



**ACT**  
Government



## ACT Bushfire Council

Meeting 4.00 pm to 7pm, Wednesday 2 August 2017  
Black Mountain Meeting Room  
ESA Headquarters

<b>Council Members</b>	Kevin Jeffery (Chair)	Marion Leiba	Steve Angus
	Cathy Parsons (Deputy Chair)	Sarah Ryan	Mick George
	Christine Goonrey	Natarsha Carney	Sandra Lauer
	Andrew Joyce	Tony Bartlett	
<b>Officials</b>	Mark Jones, Acting ESA Commissioner		
	Ron Weston, Acting Chief Officer, ACT Fire and Rescue		
	Rohan Scott, Acting Chief Officer, ACT Rural Fire Service, ESA		
	Tony Scherl, Acting Manager, Fire, Forests and Roads, Parks and Conservation Service, EPSDD		
	Lianna Guest, Acting Secretariat, ACT Bushfire Council		
<b>Invited Guests</b>	Tony Corrigan, Fire Ecology Project Officer and Greg Potts, Manager, Community Bushfire Protection		

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### *Minutes*

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**Agenda item:** *1.0 – Welcome and Apologies* **Presenter:** Chair

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Dominic Lane, Neil Cooper, Cathy Parsons, Sandra Lauer, Christine Goonrey and Tony Bartlett.

**Agenda item:** *2.0 – Condolence Motion* **Presenter:** Andrew Joyce

Council noted the attached Motion and acknowledged the late Mr Valentine Jeffery’s many years of dedicated service to the ACT Community, ACT Rural Fire Service and ACT Bushfire Council.

**Agenda item:** *3.0 – Disclosure of “Conflict of Interests” of Council Members* **Presenter:** Chair

No Conflicts of Interest were reported by Council Members.

**Agenda item:** *4.0 – Acceptance of minutes from previous meeting and update on action items arising from previous meetings* **Presenter:** Chair

**Discussion:**

The previous minutes were accepted, the Chair noted that the action items from previous meetings were on the agenda.

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**Agenda item:** 5.0 – Correspondence for noting

**Presenter:** Chair

Nil.

**Agenda item:** 6.0 – Topics from the 2017 ACT Bushfire Council Business Plan

**Presenter:** Chair

**Discussion:**

6.1 Review of achievements of the EPDSS Bushfire Operational Plan in 2016-17

The EPDSS Bushfire Operational Plan 2016-17 and Implementation Dashboard - 2016-2017 was tabled.

Tony Scherl provided a detailed overview of the 2016-17 BOP managed by EPSDD. The BOP is divided into nine main sections and covers all areas of fire protection including fuel management, access management, infrastructure, equipment purchase, training, auditing and monitoring, planning and research, education, response and standby. This year EPSDD's ACT Parks and Conservation Service completed 95.9% of the actions required under the 2016/17 BOP.

6.2 2016-17 Bushfire Operational Plans - Review of all Plans by Council for ESA Commissioner

Greg Potts provided an overview of the BOP's for the LDA and Health Directorate locations.

6.3 Community engagement/education/awareness report –report to be tabled (Apology from Fiona Amundson)

Rohan Scott provided an overview of the Community Engagement activities on behalf of Fiona Amundson. Fiona will provide the complete community engagement report out of session.

**Action:**

- 2017/18 EPSDD BOP to be presented at next meeting
- Parks to presented on progress of BOP & LDA progress
- Pre suppression plans (Fire & Rescue)
- Parks presentation – trends over time, tenure to be put in the BFC report
- BFC like to see LDA BOP when available
- Greg Potts to get report from 2016/17 for the next meeting
- Greg Potts to provide table to BOPs for the next meeting

**Agenda item:** 7.0 – Commissioner's Report to BFC

**Presenter:** Mark Brown

**Discussion:**

Vale Val Jeffery — On behalf of the ACT ESA the Commissioner offered sincere condolences to the Jeffery family on Val's passing.

ESA Commissioner — Dominic Lane, is currently acting as the Chief Operating Officer in Access Canberra until 8 September 2017. Mark Brown is acting ESA Commissioner during this period.

Fire Safety of ACT Buildings — Aluminium Composite Panels

Concern has been raised about products used for buildings that may not meet relevant standards. Non-compliant use of aluminium composite cladding has been reported as a factor in exacerbating fires in high rise buildings, most recently in the Grenfell Tower fire in London.

ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R) are working closely in partnership with Access Canberra, developers, builders, certifiers, engineers and other fire services to ensure people are aware of when combustible products are restricted for use. The ACT Government has formed a working group including representatives the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development (EPSD) Directorate, the ESA and Access Canberra to coordinate work to identify and address buildings that are at high risk from combustible cladding.

