



ACT Bushfire Council

5 October 2011
1600-1900
ESA Headquarters

Chair: Kevin Jeffery

Note taker: Nicole Cobb

Attendees: Christine Goonrey, Member
Tony Fearnside, Member
Cathy Parsons, Member
Marion Leiba, Member

Neil Cooper, Manager Fire management Unit, PCL

Meeting commencement: 1615

Meeting concluded: 1745

Minutes

Agenda item: 1.0 - Apologies

Tony Bartlett, Deputy Chair/Member
Simon Katz, Member
Michael Lonergan, Member
Andrew Stark, Chief Officer ACT Rural Fire Service
Michael Joyce, Deputy Chief Officer ACT Rural Fire Service
Paul Swain, Chief Officer ACT Fire Brigade

Agenda item: 2.0 – Minutes of previous meeting

Presenter: Kevin Jeffery

Discussion:

The August Minutes were approved with minor changes

Agenda item: 3.0 – Actions running sheet

Presenter: Kevin Jeffery

Discussion:

[Presentation on how RFS are changing as an agency](#)

Due to the BOP presentation this has been adjourned to another meeting

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

MLO requested an update by next meeting as RFS said they were still collating the information and training records. MJ replied he will intend but cannot guarantee to have information by next meeting.

[Horse Agistment working group to report to council](#)

No update was able to be given at this meeting.

[Neil Cooper to provide an update on the Lower Molongolo Action Running plan to Christine for the conservation group](#)

NC advised Council that they had engaged with a contractor to investigate the fire requirements for the area, taking into consideration environmental aspects and report back to the stakeholders.

[Previous Preparedness Report to be sent to Council Members](#)

Completed

[BFC Members to be added to distribution list for Fire Updates](#)

Completed

[Parks pre Season details to be sent to Council](#)

Completed

Council discussed the proposed excursion for next month's meeting and possible sites to visit.

Action items:

KJ to liaise with AS and NC regarding possible site and requirements

Agenda item: 4.0 – Correspondence

Presenter: Kevin jeffery

Incoming:

Letter from Minister responding to Councils views on the proposed PCS restructure

Council made note to monitor progress of restructure and request briefing closer to finalisation.

Outgoing:

Nil

Action items

KJ to request advice from Fay Steward when process had been completed

Agenda item: 5.0 Annual Report to Minister

Presenter:

Discussion:

.KJ advised that the draft was to be completed by end of next week and the final report was to be sent by end of month. CP requested information on the media plan for the fire season and the emergency alert system. CG agreed that the elevated fire danger plan was of importance and had been enquired about by Council for some time.

The ESA Commissioner was briefly available and commented that the elevated fire danger plan was currently underway to be finalised. He stated that there were meetings taking place to finalise this but as indentified in the recent Mitchell Fire, the evacuation points are hazard dependant. He advised Council that were currently briefings taking place operational cooperativeness between agencies. He made comment that the key message ESA are sending out is attempting to move people from a reactive potion to a proactive. He stated that there was positive feedback within the community about the public messaging with the Mitchell Fire through updates on the website and the twitter account.

KJ requested an update on Council Appointments and the Commissioner advised that all council members had been reappointed along with some new members who will be notified by mail that was sent out last week.

Action items

KJ to request update on elevated fire danger plan from Greg Potts, RFS

Agenda item: 6.0 – Other Business

Presenter:

Discussion: 6.1

NC gave an update to Council on the meeting scheduled between ACT Parks, NSW Parks and ACTRFS. He outlined some of the action arising from the meeting but stated he had not received the minutes yet from RFS and could brief them no further without these.

He also ran through the bushfire quarterly report that was sent to key stakeholders, including Council Members and advised that the BOP had been placed on the website.

Council made a note of gratitude to PCS for the placing the Bop on the website and for the flow of information received by them.

NC updated Council on the AFAC conference and stated he had included members in a summary he prepared and sent regarding the event.

Council noted they were disappointed that members hadn't been sent to AFAC and advised that there should be more pre planning next year to ensure attendance at important bushfire related events.

Other Information

Next Meeting: Arrangements to be made around the proposed excursion and members advised accordingly