

6. CG raised Council's concerns about planning at Molongolo. She stated she is aware of inconsistent statements being made by certain agencies and is unsure about the cooperativeness of the parties involved. The Minister responded that he is now overseeing both Planning and Emergency Services and this is to reduce the level of agencies operating in a manner that sees themselves separate from the entity as a whole, and this action will encourage a united front. The Minister encouraged Council to raise concerns with him, and stated he is happy to take these issues to his frequent meetings with Andrew Barr, MLA. AS confirmed that Council is seeing issues in Fire Management and environmental management in the planning of Molongolo. He stated that Council is witnessing developers attempting to use plans that worked well with the development of other areas, and apply them to Molongolo, with inadequate consideration given to the environmental and fire risks unique to that area. The Minister responded that the planning and Environment portfolios have been brought together, acknowledging there is a history of uncooperation, in an attempt to mitigate these impacts and bring together common objectives.
7. TB raised the issue of Mount Franklin road stating that has been on Council's agenda frequently. The Minister stated that he shares the frustration of the Council. He stated that they are encountering delays in planning at different levels, including the new shed for Tidbinbilla Brigade. The Minister expects that now the portfolio is under him, he can address the issues.
8. CG stated that there is concern that the Policy and Research section, previously in TAMS, is moving to the Environment Directorate and hence will not be working as closely with the operational and policy staff at the Mt Stromlo Depot who will remain with TAMS. The Minister responded that he plans to watch this closely, and will revisit the issue once the changes in the Directorate have settled down. He feels reporting to a single Minister is useful in making sure Directorates are talking to each other. He advised Council to check back with him in 6-12 months.
9. TB raised the issue of long term plans for the Stromlo TAMS depot and its location in its current area. He stated that office was purpose built not only to provide day to day functions but to enable a fairly significant fire incident to be managed from its location and to see it knocked down due to maintenance and access would be a shame. The Minister responded that he was not aware of the issue.
10. The Minister was asked about the issue of potential funding decreases due to the wet year. The Minister stated that he anticipates that extra work will need to be done, and that it is an important agenda he will be keeping a close eye on.
11. The Minister referred to notes given to him by Council regarding their role in endorsing the BOP. The Minister stated that ESA Commissioner determines the BOP and the Commissioner can seek advice from Council and take it into account where he sees fit, and he supports that. KJ questioned that in addition to the ESA Commissioner, were they to give advice to TAMS during the process of developing the BOP. AS stated he has had discussion with the Commissioner, and they feel the committee could not meet its statutory responsibility of advising the Minister, if a high level of visibility and transparency across the BOP in its development and review to measure the level of preparedness. NC confirmed that they are completing the current BOP, and preparing the new BOP to present to the ESA Commissioner. He advised that it is due to be presented around the mid June, and they are in the process of matching the budget to the plan. He confirmed that there was approval to roll over \$800 000 of the current budget into next years. CG commended staff on the greater cooperation between RFS and TAMS.
12. The Minister addressed Council's questions about the ESA headquarters. He stated that the exact amount is yet too quantified but it anticipated that the cost will be covered by insurance. He advised that Comcen is to be brought back to Fairbairn by spring, and they will review feasibility in maintaining Curtin for Business Continuity Planning. MLA referred to the timeframe for the transition of Comcen to Fairbairn, asking what the date may be for the move. AS advised that this is a decision the ESA Chief Officers would make. He advised that they will be transitioning one service at a time and while there is lots of planning, there is less complexity this time as it has been done before. He stated that they have learnt lessons to preserve capability.
13. The Minister then raised Council's question about their appointments, stating he is conscious that a number of appointments expire this year and the reason behind the shorter appointments is it is important for any statutory body to have succession plan as the committee requires mixture. He confirmed it is in no way a reflection of the capacity of the members to undertake their roles. Council members noted that it was more a mechanical problem as they were not aware of how their timeframe of appointments.
14. MLn raised the issue of the management of ComCen. The Minister confirmed that there are industrial issues around this. He stated that concern is valid, but it is a long term project and would need collaboration with Firefighters and the Union.

The Minister then thanked the Council for their time today and their ongoing time and commitment.

Agenda item: 3.0 – Minutes of previous meeting

Presenter:

Discussion:

The April Minutes were moved by CG and second by TF with minor changes and the May minutes were moved by CP and second by KJ.

AS reiterated to Council that the Commissioner will attend any meeting at their request.

Agenda item: 4.0 – Actions running sheet

Presenter:

Discussion:

[BFC Minutes on website](#)

Council were informed all minutes were up to date on the website and action has been completed.

[BFC Abstracts on website](#)

Tony Bartlett will make minor changes to the BFC Abstract and send through to Amy McLenaghan to upload onto the website.

[AS to confirm current guidelines around publishing of reports and advice given to the Minister](#)

[Standing agenda item 7 to be removed from agenda](#)

[Presentation on how RFS are changing as an agency to be presented to Council](#)

Agenda item was postponed due to visit from the Minister and will be moved to next suitable meeting

[Explanation of IMT roles and personnel to be presented to Council](#)

[BFC to draft letter to Minister regarding planning and development on Molongolo](#)

CG will review minutes and draft a brief for council to view at next meeting. Council discussed about having environmental aspects of planning put into post graduate studies.

[Strategic Issue to be added onto the agenda as a standing item](#)

AMc will have amend the agenda to have this item as a standing item

Agenda item: 5.0 – Correspondence

Presenter:

Incoming:

Nil

Outgoing:

Nil

Action items

Nil

Agenda item: 6.0 – Other Business

Presenter:

Discussion: 6.1. Horse Agistment Report

AS presented Council with a copy of the Horse Agistment report. He informed them that Virginia Dixon will be planning to put the recommendations into actions very soon. VD stated that it is exciting that there is good target audience who are willing to listen and take care of their horses. She plans to work with these groups to educate and assist the rural landholders and providing consistent ideas on how to plan for management. AS acknowledged interest from Council and commended VD for her idea and work on getting this report done. VD advised Council that there has been a lot of national interest as this report is the first of its kind to be completed. NC encouraged Council to monitor the implementation of the recommendations and stated it would be useful for Council to receive feedback from the working group formed by RFS Staff and Volunteers, and Rural landholders. VD confirmed that RFS will be undertaking facilitation of the recommendations and the working group will report back to Council at the September

meeting. CG recommended that these need to become standard operating procedures and VD confirmed that RFS are looking at develop something to go with Farm Firewise.

Discussion: 6.2. Council Aboriginal Representation

AS advised Council that he sought advice from Aboriginal Elders regarding representation on Bushfire Council. He stated Elders felt comfortable that Council were meeting the needs of the Indigenous people and felt that at this point it wasn't necessary to appoint anyone to sit on the Council.

Discussion 6.3. Non-TAMS BOPS

ML raised question regarding who else beside TAMS Council should be requesting BOPS from. NC advised that he is currently reviewing and identifying areas of land in ACT that TAMS don't manage. Council noted that Department of Defence holds considerable land in ACT and have sought a BOP for some time now.

Discussion 6.4. Weather Outlook

Council sought advice from AS regarding the current BoM forecast. AS advised that it is yet to be released and he will update Council closer to spring.

Other Information

Next Meeting: 1600 6 July 2011, ESA Headquarters.