



ACT Health

Our reference: FOI20/03



Dear 

DECISION ON YOUR ACCESS APPLICATION

I refer to your application under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (FOI Act) received by ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) on Thursday 9 January 2020.

This application requested access to:

"All Canberra Health Services and/or ACT Health internal correspondence between/to and from executive level staff or clinical heads of departments from November 20 to the date of FOI acknowledgment relating to:

- *smoke haze in Canberra Hospital or other health facilities.*
- *availability of P2 masks in Canberra*
- *smoke related ED admissions*

AND all briefing notes prepared on the smoke haze, P2 mask availability, air purifiers availability and or health impacts of smoke."

I am an Information Officer appointed by the Director-General of ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) under section 18 of the FOI Act to deal with access applications made under Part 5 of the Act. ACTHD was required to provide a decision on your access application by **Thursday 21 May 2020**. This includes an extension of one month with your agreement.

I have identified 73 documents holding the information within scope of your access application. These are outlined in the schedule of documents included at Attachment A to this decision letter.

Decisions

I have decided to:

- grant full access to 33 documents; and
- grant part access to 40 documents.

My access decisions are detailed further in the following statement of reasons and the documents released to you are provided as Attachment B to this letter.

In reaching my access decision, I have taken the following into account:

- The FOI Act;
- The contents of the documents that fall within the scope of your request;
- The views of relevant third parties; and
- The *Human Rights Act 2004*.

Full Access

I have decided to grant full access to 33 documents at reference 2, 3, 5, 6, 13, 15, 18, 19, 27-30, 32, 33, 35-39, 44, 46, 47, 49, 50, 53-55, 57, 59, 64, 70 and 71.

Partial Access

I have decided to grant partial access to 40 documents at reference 1, 4, 7, 9-12, 14, 16, 17, 20-26, 31, 34, 40-43, 45, 48, 51, 52, 56, 58, 60-63, 65-69, 72 and 73.

Public Interest Factors Favouring Disclosure

The following factors were considered relevant in favour of the disclosure of the documents:

- Schedule 2.1(a)(i) promote open discussion of public affairs and enhance the government's accountability;
- Schedule 2.1(a)(ii) contribute to positive and informed debate on important issues or matters of public interest;
- Schedule 2.1(a)(viii) reveal the reason for a government decision and any background or contextual information that informed the decision;
- Schedule 2.1(a)(xi) reveal environmental or health risks or measures relating to public health and safety.

Public Interest Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

The following factors were considered relevant in favour of the non-disclosure of the documents:

- Schedule 2.2(a)(ii) prejudice the protection of an individual's right to privacy, or any other right under the *Human Rights Act 2004*;

The information that has been redacted is related to staff mobile numbers, personal information of employees of non-government agencies and third parties. On balance, I determined the information identified is contrary to the public interest and I have decided not to disclose this information.

Charges

Processing charges are not applicable to this request.

Disclosure Log

Under section 28 of the FOI Act, ACTHD maintains an online record of access applications called a disclosure log. The scope of your access application, my decision and documents released to you will be published in the disclosure log not less than three days but not more than 10 days after the date of this decision. Your personal contact details will not be published.

<https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/freedom-information/disclosure-log>.

Ombudsman review

My decision on your access request is a reviewable decision as identified in Schedule 3 of the FOI Act. You have the right to seek Ombudsman review of this outcome under section 73 of the Act within 20 working days from the day that my decision is published in ACT Health's disclosure log, or a longer period allowed by the Ombudsman.

