



# ACT Bushfire Council Meeting

4<sup>th</sup> June 2014  
16:00 to 18:26  
Black Mountain 1 & 2  
Meeting Rooms  
ACTESA Headquarters

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<b>Chair:</b>	Kevin Jeffery (KJ), Chair	<b>Secretariat:</b> Leandra Parker
<b>Attendees:</b>	Cathy Parsons (CP), Member Marion Leiba (ML), Member Tony Bartlett (TB), Member Christine Goonrey (CG), Member Michael Lonergan, (ML), Member	Andrew Stark(AS), CO ACTRFS Dominic Lane (DL), ESA Commissioner Paul Swain (PS), CO ACTF&R Nick Lhuede (NL) SBMP Project Lead Scott Farquhar (SF), A/g Mgr Fire Forest and Roads, PCS

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## Minutes

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<b>Agenda item:</b>	<b>1.0 – Apologies</b>	<b>Presenter:</b>	<b>Chair</b>
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Andrew Joyce, Nicola Lewis (On leave from BFC).

<b>Agenda</b>	<b>2.0 – Disclosure of “Conflict of Interests” of Council Members</b>	<b>Presenter:</b>	<b>Chair</b>
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No Conflict of Interests reported by Council Members

<b>Agenda item:</b>	<b>3.0 – Acceptance of minutes of meeting</b>	<b>Presenter:</b>	<b>Chair</b>
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**Discussion:** The minutes from the previous meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2014 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Accepted by ML Seconded by CP

<b>Agenda item:</b>	<b>4.0 – Update on action items arising from previous meetings</b>	<b>Presenter:</b>	<b>Chair</b>
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**Discussion:** Refer to implementation of action items report ([Attachment A](#)).

<b>Agenda item:</b>	<b>5.0 – Correspondences</b>	<b>Presenter:</b>	<b>Chair</b>
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**Discussion.** Nil to Report

<b>Agenda item:</b>	<b>6.0 – SBMP Project Manager’s Report to BFC</b>	<b>Presenter:</b>	<b>Nick Lhuede</b>
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**Discussion** Please refer to Item 10

**Agenda item:** *7.0 – ESA Commissioner’s Report to BFC* **Presenter:** **Dominic Lane**

**Discussion:** ESA Commissioner tabled the “Auditor Generals Performance Report – Bushfire Preparedness ESA-TAMS-ESDD Implementation Plan” for Council members

**Agenda item:** *8.0 – RFS Chief Officers Report to BFC* **Presenter:** **Andrew Stark**

**Discussion:** **RFS Ops June 2014**

The burning program has continued but has been affected by weather cycles.

Another BF course has been undertaken from with a further 21 members qualified and completed a burn in the Murrumbidgee Corridor.

The capacity and membership of RAFT has been reviewed and a RAFT information night has been held at Rivers for Rivers/Southern/ Tid Brigade members.

**Public Events/Community Awareness**

Planning and preparation for the 2014 Open Day on the 26<sup>th</sup> October is underway

**Agenda item:** *9.0 – TAMS Land Managers Report to BFC* **Presenter:** **Scott Farquhar**

**Discussion:** **2013-14 BOP**

Work against the 2013/14 BOP is complete and gathering of evidence to ensure we meet auditing requirements is ongoing. Currently, 99% of activities are marked as commenced and 84% complete. These figures are subject to change as supporting documentation comes in. A full report will be provided to Council at the August meeting.

**Fuel Management**

***Prescribed Burning***

TAMS has completed 248 ha of the 263 ha identified in the urban areas with the remaining 15 ha not required due to lack of fuels. Because of wet weather and poor burning conditions, we were unable to complete 5,000 ha of rural burns this year. These remaining rural burns will be carried over into the next BOP – pre-burn works on these rural burns are well progressed.

***Slashing***

All slashing work for BOP related activities is complete. 214 of the 215 jobs have been marked as complete with one job not required.

***Chemical***

All Chemical jobs are complete.

***Physical Removal***

14 of the 18 Physical Removal jobs are complete, and on-ground work is continuing on all the remaining physical removal activities.

***Grazing***

All Grazing activities have been completed.

**Access Management**

***Maintenance***

On site work has been completed on 25 of the 32 access management maintenance activities.

***Upgrade***

Five of the six access management upgrade jobs are complete.

#### ***Vegetation Control***

Five of the 10 jobs are marked as complete.

#### ***Access Storm Damage***

TAMS completed repairs to 123 roads (of the 173 identified storm damaged roads listed in the 2013/14 BOP). Storm damage work has now ceased as the funds have finished and we will undertake remaining works as resources allow within the TAMS budget. All roads remaining are lower priority and do not affect fire accessibility.

#### **Infrastructure**

TAMS has completed 10 of the 13 infrastructure activities identified in the BOP and work has commenced on the remaining two.

#### **Equipment**

All equipment related activities are marked as complete.

#### **Training**

Of the 46 training activities, 13 have been completed (bushfire fighter, advanced fire fighter, crew leader, TAMS tanker driver assessments and lighting patterns), and a further 15 have commenced or are not required.

