

Minutes



ACT BUSHFIRE COUNCIL (BFC)

13 January 2010

ACTRFS HEADQUARTERS

4 POINT COOK AVENUE

FAIRBAIRN ACT

Wednesday 13th January 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. Agenda Items

6.1 Pre formed Incident Management Teams (IMT's)

6.2 Fire management strategies for Pine plantations near urban areas

6.3 Slip – on's

6.4 Uriarra Village

7. Other Business

8. Outstanding Items/Issues

9. Confirmation of next meeting

AGENDA ITEM: 1 – 5

DATE: 13 January 2010 1600-1900Hrs

LOCATION: ASOC Fairbairn

Meeting Opened Time: 1615 **Close:** 1900

1. Welcome by Chairman

Kevin Jeffery opened the meeting at 1615

The BFC welcomed the new ESA Commissioner; Mr Mark Crossweller.

Mr Crossweller thanked the council for their time and gave a brief history on himself and the skills and experience he brings to the Agency and RFS,

2. Attendees/Apologies:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Kevin Jeffery | (KJ) Chair / Member |
| Tony Bartlett | (TB) Deputy Chair / Member |
| Michael Lonergan | (MIL) Member |
| Simon Katz | (SK) Member |
| Marion Leiba | (ML) Member |
| Tony Fearnside | (TF) Member |
| Cathy Parsons | (CP) Member |
| Christine Goonrey | (CG) Member |
| Mark Crossweller | (MC) Ex-officio ESA Commissioner |
| Andrew Stark | (AS) Ex-officio RFS Chief Officer |
| Phil Canham | (PC) ACT Fire Brigade |
| Michelle Fleming | (MF) Secretariat |
| Neil Cooper | (NC) PCL |

Apologies:

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Ken Batt | (KB) Member |
| Peter Kanowski | (PK) Member |
| Conrad Barr | (CB) Ex-officio Chief Officer Fire & Rescue |

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

Minutes of the 2nd December 2009 meeting tabled.

Changes to the minutes to be updated:

Motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting was moved by ML and seconded by MIL, and carried by the meeting

4. Actions Running Sheet:

Action Required:

AGENDA ITEM: 6.1

SUBJECT: Pre formed Incident Management Teams (IMT's)

BACKGROUND:

Qualified RFS and TaMS officers have been identified and rostered into preformed IMT's. Rostered teams of 3 officers are 'on call' throughout the season. On days of TOBAN these teams form up in the ECC in Curtin. In the event of an incident occurring (level 2 or 3), the IMT is in place, ready to go.

CURRENT SITUATION:

In the event of it being identified that an incident may impact on the urban edge (or within the BAZ) senior ACTFB officers may be called into the IMT.

RECOMMENDATION:

That BFC supports senior ACTFB officers being included within ongoing IMT rostering arrangements, not just brought in at short notice if or when deemed necessary.

SOURCE: Simon Katz

RESOLUTION AND/OR DECISION:

Discussion was held with the following key points emerging:

- Outlined past/present arrangements in the ACT.
- Would like to see more ACTFB involvement in IMT's
- Need to ensure the right person with the right qualifications are used in the IMT.
- Facilities where IMT is to be located needs to be right both in design and functionality.
- Must ensure only one IMT running each Incident. We need to avoid individual Fire Services doing their own thing.
- Concern was raised over current size of preformed IMT. Currently stands at a three persons per team. The feeling is there should be an absolute minimum of four per team as per AIMS standards.
- (AS) Identified an issue regarding interoperability of TRN radio system within agency. Will be discussing his concerns at appropriate forum.

RECOMMENDATION FROM BFC:-

Request a report into current operation and clearly state the BFC concern that the current set up is lacking and needs to be addressed as a priority.

- Concern was raised over the effective design of the new HQ Comms Centre. Council to recommend variations as identified.

RECOMMENDATION

The Bush Fire Council recommends the following.

- Interagency representation on pre-formed IMTs should be formalised.
- Pre-formed IMTs should meet the Aust Standard.
- Pre-formed IMT team groupings should be formed with regard to the different roles.
- BFC support variations to current design of the new Headquarters facility that support and optimise the flow of information and decision making. BFC recommend changes to new HQ subject to the approval of the Commissioner and his chiefs.

The motion to make the recommendation was moved by CG, seconded by MIL, and carried by the meeting.

ACTION REQUIRED:

Andrew Stark to prepare a report and advise BFC of outcome.

AGENDA ITEM: 6.2

SUBJECT: Fire Management Strategies for Pine plantations near urban areas

SOURCE: Tony Bartlett

RESOLUTION AND/OR DECISION:

Tony Bartlett provided an interesting and comprehensive paper on management strategies for Pine Plantations.

The paper included a detailed report of the impact on the Duffy area during the 2003 fires and included the ember zone.

Some discussion took place focussing on preparedness and individual plans based around Stay and Go.

Fact sheets available clearly informing residents on what they should do and where they can go possible better dissemination of material and information required.

MOTION MOVED:

MOTION SECONDED:

ACTION REQUIRED:

MIL and ML would like the complete report to be included as an attachment of the minutes'

The report to be provided to all members of the BFC'

BFC will add the following agenda item for later in the year - ESA to request ACTPLA to consult on future developments that may have impact on the community during bushfire events.

AGENDA ITEM: 6.3

SUBJECT: Slip – on's

SOURCE: Andrew Stark

RESOLUTION AND/OR DECISION:

The Chief Officer RFS brought to the attention of the Council that due to the proposed nationally harmonised OH&S laws, we will need to ensure that people/properties that are issued with slip-on units are trained adequately and supplied with appropriate PPE.

A review of the appropriate legislation is required to ensure we are operating within legal requirements.

There are some concerns over the liability for incorrect use of these resources.

Council agreed that it would review further detail on the issue after the Chief Officer undertook some more detailed research.

ACTION REQUIRED:

Andrew Stark to review legislation requirements and report finding back to the BFC members,

AGENDA ITEM: 6.4

SUBJECT: Uriarra Village

SOURCE: Michael Lonergan

RESOLUTION AND/OR DECISION:

Further discussion was held on Fire Protection for the Village.

A problem exists stemming from a BOP report on the fuel management activities re – grazing in particular on the western side of the Uriarra Village settlement

After a short discussion, Council agreed that an inspection was required to gather detail on the issue.

ACTION REQUIRED:

Andrew Stark and members of the BFC to visit the Uriarra village to inspect the issues around fuel management.

AGENDA ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: Other Business

1. TaMS BOP update for ESA Quarterly report.

Not discussed, carry over.

2. Michelago (Tea Tree Creek) Fire

Further discussions were held after the meeting had closed.

3. Mt Franklin Road

Mt Franklin Road – Concerns over road classification after the locked gate at Mt Ginini. The Council members would consider an invite to the consultant to attend a meeting to discuss these issues.

4. Stockyard Spur

Stockyard Spur EIS extended to 1st Feb 2010.

5. Current appointments that have past expiry date have now been extended for three months.

AGENDA ITEM:

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Time and Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 3th February 2010