



ACT CLIMATE CHANGE COUNCIL

MEETING SUMMARY

Friday 3 January 2020

Location: Executive Boardroom, Dame Pattie Menzies House, 16 Challis St, Dickson ACT

Time: 11:30 AM – 2:45 PM

Attendees: Professor Penny Sackett (Chair), Dr Paul Bannister, Dr Cristopher Brack, Professor Mark Howden, Ms Sophia Hamblin Wang, Mr Ben Ponton

Apologies: Ms Karen Jesson

External attendees: Dr Arnagretta Hunter, ANU School of Medicine

Secretariat: Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

Summary:

This extraordinary Council meeting was called in response to the emerging national bushfire crisis, particularly issues of severe smoke haze impacting the ACT.

The Council agreed that it must adopt an emergency attitude given the current situation, and identify areas where it could make a practical contribution to advising and communicating expert advice on health and other concerns.

Council received an update on the current emergency arrangements in place and noted their role in identifying areas where their expertise could improve management of similar situations in the medium- and long-term.

Dr Arnagretta Hunter, an expert on the health impacts of a changing climate from the ANU School of Medicine, attended the meeting to discuss health issues with Council members.

Council agreed to meet more regularly in response to the bushfire crisis and to focus on adaptation issues in the short term.