#### **Audit and Monitoring**

All activities are marked as complete.

#### **Planning and Research**

47 Planning and Research activities were identified and 21 are marked as complete. A further 19 activities have commenced with many of these (eg. reviewing plans for nature strip developments, reviewing plans for tree plantings, reviewing development applications) continuing throughout the year.

#### **Education**

Two of the three education jobs are complete

#### **Draft 2014-15 BOP**

The 2014/15 draft BOP is progressing well. RFS and CPR have provided comment and I anticipate that we will provide a full brief to Council at the next meeting in August.

The 2014-15 BOP is being built in a TM1 database customised application. In the future, we will draw all descriptive and reporting information on the TAMS BOP from this system.

#### **Budget Outcomes**

- In the 2014/15 Budget, TAMS received capital funding to complete Mt Franklin Road. Approvals are in place, or have been provided in principle, and we anticipate commencing on-ground works in September 2014.
- TAMS also received capital funding for construction of MacArthur Hill FT and design and approvals of Mt Clear FT, Naas Valley FT and Kinleyside FT.
- The Treasury Review into PACS services was completed and has resulted in additional funding and this is reflected in the 14/15 Budget. This funding also fills the hole created by the cessation of 2003 Insurance Funding.

#### **Staffing**

- Approvals are in place to recruit to seasonal positions and the intent is to advertise in the next couple of weeks with an expected start date of 1 September 2014.
- We are currently recruiting to permanent BOP Crew positions and hope to have this finalised by the end of July 2014.
- We have commenced recruitment processes to permanently fill the Roding and

Forestry positions (previously funded under 2003 Fire Insurance).

- We have advertised to fill Dylan Kendall's position (Senior Fire Planner) while he is on leave (Aug 2014 to Feb 2015).

### Preparedness

- We are in the process of organising fitness assessments and preparedness days (attendance and participation is compulsory for all TAMS fire staff).
- Pre-season vehicle and equipment checks have commenced and are scheduled for completion mid-August (pre burn and fire season)

### Other business

- Working on the designated positions to ensure we meet the requirement of 140 fully trained and available fire fighters from within TAMS.
- Two staff members have had successful applications for presentations at the AFAC Conference in New Zealand in September – one will give a paper and the other a poster. This is a great outcome given the high level of competition.

Agenda item:	10.0 – Review of the SBMP Draft	Presenter:	Members
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**Discussion:** Council Members discussed the SBMPv3 and provided feedback to Nick Lhuede.

Council agreed the document was very well presented, comprehensive and found the case studies to be very informative.

Nick agreed to make a number of changes to the SBMPv3 after receiving Council's feedback.

### General comments and suggestions

- Language used is sometimes confusing; use of plain English suggested. (reference to summary pp. Xi)
- Use of terminology may not be suitable for the general community, NL: there is a limit to the extent to which language can be "reduced". I.e. some technical areas need to remain so, however the glossary will be further reviewed
- Some confusion over what the objectives are and, what the principles are.
- Pp. xi; #6. Confusing paragraph.
- Suggestion to be consistent in all references to Government. See use of "Australian Capital Territory Government", "Government" in summary.
- "Human caused ignition"; could we not use plain terminology here? Suggestion: Arson? (Pp. Xi, #3,)
- There is no "end state" detailed in the Plan - this was discussed at length and views differed. In the context it is a strategic plan, many of the end state requirements will sit in subsidiary documents, however the purpose should be reviewed to be clearer.
- Fungi (soil/ invertebrate ecology more broadly) is not covered anywhere in the Plan.
- Specific actions are not measurable.
- Request for a list of specific actions to be tabled in the Plan.
- No reference to "National Bushfire Management Plan (FFMG paper)
- Need to make greater reference to involvement in and research and advice of CRC and AFAC.
- No mention in s.4 of where the supporting maps are located.
- Pp.11: no reference to BOP.
- Suggestion to reiterate Council's role in the governance of the Plan.
- Pp.19: Very long sentences.
- S8.3, 3rd paragraph; sharpen language and include Capital Works.
- BPA zones do not much up with what happened in 2003. Width of map zoning is too narrow. For example in the Duffy area it excludes houses that suffered ember attack in 2003.
- Add SBMP acronym to cover page.
- Pp. 4, last paragraph; are the directions correct? ("west and south, north and east")

- Pp. 29, suggestion to move paragraph #4 to the end of the section to make the section flow better.
- Pp.31, “Unmanageable fires”; statement of purpose needs to be included.
- re-word summary to simplify language.
- change pp.11 use of the word “forum”.
- NL Send “report” to Marion Leiba.
- NL to provide council with SBMP document with tracked changes following a redraft.
- NL to draft Executive Summary

<b>Agenda item:</b>	<b>11.0 – <i>Changes to Business Plan</i></b>	<b>Presenter:</b>	Chair
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**Discussion:** Draft copy of the BFC Business plan was tabled for comment.

**ACTION - ANDREW STARK TO UPDATE COUNCIL MEMBERS ON WEBSITE**