International Assistance — Canadian Inter-agency Forrest Fire Centre requested Australian assistance in

response to an escalating bushfire situation in British Columbia. The ACT sent three officers with expertise as Air Attack Supervisor/Air Operations Manager, In-country Agency Liaison Officer, and National Liaison Officer. It is anticipated that all ACT personnel will return to Australia on 1 September 2017, although this is subject to operational requirements and may change.

Interstate Assistance — Victorian Emergency Services Commissioner requested assistance from the ACT to deal with a major recycling fire in the Melbourne suburb of Coolaroo.

ACT F&R assembled a Strike Team comprising one Heavy and one Medium Tanker fitted with Compressed Air Foam System and a Commander vehicle. The Strike Team included one Commander, two Station Officers and five Firefighters and spent over a week in Victoria.

Recruitment of New Firefighters — Sixteen new firefighters will be recruited and trained as part of the funding provided in 2017-18 ACT Budget.

ESA Communication Centre (ComCen) Reforms — The implementation of the upgraded CAD system on 16 May 2017, allowed the ComCen project to commence as planned. How calls are answered and resources are dispatched did not change on 1 July 2017. A Commissioner's Guideline was released on 1 July 2017, stating how the ComCen project will progress. The first ComCen Workplace Consultative Committee (WCC) was held on 11 July 2017 and the WCC Terms of Reference were approved.

Seasonal Outlook — The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) forecast for August to October 2017 - El Niño is unlikely and there is an above average chance of low rainfall. There is a strong chance of above average maximum temperature for August to October 2017, but the potential clear night skies means a greater risk of frost. Low stream flow is most likely for the region with the potential for near median flow towards September from wet season rains.

Council thanked the Acting Commissioner for the update.

**Action:**

- Lynda Scanes to provide progress on the BFC appointments
- Introduction of new BFC members when they start (hand over)

**Agenda item:** 8.0 – *Land Manager's Report to BFC*

**Presenter:** Tony Scherl

**Discussion:**

Tony Scherl, Acting Manager, Forestry and Fire Management (EPSDD) provided an overview of current activities in his unit as summarised below.

**Action:**

- Report on Lower Cotter Catchment for BFC
- Parks to provide presentation or executive summary & recommendations of the Fire Management Unit review

**Agenda item:** 9.0 – *Chief Officer ACT Rural Fire Service Report to BFC*

**Presenter:** Rohan Scott

**Discussion:**

Rohan Scott provided an overview of current activities in his service as summarised below.

- Staff are progressing the annual preparations for the approaching 2017-2018 fire season
- Volunteer Brigades are starting to commence more frequent training sessions
- Three ACT RFS staff attended the recent Bushfire Symposium; they reported that the two days were full of very interesting topics and the high level knowledge of the presenters provided robust discussions
- Staff movements during the last month have allowed the ACT RFS to fill some positions on temporary basis. Two volunteers will act in positions in Operations and Membership sections for four weeks. Rob Thompson will be acting in

the role of Manager Operations. Rob has been seconded from ACT F&R to assist ACT RFS whilst staff are on deployment/leave

- Paul Simakoff-Ellims has been deployed to British Colombia to assist with the fires over there. Paul we be filling the role of (AAS) Air Attack Supervisor
- There is no formal request for additional international help however there are still many fires burning in the USA and Canada
- AFAC have sent a small team to Mongolia to assess the situation and asked to report back as to what Australia could assist with if a request for assistance was received

#### **Operations**

- The replacement JERRA11 heavy tanker has arrived and is currently having final inspections done before being commissioned into the fleet.
- The ACT RFS Shed upgrades are progressing well, with Guises Creek and Molonglo works due to commence or have already
- PPE research has been conducted with dress down shirts, work jacket and work trouser the main items looked at, and findings to be released once finalised

#### **Membership**

- The current ACT RFS membership is 470 volunteer, 179 Parks - total 649 members
- Training conducted in Advanced Firefighter Principals, Crew Leader field based mentoring, chainsaw refresher, hot props and basic fire fighter

#### **Community Protection Team**

- have finalised the National Bushfire Mitigation Program ACT Rural Leaseholders Grant Scheme
- are convening the Annual Bushfire Planning Forum at ESA Training on Monday 28 August 2017
- currently identifying how to improve timely Directorate Bushfire Operations Plan (BOP) reporting, data integrity, and exchange
- are working collaboratively with the Rural Services and Natural Resource Protection Team at Parks and Conservation to expedite completion of both Land Management Agreements (LMA) and the Farm Fire Wise (FFW) Programs.
- The Electronic Fire Danger Rating Signs (funded by the Natural Disaster Resilience Program) tender process has been completed and awaiting delivery of signs. The aim is to have the project finalised with the signs operational for the 2017-18 Bushfire Season

