

ACT BUSH FIRE COUNCIL

**Meeting No. 6 20th January 2005 - 3.00pm-6.00pm
Commissioners Office**

**Emergency Services Bureau
123 Carruthers Street Curtin ACT**

1. Attendees

Dave Broderick	Interim Chair
Clem Davis	Member
Brian Murphy	Member
Tony Bartlett	Member
Geoff Cary	Member
Peter Dunn	ex-Officio
Michael Ross	ex-Officio
Bridie Cash	Secretary

Apologies

David Prince	ex-officio
Kevin Jeffery	Member
Bob Moore	Member

Mr Broderick opened the meeting at 3.10pm.

2. Minutes from previous meeting

A few minor changes-Previous minutes accepted with amendments.

3. New Business arising

No New Business arising.

4. Listing of new Agenda Items

Appointments for the senior officer and the DFCO.

5. Correspondence

Nominations for conference.

6. Reports

6.1 Peter Dunn-Commissioner

We have launched Version 1 of the Strategic Bushfire management plan. Version 2 is due to be complete by the 1st July 2005. The Rural Fire Service will undertake the writing of version 2.

ESA would like to give their thanks to the BFC for their involvement in the production of the plan.

Simon Corbell last week launched a set of development guidelines for building, which now set a standard for having site-specific inspections, and recommendations being made on the building standard which is to be used for new dwellings that risk assessment is considered.

The Authority is involved in the Tsunami relief. We have organised a team of engineers to go and do assessments in the Maldives.

The ESA experienced a power failure last week where the circuit breaker was tripped, Power was down for 13 minutes and communication was gone for 60 seconds, whilst the transition to handheld radios was completed.

ACTION: Bridie to ask Steve Ayling for distribution list for SBMP.

6.2 Michael Ross-Rural Fire Service

The ACT Rural Fire Service now has 3 fully functional ICS centres around the ACT. These are located at Stromlo, Athlon and Gungahlin JESC, these are now fully fitted and capable of running an IMT. These all are equipped with wall maps, portals for communication equipment, and a fly away kit.

The ACT RFS now has a full team on board this has doubled in the last 6-12 months.

The Prue Dobbin project has kicked off. Essentially she will be looking at where our gaps are and what training have we offered over the last 5-10 years in the ACT and how does that fit in with the current standard and what do we need to do to bring those people that were involved in that training up to the standard that we want them to be. This is expected to be complete by June 05, once this project is tabled we will be able to offer refresher courses for those that require them, this will attempt to bring all RFS volunteers up to the current National AFAC standard for AIIMS.

RFS has placed an order for 4 new 2500 litre CAFS units. These are an addition to the fleet not replacement vehicles.

Peter Dunn-on behalf of Fire Brigade

The second recruit graduates march out on the 28th January. This will give us 36 additional fire fighters in the ACT.

The 4 new CAFS units will be launched on the 7th February.

The BFC would like to take a look at the CAFS units.

6.3 Clem Davis-Bureau of meteorology

Did a presentation at ESA on the Role of the Bureau of meteorology and the Emergency Services Authority. Approx 12-15 people attended, quite positive feedback was provided to Clem.

It was suggested that now RFS has all their staff, a trip to the bureau would be beneficial.

6.4 Geoff Cary-ANU

Jim Gould, Justin Leonard and Dave Nichols are at Eyre Peninsula at the moment looking at what lessons we could learn.

Before the last election the government announced 3 million dollars further funding for the Bushfire CRC for high country and fire projects, there has been some movement on this.

ACTION: Geoff and Mike to have meeting and follow up.

6.5 Brian Murphy - Fire Controllers Meeting

The fire controllers have met. Nothing to report.

6.7 Tony Bartlett - ACT Forests

- All the work within Stromlo forest that ACT Forests were undergoing is now complete.
- There are a large number of Aboriginal artefacts (stone fragments) that occur on virtually every forest road and this is causing concern because according to the legislation, a gap of 100 metres needs to be left on every spot where they think that there may be an artefact. This affects the slashing program.
- One of the staff members from ACT Forests went to a briefing on the Namadgi Plan and was informed by the executive director that the Namadgi Plan overrides ALL plans including the SBMP. This is not correct.

- DUS has instructed ACT Forests to issue an instruction today saying that until the outcome of the review processes NO machinery can be unloaded in an unsupervised manner from any DUS related machinery or contractors working for DUS and certainly not on any site other than level ground.

ACTION: Peter, Mike and Tony to talk with Maxine regarding the legislation & Heritage ACT.

6.8 Dave Broderick-Chairman-Volunteer Brigades Association Meeting

Nothing to report.

7. General Business

7.1 Lessons learnt from 2003-Tony Bartlett

Kevin, Tony & Dave have had their meeting. The document is now complete and has been handed out for comment from BFC.

The general comment from the BFC is that it is a very valuable document, and the subject areas are good ones, but we do need to perhaps re-word some of the document. We need to concentrate on existing actions and further actions, look at the positives rather than the negatives.

The BFC would like to thank Dave, Tony & Kevin for the effort and time put into this document.

ACTION: Geoff, Dave and Kevin to meet and look at editing the wording of the document.

7.2 Appointment of Senior Officers

A resume and basic background on the people appointed to the RFS should be circulated to members.

Appointment of the Deputy Chief Officer in Rural Fire Service- A CV will be circulated with a view to informing council members of the suitability of John Fisher in the role of Deputy Chief Officer.

ACTION: A list of senior officers to be listed for next council meeting.

7.3 Government request on co-ordination on bushfire mitigation measures- Peter Dunn

- The government would like to see a whole of territory view of bushfire mitigation measures and wants a process put in place where ESA consolidates bushfire mitigation activities and costs into a single document for government and the government requires the authority to express a view on the efficacy or

otherwise of those mitigation measures. A submission has been drafted for government for approval, which outlines the changes that could be implemented.

- We have now been asked to provide a briefing on 2nd appropriation bids and also to include in this document an 05/06 budget bids.
- There is fundamental change in the territory to allow the bringing together in a very transparent way all of the bushfire mitigation measures and for the Authority to express advise to the government on that and this will change the exiting process where it is done on an agency by agency basis.
- At the Land Managers meeting 1st week of February there will be discussion on management of land in transition and how it will be handled. The ESA will be requested to take over some land management hazard mitigation functions.

7.4 Strategic briefing AIIMS-Michael Ross

Michael has given handout on strategic briefing on implementation of the AIIMS in the ACT.

Please take away and digest for next meeting.

8 Confirmation of next meeting

Thursday 24th February 2005 3pm

ACTIONS

ACTION: Bridie to ask Steve Ayling for distribution list for SBMP

ACTION: Geoff and Mike to have meeting and follow up.

Re: government announced 3 million dollars further funding

ACTION: Peter, Mike and Tony to talk with Maxine regarding the legislation & Heritage ACT.

ACTION: Geoff, Dave and Kevin to meet and look at editing the wording of the document.

ACTION: A list of senior officers to be listed for next council meeting