

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING 8/01/08



MINUTES

MEETING DETAILS:

Meeting date: Tuesday 8th January 2008

Location: TUMUT FCC

Start: 7.35 pm

End: 9.40 pm

Participants:		Present	Apology
Tony Clee	Manager	◆	
Steve Jory	Operations Officer		◆
Peter Jones	Community Safety Officer	◆	
Michael Liston	Mitigation Officer		◆
Lindsay Lashbrook	Learning & Development Officer	◆	
Bruce McGregor	Gundagai Group Captain East	◆	
Robert Field	Gundagai Group Captain North	◆	
Steven Luff	Gundagai Group Captain South	◆	
John Jervois	Tumbarumba Group Captain	◆	
Scott Anderson	Tumbarumba Deputy Group Captain Central		◆
Peter Lonergan	Tumbarumba Deputy Group Captain North	◆	
Greg Lyons	Tumbarumba Deputy Group Captain South		◆
Rodney Purcell	Tumut Group Captain East	◆	
David McGruer	Tumut Deputy Group Captain East	◆	
Colin Marshall	Tumut Deputy Group Captain East	◆	
John Watson	Tumut Deputy Group Captain East	◆	
Keith Harrison	Tumut Group Captain West	◆	
Michael Neyland	Tumut Deputy Group Captain West	◆	
Tom Butler	Tumut Deputy Group Captain West	◆	
Guests:			
Observers:			

Next meeting: Tuesday 18 March 2008

Venue: FCC

RH SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING 8/01/08

1. **Welcome** – Election of Chairperson – Steven Luff

2. **Apologies:** Scott Anderson, Greg Lyons

3. **Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd September 2007, as circulated were approved .

4. **Business Arising:**

- Meeting informed that information on security of fire fighting equipment carried on private vehicles was included in previous volunteer newsletter.
- Further report tabled on results of brigades accepting the new RFS constitution and brigade classification recommendation. Some queries were raised on the accuracy of information supplied as a number of team members claimed that a number of brigades had in fact accepted the constitution and returned document via staff members. Further correspondence to be sent to brigades to clarify the situation.

5. **Business**

District and Zone reports

- Group Officers:
 - Robert Field (Gundagai) Mentioned spate of hay shed fires and an incident on Hume Highway at Coolac. Also spoke about the water access situation for taking water from Gundagai Council stand pipe, which is now locked. Hoped to get electronic keys from Council for respective tankers.
 - Keith Harrison (Tumut) Mentioned hay shed fire and fatal MVA at Batlow.
 - John Jervois (Tumbarumba) One lightning strike at Maragle, stated that grass is still relatively green but present hot weather will soon change outlook.
 - Rodney Purcell (Tumut) Lot of native grass growth over past six weeks could expect latish fire season.
- Staff:
 - Tony Clee (Manager) Spoke about upgrade of retardant Air Base at Tumut and that the water tanks currently at the airport would eventually be relocated to brigade stations. Wet summer had given a reprieve to fire fighting efforts.
 - Peter Jones (Comm Safety) Commencement of revised Bush Fire Risk Plan at next meeting of BFMC to be held Tuesday 15 January. Input sought from Group Leaders and brigades who are not necessary involved in BFMC
- RFS Technical Committee and RFSA report:
 - No report from M Neyland, RFSA Tech Service rep.

(I) Allocation of Replacement Fire Vehicles

Tony Clee

Estimate of delivery month for both new and used vehicles from the 2006/07 and 2007/08 fund allocations provided:-

RH SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING 8/01/08

Fund Year	Description	Est. Month of Delivery
06/07	CAT ONE (used) Isuzu 10 to 15 years TUMBLONG	February 2008
07/08	CAT TWO (used) Isuzu 6 to 10 years MUTTAMA	June 2008
07/08	Group Vehicle (new) Nissan Navara TUMUT Group Est	January 2008
07/08	CAT SEVEN (new) Mitsubishi WOLSELEY PARK	March 2008
07/08	CAT SEVEN (new) Mitsubishi TALBINGO	May/June 2008

Information supplied for information

(2) Utilisation of Carry Over funds (TUMUT)

The amount of \$58,000 remains unspent from the 06/07 allocation for used vehicles for Tumut district.

It was recommended that there not be an increase in the number of vehicles currently in the Tumut district fleet as the Standard of Fire Cover formula indicates adequate vehicles to meet the hazards risks etc.

