

# MINUTES



## ***ACT BUSHFIRE COUNCIL (BFC)***

**03 MARCH 2010**

***ACTRFS HEADQUARTERS***

***4 POINT COOK AVENUE***

***FAIRBAIRN ACT***

**AGENDA ITEM:** 1 – 5

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**DATE:** 03 MARCH 2010 1600-1900Hrs

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**LOCATION:** ASOC Fairbairn

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**Meeting Opened** Time: 1620 Close: 1900

**1. Welcome by Chairman**

Kevin Jeffery opened the meeting at 1620

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**2. Attendee:**

Kevin Jeffery	(KJ) Chair / Member
Tony Bartlett	(TB) Deputy Chair / Member
Michael Lonergan	(MIL) Member
Marion Leiba	(ML) Member
Tony Fearnside	(TF) Member
Cathy Parsons	(CP) Member
Simon Katz	(SK) Member
Kenn Batt	(KB) Member
Mark Crossweller	(MC) Ex-officio ESA Commissioner
Conrad Barr	(CB) Ex-officio Chief Officer ACT Fire Brigade
Andrew Stark	(AS) Ex-officio RFS Chief Officer
Neil Cooper	(NC) Ex-officio ACT Parks Conservation and Land Management
Michelle Jenkins	(MF) Secretary

**Apologies:**

Peter Kanowski	(PK) Member
Christine Goonrey	(CG) Member

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**3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2010 meeting tabled.

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Changes to the minutes to be updated:

A number of minor items were discussed by Bushfire Council Members and Secretary in order to finalise the Minutes of the previous meeting.

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

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**4. Actions Running Sheet:**

**February Meeting – Item: 6.1 Pre-Formed IMT**

The ESA Minute relating to Pre-Formed IMTs that has been prepared and agreed by Chief Officers was presented to Council. Some discussion was held. General view of Council members was that the Minute was a well prepared document and should work well as an operating document.

There were some suggested additions made by Council members that should be included within the Minute.

- Points 2 & 3 should include the following factors when making decisions:
  - On going fires; and
  - Weather forecast & outlook.

No other changes were noted and Council thanked the Chief Officers for working together to prepare this document.

### **February Meeting – Item: 6.2 Fire Management Strategies for Pine Plantations near Urban Areas**

A short discussion was held on the progress of the Coombs suburb planning. NC outlined issues and concerns held by TaMS for Coombs, relating to the encroachment of inner asset protection zones into land managed by TaMS, including some in riparian zones. TaMS have provided advice to LDA.

NC encouraged both ACTPCL and RFS to work together when providing advice as both hold similar interests and concerns.

### **February Meeting – Item: High Fire Risk Project**

- Andrew has sent invitation to Jason Sharples and Rick McRae, awaiting reply.
- ACTPCL to host a High Fire conference in Albury in May. NC encouraged Council to send members to that Conference.

### **Cotter Catchment**

Council discussed a possible field trip to the Cotter catchment to consider the fire management needs.

- MIL to talk to Brian Summers 62050764.

**AGENDA ITEM:** 6.1

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**SUBJECT:** Strategic plan this year for Council.

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Council agreed that in order to provide the best advice in a timely manner it would be necessary to prepare a plan for what important issues or tasks would be discussed and undertaken at various points during the year (noting that urgent issues may still arise from time to time).

A lengthy discussion was held looking at the issues deemed as currently important regarding bushfire protection in the ACT, requirements for the provision of specific advice over the coming year and other foreseeable constraints.

The following priorities were recommended as a result of the discussions:

**April**

Review of LDA/ACTPLA development proposals and planning approval process.

**April/May**

BFC Field trip to Victoria.

**May**

Review of 09/10 bushfire season and risk management.  
Review of Volunteer issues.

**June**

Review of 10/11 BOP.  
BFC Field trip to the Cotter Catchment.

**July**

Discussion and finding from Cotter Catchment Field trip.

**August**

Preliminary discussion on the Victorian Royal Commission.

**September**

Annual Preparedness Report.

**October**

BFC need to be in a position to provide a preliminary report to the government on any possible implications to the ACT coming out of the Victorian Royal Commission.