If you wish to request a review of my decision you may write to the Ombudsman at:

The ACT Ombudsman
GPO Box 442
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Via email: ACTFOI@ombudsman.gov.au
Website: ombudsman.act.gov.au

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) review

Under section 84 of the Act, if a decision is made under section 82(1) on an Ombudsman review, you may apply to the ACAT for review of the Ombudsman decision. Further information may be obtained from the ACAT at:

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal
Level 4, 1 Moore St
GPO Box 370
Canberra City ACT 2601
Telephone: (02) 6207 1740
<http://www.acat.act.gov.au/>

Further assistance

Should you have any queries in relation to your request, please do not hesitate to contact the FOI Coordinator on (02) 5124 9831 or email HealthFOI@act.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Conrad Barr
Executive Branch Manager
Health Protection Service

20 May 2020

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION SCHEDULE OF DOCUMENTS

Please be aware that under the *Freedom of Information Act 2016*, some of the information provided to you will be released to the public through the ACT Government's Open Access Scheme. The Open Access release status column of the table below indicates what documents are intended for release online through open access.

Personal information or business affairs information will not be made available under this policy. If you think the content of your request would contain such information, please inform the contact officer immediately.

Information about what is published on open access is available online at: <http://www.health.act.gov.au/public-information/consumers/freedom-information>

| APPLICANT NAME | WHAT ARE THE PARAMETERS OF THE REQUEST | FILE NUMBER |
|----------------|---|-----------------|
| [REDACTED] | <p><i>"All Canberra Health Services and/or ACT Health internal correspondence between/to and from executive level staff or clinical heads of departments from November 20 to the date of FOI acknowledgment relating to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>smoke haze in Canberra Hospital or other health facilities.</i> - <i>availability of P2 masks in Canberra</i> - <i>smoke related ED admissions</i> <p><i>AND all briefing notes prepared on the smoke haze, P2 mask availability, air purifiers availability and or health impacts of smoke."</i></p> | FOI20/03 |

| Ref Number | Page Number | Description | Date | Status Decision | Factor | Open Access release status |
|------------|-------------|---|----------|-----------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1. | 1-6 | Email: RE: attention Tracey- can you help! Air quality story for today | 22/11/19 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) prejudice the protection of an individual's right to privacy or any other right under the <i>Human Rights Act 2004</i> ; | Yes |

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|-----|-------|---|----------|-----------------|------------------------|-----|
| 2. | 7-8 | Email: health alert (dust update): deteriorating air quality across the ACT <i>Media release</i> | 22/11/19 | Full release | | Yes |
| 3. | 9-11 | Health update: Smoke plume impacting air quality with attachment <i>Media release and photo</i> | 29/11/19 | Full release | | Yes |
| 4. | 12 | Email: ACT Health Sector Emergency Management Committee- Smoke Plume Impacting Air Quality with attachment at reference 3 | 29/11/19 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |
| 5. | 13-14 | Email: ACT Health alert: Air quality due to deteriorate over tonight due to smoke | 08/12/19 | Full release | | Yes |
| 6. | 15-16 | Email: ACT Health update: Health advice for smoke haze <i>Media release</i> | 09/12/19 | Full release | | Yes |
| 7. | 17 | Email: ACT Health Sector Emergency Management Committee- Air Quality Update with attachment at reference 6 | 09/12/19 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |
| 8. | 18-19 | Email: ACT Health air quality update: smoke haze eases | 12/12/19 | Full release | | Yes |
| 9. | 20-21 | Email: ACT Health alert: Air quality deterioration overnight will continue to impact the ACT today | 18/12/19 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |
| 10. | 22-25 | Email: HECC Situation Report #1- as of 1100hrs- Heat and Air Quality with attachments | 20/12/19 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |
| 11. | 26-32 | Email: HECC Situation Report #2- as of 1300hrs- Heat and Air Quality with attachments | 20/12/19 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |
| 12. | 33-36 | Email: HECC Situation Report #3 and Stand-down- as of 1515hrs-Heat and Air Quality with attachment | 20/12/19 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |

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|-----|--------|---|----------|-----------------|------------------------|-----|
| 13. | 37-40 | Email: AC script for review with attachment | 20/12/19 | Full release | | Yes |
| 14. | 41-50 | Email: RE: ACT Health alert- smoke and extreme heat impacting Canberra with attachments | 20/12/19 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |
| 15. | 51-56 | Email: RE: air quality overview during bushfire season 1/11/19-up to today 20/12/19 with attachments | 20/12/19 | Full release | | Yes |
| 16. | 57-64 | Email: For approval – Health messaging re smoke for Childcare Centres and Health Alert with attachments | 02/01/20 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |
| 17. | 65-66 | Email: RE: masks | 02/01/20 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |
| 18. | 67-69 | Email: RE: Air quality info... | 02/01/20 | Full release | | Yes |
| 19. | 70-72 | Emails: RE: Masks | 02/01/20 | Full release | | Yes |
| 20. | 73-75 | Email: Re: Face Mask Numbers | 02/01/20 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |
| 21. | 76-79 | Email: For review and approval – ART Minutes/Sitrep with attachment | 02/01/20 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |
| 22. | 80-83 | Email: RE: Air quality info... | 02/01/20 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |
| 23. | 84-86 | Email: FW: Masks | 02/01/20 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |
| 24. | 87-89 | Email: FW: All staff message on impact of smoke from NSW bushfires | 02/01/20 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |
| 25. | 90-91 | Email: FYI: P2 masks being given out at Dickson College | 02/01/20 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |
| 26. | 92-93 | Email: PICC Summary of activity – 2 January 2019 | 02/01/20 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |
| 27. | 94- 98 | Email: For approval – latest air quality update with attachment | 03/01/20 | Full release | | Yes |
| 28. | 99-101 | Email: Draft for input – P2 mask FAQ factsheet | 03/01/20 | Full release | | Yes |

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|-----|---------|---|----------|-----------------|------------------------|-----|
| 29. | 102-108 | Emails: For approval: Updated ACT Health factsheet on outdoor smoke with attachments | 03/01/2 | Full release | | Yes |
| 30. | 109 | Email: Fwd: | 04/01/20 | Full release | | Yes |
| 31. | 110-126 | Email: Update- dot points with attachment | 04/01/20 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | |
| 32. | 127-128 | Email: Re: CONFIDENTIAL: National update re assistance and support | 04/01/20 | Full release | | |
| 33. | 129-131 | Email: For approval- National Medical Stockpile P2 masks for ACT with attachments | 04/01/20 | Full release | | Yes |
| 34. | 132-134 | Email: FW: Hospital presentations with attachment | 05/01/20 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |
| 35. | 135 | Email: 453,000 P2 face masks to help in bushfire communities Health Portfolio Ministers | 05/01/20 | Full release | | Yes |
| 36. | 136-137 | Email: Re: Lines to clarify mask issue... | 05/01/20 | Full release | | Yes |
| 37. | 138-140 | Email: RE: Request to approve updated talking points- Working outside in these conditions | 05/01/20 | Full release | | Yes |
| 38. | 141-142 | Email: Re: Health ECC LO Update for 1300hrs | 05/01/20 | Full release | | Yes |
| 39. | 143-145 | Email: DRAFT Comms and media approach- Mask availability announcement with attachment | 05/01/20 | Full release | | Yes |
| 40. | 146-149 | Email: FW: P2 Mask Issue to Directorates for ACTPS Staff with attachment | 06/01/20 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |
| 41. | 150-151 | Email: RE: PICC actions re calls to CHS | 06/01/20 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |
| 42. | 152-157 | Email: FW: CMTEDD Quick Reference Guide: Daily Outdoor Air Quality Risk Assessment with attachments | 06/01/20 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |

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|-----|---------|---|----------|-----------------|------------------------|-----|
| 43. | 158-163 | Email: RE: Urgent Teleconference – Distribution of P2 Masks with attachments | 06/01/20 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |
| 44. | 164-169 | Email: Talking points and factsheet- mask availability with attachments | 06/01/20 | Full release | | Yes |
| 45. | 170-175 | Email: For distribution – P2/N95 masks to Pharmacies with attachments | 06/01/20 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |
| 46. | 176-182 | Email: RE: Talking points and factsheet- mask availability with attachment | 06/01/20 | Full release | | Yes |
| 47. | 183 | Email: Fwd: Enquiry from ACT TPI Association re allocation of P2 face masks | 06/01/20 | Full release | | Yes |
| 48. | 184-185 | Email: FW: Six things you can do to protect yourself from bushfire smoke | 06/01/20 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |
| 49. | 186 | Email: FW: Talking points and factsheet- mask availability with attachments at reference 44 and 176 | 06/01/20 | Full release | | Yes |
| 50. | 187-188 | Email: Text for webpage | 06/01/20 | Full release | | Yes |
| 51. | 189 | Email: Additional 300,000 Mask Storage | 06/01/20 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |
| 52. | 190-191 | Email: FW: P2 Masks from NMS | 07/01/20 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |
| 53. | 192-193 | Email: FW: New info request- Mask standards | 07/01/20 | Full release | | Yes |
| 54. | 194-195 | Email: RE: Video on how to use a mask properly | 07/01/20 | Full release | | Yes |
| 55. | 196-197 | Email: FW: Smoke information – for spot/social with attachment | 07/01/20 | Full release | | Yes |
| 56. | 198-203 | Email: RE: For review – PGA/PSA media release with ACTHD feedback tracked with attachment | 07/01/20 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |
| 57. | 204-208 | Email: FW: Final approved TPs and FAQ mask announcement with attachment | 07/01/20 | Full release | | Yes |

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|-----|---------|--|----------|-----------------|------------------------|-----|
| 58. | 209-212 | Email: RE: Air quality masks for community services with attachment | 07/01/20 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |
| 59. | 213 | Email: RE: Social media post for approval | 07/01/20 | Full release | | Yes |
| 60. | 214-218 | Email: RE: 20-01-07 PSA and Pharmacy Guild Joint Media Release-Pharmacists supporting vulnerable Canberrans.docx with attachment | 07/01/20 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |
| 61. | 219-221 | Email: RE: Reducing the Impact of Smoke in Canberra and Appropriate Use of P2/N95 Masks | 07/01/20 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |
| 62. | 222-229 | Email: FW: 20-01-07 Hunt – Media Release – Number of P2 masks for bushfires increases to more than 1.8 million with attachment | 07/01/20 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |
| 63. | 230-235 | Email: Heads up: WorkSafe messaging for tomorrow on keeping employees safe in the smoke and heat with attachments | 07/01/20 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |
| 64. | 236-237 | Email: ACT Health Directorate comms priorities for tomorrow | 07/01/20 | Full release | | Yes |
| 65. | 238-250 | Email: FW: bushfire smoke//RE: Offer of support with attachment | 07/01/20 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |
| 66. | 251-252 | Email: FW: ACTCOSS Correspondence with attachments at reference 61 and 58 | 08/01/20 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |
| 67. | 253-260 | Email: RE: Contact centre – masks with attachment | 08/01/20 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |
| 68. | 261-262 | Email: RE: Distribution of P2 masks via GP as well as pharmacies | 08/01/20 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |
| 69. | 263-266 | Email: FW: Clearance process for State of Alert Communications- 8 January 1.30pm with attachment | 08/01/20 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |

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|----------------------------------|---------|--|----------|-----------------|------------------------|-----|
| 70. | 267-268 | Email: ACT Health media doorstep: Air quality update <i>Media release</i> | 08/01/20 | Full release | | Yes |
| 71. | 269-273 | Email: Access Canberra and Canberra Hospital Switch script with attachment | 08/01/20 | Full release | | Yes |
| 72. | 274-278 | Email: RE: FOR CLEARNCE CONRAD- FW: COMPLAINT THROUGH DDG | 09/01/20 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |
| 73. | 279-280 | Email: FW: Direct Relief P2/N-95 Masks – Free Donation & Distribution | 09/01/20 | Partial release | Schedule 2, 2.2(a)(ii) | Yes |
| Total Number of Documents | | | | | | |
| 73. | | | | | | |