Several options were provided for the utilisation of the funding-:

- Purchase a mini bus to transport change over crews to the fire ground, also could be used to carry school cadets to local training and competition events in other parts of the State. The vehicle could be made available to other charitable organisations on an add hoc basis.
- Purchase a seven seater Land Cruiser type vehicle for the transport of RAFT crews to incidents and to transport school cadets to and from training and local events. The existing Toyota troop carrier, currently parked in the Tumut brigade shed would need to be traded in on this vehicle as it would be surplus to local requirements, if another personnel carrier were purchased.
- Hold funding indefinitely (years) until a 5 to 10 year old Mitsubishi Canter Duel-Cab light tanker comes available. The duel cab Canter would provide seating for up to five fire fighters and may be suitable for both the RAFT and Cadets. An advantage of this type of vehicle is that it would have a duel role ie. Carry some water and some crew.

After lengthy discussion the meeting resolved to defer any decision to a special meeting of Tumut Group Officers.

(3) Submission of 2008/09 funding estimates.

Tony Clee

A copy of the final estimate bid supplied for information -:

RH SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING 8/01/08

(4) Feasibility of forming of a RAFT Operations Support Group. *Lindsay Lashbrook*

The zone RAFT personnel have expressed interest in forming a Support Group to cater for their unique needs. The team have been very active in obtaining grants and sponsorship to purchase additional specialist equipment, chainsaw and radio equipment. The formation of a RAFT Operations Support Group would be similar to others within the zone (Comms Group) and administered accordingly.

Moved Rodney Purcell/David McGruer that a RAFT support group be formed CARRIED

(6) Communications Group Update

The volunteer communications Group held a general meeting during December 2007.

A communication room exercise is planned for August 9th 2008

Information Noted:

(7) 2008 Training Calendar

Lindsay Lashbrook

The 2008 training calendar has been completed and circulated to all brigade training officers and /or Captains. The calendar contains dates for all local, regional and state training events for 2008 plus the normal information on each individual course

Information Noted:

(8) Daily Fire Weather Forecast by PAGER

Tony Clee

It has been the current practise each afternoon, during the statutory fire danger period, to transmit to all zone pagers the Fire Weather Forecast for the next day.

Some brigade members in Gundagai have consistently expressed their desire not to receive fire weather forecasts per PAGER during the heat of the afternoon.

Moved Robert Field/Bruce McGregor that weather broadcasts by pager continue. CARRIED

(9). Rural Lands Protection Board land known as “The Camping Area”. *Rodney Purcell*

This is the only area with in Yass PP Board where there is no grazing lease. Brindabella brigade members concerned that without grazing or being mown it will become a fire hazard. The area is regularly used by campers.

Moved: Peter Jones/David McGruer that this area has been the subject of community consultation between Brindabella community members, Yass Rural Lands Board and Tumut Council and the area is not presently classed as a fire hazard but could be reviewed if necessary, in future. CARRIED.

(10) Loss of a vehicle, the Cat 9 Brindabella brigade

Rodney Purcell

Brindabella brigade raised the point that the RHZ Five Year Tanker Replacement Plan is for the Brindabella Cat 9 to be retired in 5 years time after the supply of a new CAT SEVEN. They put up factors for the retention of the CAT NINE.

RH SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING 8/01/08

Noted: Brindabella brigade situation to be reviewed at the next review of the RHZ Five Year Tanker Replacement Plan

(11) Kosciusko Park Management Plan

Steve Jory

A revised Kosciusko National Park Management Plan is being prepared and will be ready for community consultation by at least the end of January 2008. RFS members are advised to consider plan and comment.

Information Noted

(13) Bio-Diesel as Fuel for Tankers

Keith Harrison

The sole known supplier of diesel fuel in Adelong has announced that their diesel fuel will now be Bio-Diesel. This creates some problems for brigades in the Western areas of Tumut district.

The RFS technical section has advised that bio-diesel is not recommended as the vehicle engine suppliers will not recognise any warranty if claims are made and problems can occur with fuel filters, fuel lines and "O" rings. There is at present no Australian standard for the mix of bio-fuel or its source.

Moved: That status quo remain and brigades can chose to fill tankers in Adelong with bio diesel, if necessary, but should also fill up at Tumut if that is possible. CARRIED.

(14) Other Business

- Interference on Channel 48.

John Jervois spoke about radio interference with Hume Zone via Channel 48 (Mt Kendall) Both zones have CH 48 in their respective repeater group.

Zone Manager to follow up with Hume Zone and Region Communications Officer.

- Fire Trail Access to Snuba Range (Gilmore)

Tom Butler spoke about the condition of access tracks in east Gilmore to the Snuba range. Funding may be sourced if the BFMC classifies the trail network as an **essential trail**.

To be raised at BFMC

- OH& Safety

John Jervois raised an issue regarding the crew protection nozzles (old style) of the CAT ONE tanker presently located at Lower Bago brigade. John said that the projecting nozzle tips could cause and injury to a firefighters back if in the designated crew area.

To be raised at State Technical Committee level

(11) Diary Dates

RH SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM MEETING 8/01/08

15th January 2008 BFMC meeting Tumut
TBA Zone Liaison meeting

Diary dates be noted.