

issues. Neil Cooper is confident that the project is moving in the right direction. Christine Gooney stated that community groups are concerned with the current conservation plans.

Conclusion/ Decision:

Neil Cooper will discuss with Dylan Kendall and provide an update to Christine for the conservation council meeting.

Agenda item:	4.0 – Correspondence	Presenter :
---------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------

Incoming:

Nil

Outgoing:

Letter to Minister regarding views on proposed parks restructure

Action items

Nil

Agenda item:	5.0 – AFAC Update	Presenter :
---------------------	--------------------------	--------------------

Discussion

:

Andrew Stark informed council that AFAC is holding their annual conference in 3 weeks time; it is jointly hosted by ACT and NSW. Andrew Stark has recently been to a meeting where AFAC are reviewing the structure of the working and sub working groups and how they receive advice from agencies. AFAC have been active in the national agenda for the royal commission and made a number of omissions direct to the commission. AFAC has come under criticism by the royal commission in relation the Stay or Go policy; they have been very activity in reviewing this policy. AFAC are leading works with the building commissions of Australia to try and work though solutions for fire standards. AFAC have also included SES in their membership, this is challenging due to competing interests.

Andrew Stark advised that due to the Victorian trip council undertook at the beginning of the year there isn't a budget allocation to send council members to the conference in August. Council members advised that in previous years when they have attended the conference they have found it to be very informative and helpful. Parks members are sending 10 staff to the AFAC conference.

Christine asked for an update in relation to the bunkers from bushfire CRC, Andrew Stark replied that the Victorian building commission is developing tasks for community refuges. A standard for personal bunkers already exists. All information/ advice in relation to the standards for community refuges are currently under commercial in confidence. Andrew stated that he should have access to a draft shortly though AFAC. Andrew Stark states the community refuges are mainly a Victorian issue due to large amount of areas in extremely dense isolation such as Gippsland. Christine further queered the information of personal bunkers being made available to the public, AS stated that the RFS wouldn't promote the bunkers as this is a personal decision.

Andrew Stark stated that currently when a suburb is declared, the bushfire prone layer is removed. This isn't a problem in new development as the risk is removed but for other older suburbs such as Aranda, there are new properties being built with no specific bushfire construction. Andrew Stark stated that he will be pushing for the declaration of bushfire prone areas. Neil Cooper stated that previously the Ministers have been reluctant in declaring these areas due to an attempt to increase affordable housing for the community.

Michael Lonergan raised the subject of the AFAC professionalism of volunteers. Paul Swain replied,

it is similar to standards implemented with the ACTFB with tertiary qualifications online to particular ranks and a defined career path, the problem is that all previous attempts haven't achieved what AFAC are setting out to achieve. Michael added the comment that he felt there wasn't any additional advantage to volunteers as they are already well supported and recognised by the community.

Kevin Jeffery questioned how the ACTRFS is going with recruitment; Michael Joyce replied that RFS is recruiting well taking on approximately 30 new members this winter season. RFSHQ currently working with brigades to further develop their constitutions to classify volunteering into separate categories; support, operational, non active, cadet etc.

Discussion followed about Urriara township, Rivers and RFSHQ staff conducted a recruitment information session for interested Urriara residents to attend. However only approximately 4 residents attended this session. None of these residents have yet followed through and joined rivers. There have been rumours that Urriara residents are going to purchase their own light unit for the village.

Action items

Agenda item:	6.0 – Annual Report to Minister	Presenter :
---------------------	--	--------------------

Discussion 6.1

Kevin Jeffery discussed the need for council members to begin thinking about the annual report and what information should be included.

Conclusions / Decisions:

Kevin Jeffery to send out an email to council members regarding details of annual report and seeking advice on topics to included.

Agenda item:	7.0 – other business	Presenter :
---------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------

Discussion 7.1

:

Andrew Stark informed council the commissioner has formally received the BOP packet from TAMS. He asked what advice council would like to provide to the commissioner before he approves the BOP.

Conclusions / Decisions:

Kevin to collate council advice via email to be presented to the commissioner.

Discussion: 7.2

Council requested when they will next receive preseason advice from BOM, Michael Joyce replied that a report will be issued in August.

Conclusions / Decisions:

Andrew Stark to provide August BOM report to next council meeting,

Discussion: 7.3

IMT roles.

Conclusions / Decisions:

There was no discussion on this topic, Kevin Jeffery asked Michael Joyce to follow up IMT roles for next meeting.

Discussion: 7.4

Marion Leiba provided an insight into a Marysville Steel band which has been set up as a coping mechanism for members of the community who lost their houses in the 09 Victorian fires.

Conclusions / Decisions:

Nil

Discussion: 7.5

Christine Gooney asked for an update regarding the civil litigation case.

Conclusions / Decisions:

Michael Joyce/ Neil Cooper to follow up and to provide further information and details as to why to litigation case has been stopped and the outcomes.

Discussion: 7.6

Kevin Jeffery reminded member of the upcoming RFS Awards Presentation and Gala Dinner on August 22nd at the Hellenic club.

Other Information

Next Meeting: 1600 7 September 2011, ESA Headquarters.