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Pulli, Tracey (Health)
Sent: Friday, 22 November 2019 4:52 PM
To: Reid, David (Health); ACT Health, HPSOps
Cc: Cannon, Craig (Health); ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer; Fox, Ian (Health); Barr, Conrad (Health)
Subject: RE: attention Tracey - can you help! Air quality story for today

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

UNCLASSIFIED

Thanks David.

From: Reid, David (Health) <David.Reid@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 22 November 2019 4:26 PM
To: Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>; ACT Health, HPSOps <ACTHealthHPSOps@act.gov.au>
Cc: Cannon, Craig (Health) <Craig.Cannon@act.gov.au>; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>; Fox, Ian (Health) <Ian.Fox@act.gov.au>; Barr, Conrad (Health) <Conrad.Barr@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: attention Tracey - can you help! Air quality story for today

UNCLASSIFIED

Acknowledged. Kerryn, Craig and Marcus may call you shortly to answer your question.

Regards,

David Reid | Assistant Director (Emergency Planning Coordinator)
 Ph: 5124 9199 | Email: david.reid@act.gov.au
 Health Emergency Management Unit | Public Health, Protection and Regulation | ACT Health Directorate
 25 Mulley Street, Holder ACT 2611 | Locked Bag 5005, Weston Creek, ACT 2611
health.act.gov.au



RED Contact Officer - *'feel empowered to speak up'*

From: Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 22 November 2019 4:17 PM
To: Reid, David (Health) <David.Reid@act.gov.au>; ACT Health, HPSOps <ACTHealthHPSOps@act.gov.au>
Cc: Cannon, Craig (Health) <Craig.Cannon@act.gov.au>; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>; Fox, Ian (Health) <Ian.Fox@act.gov.au>; Barr, Conrad (Health) <Conrad.Barr@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: attention Tracey - can you help! Air quality story for today

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi David

Many thanks for this. And many thanks for clarifying further with me over the phone about PM2.5 and PM10 particles – I have informed the journalist of the difference over the phone.

Can I also just check again if there is a requirement for further health advice as the 3pm readings on the website now have the following levels showing:

- Florey – 246 (Hazardous)
- Civic – 216 (Hazardous)
- Monash – 191 (very poor)

(<https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/population-health/environmental-monitoring/monitoring-and-regulating-air>)

Just making sure our current advice is still current and correct.

Cheers

Tracey

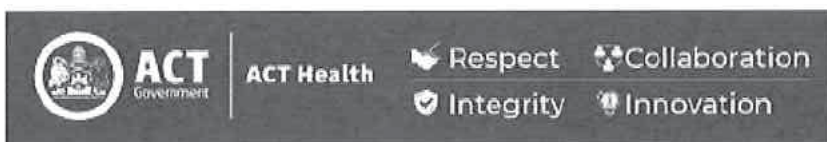
Tracey Pulli | Senior Director of Media

Ph: (02) 5124 9444 | Email: tracey.pulli@act.gov.au

Communications and Government Relations | Office of the Director-General | ACT Health Directorate

Level 5, 6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

health.act.gov.au



From: Reid, David (Health) <David.Reid@act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 22 November 2019 3:39 PM

To: Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>; ACT Health, HPSOps <ACTHealthHPSOps@act.gov.au>

Cc: Cannon, Craig (Health) <Craig.Cannon@act.gov.au>; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer <ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>; Fox, Ian (Health) <Ian.Fox@act.gov.au>; Barr, Conrad (Health) <Conrad.Barr@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: attention Tracey - can you help! Air quality story for today

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Tracey,

We spoke to ACTGAL and cross referenced the historical data. We note that the reporter was looking at PM2.5 (smaller particulates). Our readings for dust come from PM10.