#### **Community Engagement**

- The Community Engagement Report to be emailed out of session

#### **Action:**

- Follow up on how to find presentations from the Symposium on the website
- Investigate possibility of having health messages 'Heat wave' on the new Fire Danger Rating signs, Greg Potts to follow up with lady from Health
- Community Engagement report (meant to be presented on the night) to be forwarded to BFC members

**Agenda item:** *10.0 – General Business*

**Presenter:** Chair

#### **Discussion:**

BFC report is progressing well; a skeleton report will be put together for the next meeting.

Request LDA attend the next meeting.

#### **Action:**

- Council to write a letter of support in the minutes for the budget and structure for preparing for the next phase of SBMP and Regional Fire Management Plan.

**Agenda item:** *11.0 – Next Meeting*

**Presenter:** Chair

Wednesday 13 September 2017.

**Closing:** The meeting was declared closed at 18:30pm.

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## ACT Bushfire Council Meeting Implementation of Action Items

### Active items for current meeting

Action Item / Issue	Originating Meeting date	Assigned To	Meeting Due Date	Status	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2017/18 EPSDD BOP to be presented at next meeting</li> <li>• Parks to presented on progress of BOP &amp; LDA progress</li> <li>• Pre suppression plans (Fire &amp; Rescue)</li> <li>• Parks presentation – trends over time, tenure to be put in the BFC report</li> <li>• BFC like to see LDA BOP when available</li> <li>• Greg Potts to get report from 2016/17 for the next meeting</li> <li>• Greg Potts to provide table to BOPs for the next meeting</li> </ul>	2 August 2017	Tony Scherl  Greg Potts			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lynda Scanes to provide progress on the BFC appointments</li> <li>• Introduction of new BFC members when they start (hand over)</li> </ul>	2 August 2017	Lynda Scanes			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report on Lower Cotter Catchment for BFC</li> <li>• Parks to provide presentation or executive summary &amp; recommendations of the Fire Management Unit review</li> </ul>	2 August 2017	Tony Scherl			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow up on how to find presentations from the Symposium on the website</li> <li>• Investigate possibility of having health messages 'Heat wave' on the new Fire Danger Rating signs, Greg Potts to follow up with lady from Health</li> <li>• Community Engagement report (meant to be presented on the night) to be forwarded to BFC members</li> </ul>	2 August 2017	PCS/ESA  Greg Potts  Fiona Amundsen			

Action Item / Issue	Originating Meeting date	Assigned To	Meeting Due Date	Status	Comments
Council to write a letter of support in the minutes for the budget and structure for preparing for the next phase of SBMP and Regional Fire Management Plan.	2 August 2017	Secretariat (Lynda Scanes)			

### Completed Items

Action Item	Originating Meeting date	Responsibility	Proposed/Revised completion date	Date completed
Agenda item 6 – IBFC would like to be a invited guests at the Senior Operations Group (Operational Officers) and the Senior Management Group (Administrative Officers) next meetings in July and August	3 May 2017	Secretariat		Complete
<p>Agenda item 6</p> <p>6.1 — BFC to give details about the type of data required for the August presentation on the history of bushfires in the ACT and the history of aviation support for bushfires.</p> <p>1) <b>Action:</b> Council to write to the CO ACT RFS and relevant stakeholders requesting detailed information to form data for the Annual Preparedness Report to the Minister.</p> <p>6.3 — Update on the Strategic Reform Agenda Programme</p> <p><b>Action</b> – Commissioner Lane to provide Council with an update on the SRAP at the next meeting.</p>	7 June 2017	<p>6.2 – Council</p> <p>6.3 – Commissioner</p>	5 July 2017	Complete
<p>Agenda item 5</p> <p>Item 5.3 SRAP SBMP update document to be circulated out of session.</p>	5 July 2017	Secretariat	11 July 2017	Complete

Agenda item 6 – email the details for BFC to submit an EOI to attend the AFAC Conference	5 July 2017	Secretariat		Complete
Agenda item 9 – The ESA Community Engagement Report and Canberra Bushfire Ready Campaign update to be included on the August Agenda.	5 July 2017	Secretariat		Complete
Agenda item 11 – Provide a new calendar invitation for the final meeting in September and venue details.	5 July 2017	Secretariat		Complete

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