

ACT Multi Hazard Advisory Council

Minutes

Date: 5 June 2024

Time: 4 pm – 7 pm

Location: 220 London Circuit, Webex

Attendance	
Chair	Dr Sally Troy – Chair, ACT Multi Hazard Advisory Council
Attendees	Dylan Kendall – Deputy Chair, ACT Multi Hazard Advisory Council Nina Allen – Member Dr Tony Bartlett – Member John Brickhill – Member Romeo Gaubert – Member (online) Matthew Harper – Member (online from 5.20pm) Len Morris – Member Asha Naznin – Member (online) Dr Marta Yebra – Member (online)
Apologies	Nicola Smillie - Member Wayne Phillips – Commissioner, ACT Emergency Services (ESA) Jon Peach – Executive Group Manager (EGM), Justice and Community Safety Directorate, Security and Emergency Management Division (JACS SEMD) Rohan Scott – Chief Officer, ACT Rural Fire Service (ACTRFS) Steve Forbes – A/g Chief Officer, ACT State Emergency Service (ACT SES) Stephen Alegria – Executive Branch Manager, Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD)
Guests	Cameron Beresford – Executive Branch Manager, Emergency Management, JACS SEMD Bren Burkevics – Executive Group Manager, EPSDD Ailish Milner – Project Manager, Strategic Bushfire Management Plan V5 (SBMPV5), ACT ESA Dr Rosie Cooney – Senior Director, Office of Nature Conservation, EPSDD
Secretariat	Holly Harris – Secretariat, JACS SEMD Judith Bielleman – HorizonOne Recruitment (Minute taking)

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair made an Acknowledgement of Country and welcomed Council Members and guests to the meeting.

The Chair noted apologies received from Mr Jon Peach, EGM JACS SEMD and Mr Steve Forbes, Acting Chief Officer of the ACT SES.

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2. Declarations of Interest

Council Members Asha Naznin, Nina Allen and Nicola Smillie were asked to confirm with the Secretariat if they have no conflicts of interest.

3. Acceptance of Minutes

The minutes of the 1 May 2024 meeting were accepted with a minor amendment.

4. Review of Council Action items

Council action items were reviewed and updated with the following actions closed:

- 2024-04-01
- 2024-04-03
- 2024-04-09
- 2024-04-10
- 2024-05-01
- 2024-05-02
- 2025-05-03
- 2024-05-04

Action: Chair and Mr Brickhill to attend the next ACT Climate change Council meeting. Chair to determine if any information is required prior to the meeting in relation to role of MHAC.

Person responsible: Chair, Mr John Brickhill

5. Correspondence for noting

The Chair outlined the correspondence for noting:

- Letter from the Chair to Minister Gentleman, Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, concerning MHAC Reporting Roles and Attendance at Meetings.
- Letter from the Chair to Mr Bren Burkevics, Executive Group Manager, Environment, Heritage and Water Group, EPSDD, concerning a MHAC Field Trip and an Invitation to the July and November 2024 Meetings.
- Letter from the Chair to Commissioner Phillips, ACT Emergency Services Agency, concerning MHAC Business.
- Letter from Minister Berry, Minister for Women, concerning the 2024 Audrey Fagan Board Mentor Program.
- Letter from Ms Maree Wright, Communications and Project Manager, Landcare ACT, in relation to 'Determining the Impacts of Invasive Species in the ACT'.
- Correspondence from the ACT Remuneration Tribunal.

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- Correspondence from Mr Stephen Allegria, Executive Branch Manager, EPSDD, in response to the implementation of the EPSDD Bushfire Operations Plan (BOP), which will be circulated to Members out of session.

The Chair advised she formally invited the Minister, Mr Burkevics, and the ACT ESA Commissioner to at least two meetings per year to enable discussion on expectations and priorities. The Chair and Ms Naznin will discuss the Audrey Fagan program out of session.

The Chair proposed a submission be put forward to the ACT Remuneration Tribunal concerning Council workload and remuneration. Dr Bartlett offered to also check whether Council Member work is being considered under the right determination.

Action: Submission to be put forward to the ACT Remuneration Tribunal.

Due: 14 June 2024

Person responsible: Chair, Dr Bartlett

6. ACT Disaster Resilience Strategy

The Chair welcomed Mr Cameron Beresford, Executive Branch Manager, Emergency Management, JACS SEMD to the meeting. Mr Beresford advised he was unable to provide a presentation on the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Strategic Action Plan (SAP) at this stage. The discussion would instead focus on the first two outcomes of the ACT Disaster Resilience Strategy – ‘Collaborated and Connected’ and ‘Empowered to Prepare’. He noted these are not part of the DRR SAP but a way forward for the Government to guide and influence the work of the ACT.

Mr Beresford advised he was interested in the Council’s views on communication with the community and sought views on how to build connections and implement engagement in a programmatic way.

A discussion was held on possible options, with some key points raised by Council Members around:

- The need to understand what social capital and community channels are already available;
- Mapping or conceptualising the community in different ways – place-based, work-based, gender, age etc, to determine who is/is not served by current methods;
- Exploring different forms of communication – more paper-based, letterbox or face-to-face engagement and also using non-traditional forms of engagement by targeting people who connect more with the community, e.g. hairdressers, or sports groups;
- Using schools and universities for information dissemination and messaging;
- Developing a tiered approach to disaster management information to better focus on specific locations and areas at risk;

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- Providing more information on the disaster context to improve risk awareness, e.g. providing more information to the public on forecasting;
- Working in parallel with businesses and organisations on their responsibility for keeping employees safe;
- Conducting simulation workshops with representatives from different communities to build participation;
- Coordinating campaigns with disaster events to make information more relevant to people; and
- Improving the perception that people should or should not leave in disasters and what actions they can take.