We have confirmed the following based on the reporters words for PM2.5:

- On 16 Dec 2018 : I can see that Civic had a reading of 174, Florey 140 and Monash 157. – This is correct
- On 25 Jan 2019: I read that Civic hit 394 (actually off the chart), Florey 47 and Monash just 32. – ACTGAL report this as a glitch – because it was not a natural reading and it spiked and dropped down quickly over a two-hour period.
- On 13 Feb 2019: definitely sees a reading of 107 for Civic, 130 for Florey and 95 for Monash. – This is correct.

The previous data provided by Ian for PM10 is also correct.

I hope this helps,

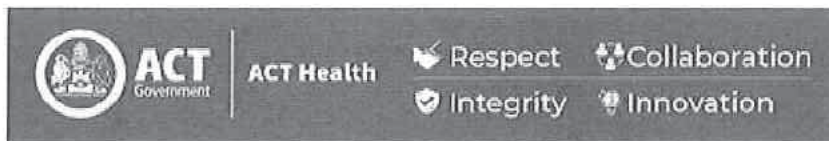
David Reid | Assistant Director (Emergency Planning Coordinator)

Ph: 5124 9199 | Email: david.reid@act.gov.au

Health Emergency Management Unit | Public Health, Protection and Regulation | ACT Health Directorate

25 Mulley Street, Holder ACT 2611 | Locked Bag 5005, Weston Creek, ACT 2611

health.act.gov.au



RED Contact Officer - *'feel empowered to speak up'*

From: Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au>

Sent: Friday, 22 November 2019 3:01 PM

To: Reid, David (Health) <David.Reid@act.gov.au>; ACT Health, HPSOps <ACTHealthHPSOps@act.gov.au>

Cc: Cannon, Craig (Health) <Craig.Cannon@act.gov.au>; ACT Health Office of the Chief Health Officer

<ACTHealthOCHO@act.gov.au>; Fox, Ian (Health) <Ian.Fox@act.gov.au>; Barr, Conrad (Health)

<Conrad.Barr@act.gov.au>

Subject: RE: attention Tracey - can you help! Air quality story for today

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi David

A follow-up from the journalist. Can you please check this past the team please? They are keen to get this right...

I also note that the air quality levels on the website have been updated as at 1pm and are now showing

- Florey – 175 (very poor)
- Civic – 162 (very poor)
- Monash – 136 (poor)

(<https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/population-health/environmental-monitoring/monitoring-and-regulating-air>)

Please advise if our messaging currently our across our channels is still relevant or requires updating.

Cheers

Trace

Tracey Pulli | Senior Director of Media

Ph: (02) 5124 9444 | Email: tracey.pulli@act.gov.au

Communications and Government Relations | Office of the Director-General | ACT Health Directorate

Level 5, 6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

health.act.gov.au



From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, November 22, 2019 2:29:51 PM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

To: Health Media

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: attention Tracey - can you help! Air quality story for today

Hi there Tracey – and thank you so much for getting back to me. We really appreciate it.

I've just been through it all manually as well. Just the PM2.5 readings for the last 12 months.

The graphs on your website show the following as far as I can tell

- On 16 Dec 2018 : I can see that Civic had a reading of 174, Florey 140 and Monash 157.
- On 25 Jan: I read that Civic hit 394 (actually off the chart), Florey 47 and Monash just 32. – this would make that day the worst?
- On 13 Feb: definitely sees a reading of 107 for Civic, 130 for Florey and 95 for Monash.

Perhaps the graphs on your site don't show as much detail as your team has been able to extrapolate?

Do you think someone would mind cross checking? We have an audience that will do this for us – in great numbers – and so we do need to get it spot on.