**November**

Review of Incident Management Arrangements.

**December**

Review of Co-ordination Arrangements with NSW.

Outlook calendar reminders to be sent to each member plus a hard copy.

**ACTION ITEM**

- By the end of the next BFC meeting, Council to identify who else should be invited to BFC Field trip to the Cotter Catchment. Eg ACTEWAGL, ACTPLA, LDA etc.
- Chair to finalise the Calendar and send to all members and to the Minister.

**AGENDA ITEM:** 6.2

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**SUBJECT:** ACTPLAS re Coombs

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**DECISION:**

CB, NC and AS provided information on the consultation process that had been undertaken with ESA and TAMS regarding Coombs at this stage.

To date ESA have only been asked to comment on the broad concept of the Molonglo Valley. There has been a focus on asset protection zones ongoing during growth stages. Council members noted that these zones, where temporary due to later growth plans, should be the developer's responsibility.

Council agreed to discuss the planning issues at the next Council meeting. Council members agreed to extend an invitation to ACTPLA/LDA to attend April BFC Meeting to clearly signal the intentions of BFC and to monitor the development in the interface of the ACT.

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**ACTION REQUIRED:**

AS to prepare a presentation to the BFC/ACTPLA/LDA to clearly outline current policy and arrangements, BFC may then be able to identify issue to be brought the attention of the Minister.

**AGENDA ITEM:** 6.3

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**SUBJECT:** Neil Cooper

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**BACKGROUND:**

Neil Cooper of ACT has been recognised in the 2010 New Year Honours list for 'outstanding public service to the development of improved fire management programs within the Australian Capital Territory.

That Council recognised the award and congratulated Mr Cooper.

**AGENDA ITEM:** 7

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**SUBJECT:** Other Business

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### **7.1. Kenn Batt**

KB noted to the meeting that it will most likely be his last meeting in April. He is moving to Tasmania.

### **7.2. Mt Clear/Brandy Flat HR burn**

MIL and NC provided details of the upcoming prescribed burn in the Mt Clear area of Namadgi. It will be around 3500 hectares. The main aim of the burn is to help prevent fires leaving ACT into NSW.

### **7.4. Printed SBMP Copies**

Council members asked whether printed copies of the SBMP were available, AS noted that Nick Lhuede would provide a copy to any/all BFC members when more copies are printed. MJ to remind Nick again.

### **7.5. Fuel Reduction Paper**

TB informed the Council that the Report on Fuel Reduction Burning in Southern Forests, by the Victorian Lands Alliance, was available. TB commended the paper to Council members. The paper is available at [www.landsalliance.org](http://www.landsalliance.org)

### **7.6. Federal Golf Course**

TB raised the issue surrounding ACTPLA/Federal Golf Course proposed development (60 Units). There are two fire management issues 1) one way-one lane road. 2) Has the EIS being looked at seriously? The meeting noted that the area burned very intensely in 2001.

Action: Case study next meeting.

### **7.7. Litigation**

AS spoke about the current litigation before the ACT Court re 2003 fires, providing detailed information about the process (mainly to determine legal aspects) and the potential effect on ESA staff and volunteers, including their possible need for support services.

### **7.8. Assistance to the SES**

CB passed on thanks and compliments from the Chief Officer, SES as to the assistance from both fire services during the significant rain events of recent weeks.

### **7.9 ESA Strategic Workshop**

The Commissioner detailed to the meeting the upcoming ESA Strategic Planning Workshop to be held on the 15/16 March 2010. He noted that the Council Chairman was invited. The Commissioner invited the Council chairman to provide feedback on workshop to ensure it is hitting the mark. Senior delegates nationally attending from fire agencies, SES, AFAC etc.





**AGENDA ITEM:** 8

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**SUBJECT:** Outstanding Items / Issues

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**NIL**

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**RESOLUTION AND/OR DECISION:**

**MOTION MOVED:**

**MOTION SECONDED:**

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**ACTION REQUIRED:**

**Time and Date of Next Meeting:**

1600 on 07<sup>th</sup> April 2010