** | Presenter: | **Chair** |
|  | **The meeting was closed at 18:05. The next meeting is scheduled for 11th September 2013** | | |

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| RFS LOGO.png 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.

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| **Action Item / Issue1** | **Originating Meeting date** | **Responsibility** | **Proposed/Revised completion date** | **General Comment** | **Status Update** |
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| 1. A briefing be sought to the Council from the LDA primarily to discuss the strategy they are applying to the Western Edge of Coombs and the broader area from the Sewerage Treatment Works south to the Stromlo office. | 1/5/13 | Kevin Jeffery | **August 2013** | **August update**: KJ Has written to the LDA but no response has been received to date.  DL will follow up a response from the LDA directly. | **Ongoing** |
| 1. Following the LDA briefing, a field trip of the Coombs area to be organised | 1/5/13 | Members | **July/Aug 2013** |  | **Ongoing** |
| 1. A copy of the research report that Adam Leavesley did locally on the affects of grazing on pasture and how it dropped the fire fuel levels to be presented | 1/5/13 | Neil Cooper | **July 2013** |  | **Complete** |
| 1. A statement to be formatted by members to summarize the Council’s recognition of the level of hazard reduction burning this year in line with the need to see resourcing for this continue.   NC to provide photographs/narrative showing the results of the HR’s. | 1/5/13 | Members  Neil Cooper | **July 2013**  **July 2013** | 1st part of the action has been completed by members, 2nd part of action is still ongoing. | **Part 2 Ongoing** |
| 1. A Financial year Business plan will be prepared by Council as part of the budget.   **June Update**: continue to prepare the business plan in conjunction with the RFS.  **July Update**: BFC to have an out of session topic plan – discussions with ESA re: Budget. | 6/4/13 | Members | **July 2013** | 1. Develop work plan - *ongoing* 2. Cost the work plan - 3. Write to the Minister – identifying the comprehensive work plan and the cost associated with it. | **Ongoing** |
| 1. Discuss the Communication strategies with Council members | 6/4/13 | Darren Cutrupi / TAMS Media | **July 2013** | **July update** – Darren Cutrupi to attend the September BFC meeting to head discussions with Council members. | **Ongoing** |
| 1. The Commissioner has been provided the ‘resolutions’ from today’s meeting for further action. A **TOR** on the Councils role is to be prepared. | 6/3/13 | Commissioner,  Secretariat  3 Council members.  3 ESA/RFS staff. | **May 2013** | Tabled  July update – Commissioner to send TOR to Secretariat for distribution to Council Members.  . | **Completed** |
| 1. Council will look to consider the NSWRFS proto type Category 6 Grasslands truck for future purchase. | 6/3/13 | Members | **Possibly be here for August meeting** | The vehicle is presently touring NSW and when it comes to Canberra AS will arrange for Council to inspect | **Monitoring** |
| 1. Email the Minister if necessary to ensure that we can put the 10 year report on the website | 5/6/13 | Kevin Jeffery | **July 2013** |  | **Ongoing** |
| 1. Provide feedback on the ACT Evacuation Policy to Andrew Stark | 5/6/13 | Members | **July 2013** |  | **Ongoing** |
| 1. The list of evacuation centres in relation to the draft Evacuation policy to be sent to members | 5/6/13 | Andrew Stark | **July 2013** |  | **Completed** |
| 1. Provide feedback on the SBMP draft project plan to Andrew Stark | 5/6/13 | Members | **21/06/13** |  | **Completed** |
| 1. Provide feedback on the draft TOR to Virginia Hayward | 5/6/13 | Members | **28/06/13** |  | **Completed** |
| 1. Draft TOR with preamble to be send to Faye Steward | 5/6/13 | Kevin Jeffery | **July 2013** |  | **Completed** |
| 1. Add a new standing agenda item “Conflict of Interest Issues” to future BFC meetings | 7/8/13 | Leandra Parker | **September 2013** |  | **Completed** |
| 1. A copy of the Ministers response to the 10 Year report to be sent to BFC members | 7/8/13 | Leandra Parker | **September 2013** |  | **Completed** |
| 1. ACT RFS to keep BFC members update to date with upcoming key events. | 7/8/13 | Andrew Stark | **As required** |  |  |
| 1. RFS to provide the BFC (after TAMS approval) a discussion paper on the on its audit of the TAMS BOP process. | 7/8/13 | Andrew Stark | **After TAMS approval** |  |  |
| 1. The Commissioner to table back to the BFC at various times, updates to the recommended actions of the Auditor General and seek Councils advice where required. | 7/8/13 | Commissioner | **As required** |  |  |
| 1. RW to advise BFC of the date for the pre-season briefing. | 7/8/13 | Richard Woods | **ASAP** |  |  |

1. Council notes the calculation errors in the version of the spreadsheet provided, and that the advice provided in this document is based on correct figures provided by TAMS via email on questioning by the Council. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)