From: Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** Health Media
Sent: Friday, 22 November 2019 2:04 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]; Health Media
 <HealthMedia@act.gov.au>
Subject: RE: attention Tracey - can you help! Air quality story for today

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi [REDACTED]

Our team have had a look at the data and can advise:

- The worst day readings in the last year across Canberra has been Florey monitoring station, which recorded 380 on 13 February 2019. This was because of a dust storm that only impacted the north of Canberra.
- The second highest readings were on 16 December 2018 for Civic 350, and Monash 290.
- Today's highest readings have been Civic 121, Florey 128, Monash 108 as of 12pm.

Regards
 Tracey

Tracey Pulli | Senior Director of Media
 Ph: (02) 5124 9444 | Email: tracey.pulli@act.gov.au
 Communications and Government Relations | Office of the Director-General | ACT Health Directorate
 Level 5, 6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606
health.act.gov.au



From [REDACTED]
 Sent: Friday, 22 November 2019 12:39 PM
 To: Health Media <HealthMedia@act.gov.au>
 Cc: [REDACTED]
 Subject: RE: attention Tracey - can you help! Air quality story for today

Thank you so much for that Tracey.

From: Pulli, Tracey (Health) <Tracey.Pulli@act.gov.au> **On Behalf Of** Health Media
 Sent: Friday, 22 November 2019 12:34 PM
 To: [REDACTED]
 Cc: [REDACTED]
 Subject: RE: attention Tracey - can you help! Air quality story for today

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi [REDACTED]

I have sent your request through to the operational team for them to have a look at.

Cheers
 Tracey

Tracey Pulli | Senior Director of Media
 Ph: (02) 5124 9444 | Email: tracey.pulli@act.gov.au
 Communications and Government Relations | Office of the Director-General | ACT Health Directorate
 Level 5, 6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606
health.act.gov.au



From [REDACTED]
 Sent: Friday, 22 November 2019 12:27 PM
 To: Health Media <HealthMedia@act.gov.au>
 Cc: [REDACTED]
 Subject: attention Tracey - can you help! Air quality story for today
 Importance: High

Hi there Tracey

Thanks so much for offering to help.

This is the page that I'm using to try and extrapolate some data on AQI and PM10 and PM2.5 data over the last 12 months.

<https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/population-health/environmental-monitoring/monitoring-and-regulating-air>

I've worked out how to use the graphs and ask for historic data – but the graphs on the page will only allow me to view a month at a time.

For example, taking the start from exactly 12 months ago on the first PM2.5 graph, it will only give me data until the beginning of January. It shows that December 16 last year was terrible. Much worse than today.

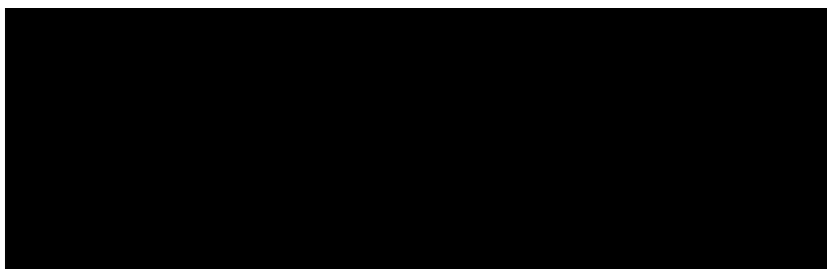
I have exported the entire year's data to excel – but that's going to take me forever to go through in excel and I'm highly likely to make a mistake.

I just need someone to tell me what the worst day has been in the last year across Canberra, and for what reason, and then we'll compare it to today.

I think it would honestly take a good clever data person about five minutes to help me!