Mr Beresford thanked the Council for their input. He also advised he would be available to discuss the DRR SAP at a later point.

7. Strategic Bushfire Management Plan (SBMPv5) Update

The Chair welcomed Ms Ailish Milner to the meeting to provide an update on the SBMPv5 process.

Ms Milner advised public consultation via 'YourSay' would be active from 12 June to 31 July 2024, which will include a quick reference document that provides an overview of the Plan. Based on the feedback from the public consultation, a listening report will then be published prior to the caretaker period.

The timeline for the first draft of the SBMPv5 has shifted to July 2024. A workshop was also held around the structure of the Plan to determine how the actions from the SBMPv4 could include a mechanism for change. The Plan will now cover the legislative requirements, governance, mechanisms for change and the six themes. A separate appendix for the Implementation Plan will contain the actions, action owners, details for adaptive management evaluation and any financial commitments required. This will allow for a process of lessons learned and change through the life of the Plan. Ms Milner confirmed the next steps will be to finalise the draft and for it to be reviewed by the working group. A draft should be available to MHAC by the July meeting. Ms Milner also advised there would be a school competition for artwork on the Plan.

Ms Milner explained the draft for the next MHAC meeting will not be the full document but will cover the six themes, including elements around outcomes, indicators of success and the actions that will make up the Implementation Plan. Ms Milner confirmed river corridors are included in risk mitigation planning in SBMPv5 and an appendix should be possible under the *Emergencies Act 2004*.

The Council discussed the hierarchy of plans including the SMBP, the SBMP Actions plan, the Regional Fire Management Plan (RFMP) and BOPs. Ms Milner outlined the different strategic and

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operational nature of the plans and advised that, under the SBMPv5, there will be a tenure blind approach to risk management.

Ms Milner further advised that, after the ACT election, there would be more engagement with the community, with presentations on the SBMP and RFMP to be run concurrently. The Council noted it would be important to contextualise the strategic and operational nature of these reports in these information sessions.

The Chair thanked Ms Milner for her discussion.

8. Future Fire in the ACT – Climate Change Adaptation for Nature Report

The Chair welcomed Dr Rosie Cooney, Senior Director from EPSDDs Office of Nature Conservation, to the meeting to discuss the Future Fire in the ACT report.

Dr Cooney explained the report was the first publication from an initiative to better understand climate adaptation across ACT programs and has been undertaken in conjunction with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). The report does not include policy recommendations and is focused more on options and themes that could be considered around climate change.

The Chair questioned whether Council Members would be able to provide comments on the draft report. Dr Cooney advised the report is due to be approved and published shortly, but comment would be possible within the next week. Mr Harper also proposed a change to the report to identify that specific terminology had been used in consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff.

Action: Council Members to provide comment on the Future Fire in the ACT report to the Secretariat for compilation.

Due: close of business Wednesday 12 June 2024.

Person responsible: Council Members, Secretariat

9. Strategic Bushfire Management Plan v4 – Review of Plan: Scope and Effectiveness

The Council discussed the work completed by the Working Group on the SBMPv4 – Review of Plan: Scope and Effectiveness, specifically in relation to Objective 6 and Objective 7. The Chair apologised for the lateness in circulating the report to other Council Members and suggested more time for comments and analysis.

The Council discussed the need for a defensible position and to be clear on evidence and assumptions. It was proposed Council Members provide comments to the Secretariat over the

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next week. The Working Group will then meet again to discuss and resolve any issues. The report will be finalised by the Chair and Deputy Chair, with further circulation to Members out of session. The likely timeframe for completion is mid-July, with Ms Milner to also be provided a copy for input into the SBMPv5.

Action: Council Members to review the draft and provide comment to the Secretariat.
Working Group to meet again and review.
Chair and Deputy Chair to finalise report for circulation.
Ms Milner to be advised of the timeframe for the document.

Due: Initial comments due by Wednesday 12 June 2024.

Person responsible: Council Members, Working Group, Chair and Deputy Chair

10. Council Forward Workplan

The Chair advised the July 2024 meeting would include:

- The Strategic Bushfire Management Plan v5
- The Social Recovery Framework from the Community Services Directorate (CSD)

The Chair noted there may be some other items from JACS SEMD and a possible visit from the Minister. The upcoming workload will also include the review of the RFMP, a proposal for monitoring BOPs and a pre-high-risk weather season briefing. A workshop on planning and the Western edge has also been scheduled for Friday 14 June 2024

Action: Chair to forward questions from Dr Bartlett to EPSDD and ESA ahead of 14 June 2024 Bushfire Risk Management Workshop.

Person responsible: Chair

11. Council Member Updates

Nil received.

12. Other Business

The Chair drew attention to the AFAC conference being held in September 2024. Funding is available for two Members to attend and the Chair sought nominations from Council Members.

Action: Council Members to nominate if they are interested in attending AFAC Conference

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13. Confirmation of Communique

The draft meeting communique was discussed and agreed:

On 5 June 2024, the ACT Multi-Hazard Advisory Council had a discussion on two of the outcomes under the ACT Disaster Resilience Strategy with Cameron Beresford, JACS SEMD. Ailish Milner from the ACT ESA provided an update on development of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan v5. The Council also discussed their review of the Strategic Bushfire Management Plan v4, EPSDD's Future Fire in the ACT: Climate Adaptation for Nature report, and their forward workplan.

14. Meeting Close

Next meeting Wednesday 3 July 2024.