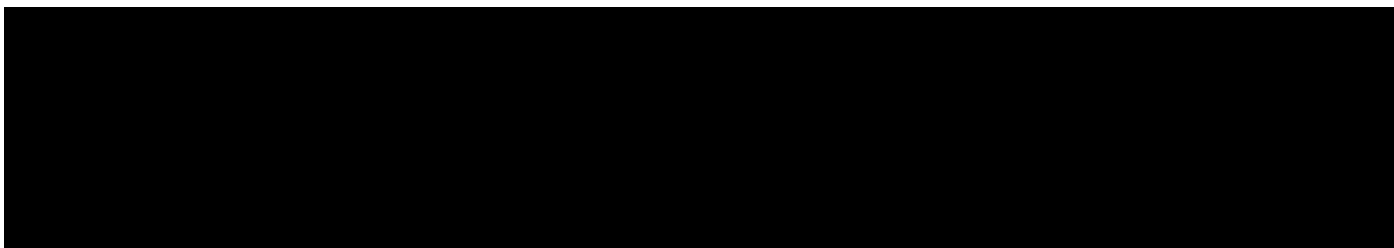
Look forward to hearing from you.

Best



We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work.

-
Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.



This email, and any attachments, may be confidential and also privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender and delete all copies of this transmission along with any attachments immediately. You should not copy or use it for any purpose, nor disclose its contents to any other person.

-
Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Pulli, Tracey (Health) on behalf of Health Media
Sent: Friday, 22 November 2019 5:13 PM
Subject: Health alert (dust update): deteriorating air quality across the ACT

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

UNCLASSIFIED



Media release

Friday 22 November 2019

Health alert (dust update): deteriorating air quality across the ACT

Canberrans are being advised that air quality across the ACT has deteriorated due to the current dust levels.

The ACT Health Directorate's air quality monitoring stations are now registering high levels of dust particles reducing air quality across the territory to 'very poor' and 'hazardous' levels.

With air quality at these levels, all Canberrans are advised to limit vigorous physical activity outdoors.

People who are more sensitive to dust in the air, particularly those with asthma and other heart or lung conditions, should continue to take extra precautions. This includes taking medication as prescribed by their doctor and reducing exposure where possible, for example, by staying indoors with windows and doors closed.

Anyone with concerns about their health should seek medical advice from their health practitioner, and anyone experiencing wheezing, chest tightness or difficulty breathing should seek urgent medical assistance. In the event of a medical emergency call triple zero 000.

People can monitor air quality levels across the ACT by downloading the AirRater app (<https://airrater.org>). The Health Directorate is also continuing to monitor levels, and if there is a further decline in air quality, we will issue additional health advice.

At this time, dust levels are forecasted to ease throughout tomorrow (Saturday 23 November 2019).

For further information on minimising the health impacts of dust, refer to our factsheet at <http://bit.ly/ACTdust-factsheet>.

Statement ends

Media contact:


ACT Health Directorate

M 0403 344 080

E healthmedia@act.gov.au

ACT Government | ACT Health Directorate

 GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601

 0403 344 080

 www.health.act.gov.au

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Health Media
Sent: Friday, 29 November 2019 9:27 AM
Subject: Health update: Smoke plume impacting air quality
Attachments: Smoke haze ACT.jpg

UNCLASSIFIED



Media release

Friday 29 November 2019

Health update: Smoke plume impacting air quality

With smoke lingering across the ACT this morning, air quality is being impacted.

With current levels, most people will not experience any health impact. However, people who are more sensitive to smoke in the air, particularly those with asthma and other heart or lung conditions, should be aware and take precautions. This includes taking medication as prescribed by their doctor, limiting time spent outdoors and avoiding vigorous exercise.

Anyone with concerns about their health should seek medical advice from their health practitioner, and anyone experiencing wheezing, chest tightness or difficulty breathing should seek urgent medical assistance. In the event of a medical emergency call triple zero (000).

People can monitor air quality levels across the ACT by downloading the AirRater app (<https://airrater.org/>)

The Health Directorate will also continue to monitor levels. Further public health advice will be issued if needed.

For further information on minimising the health impacts of outdoor smoke, refer to our factsheet at: <https://bit.ly/2XVW9aG>

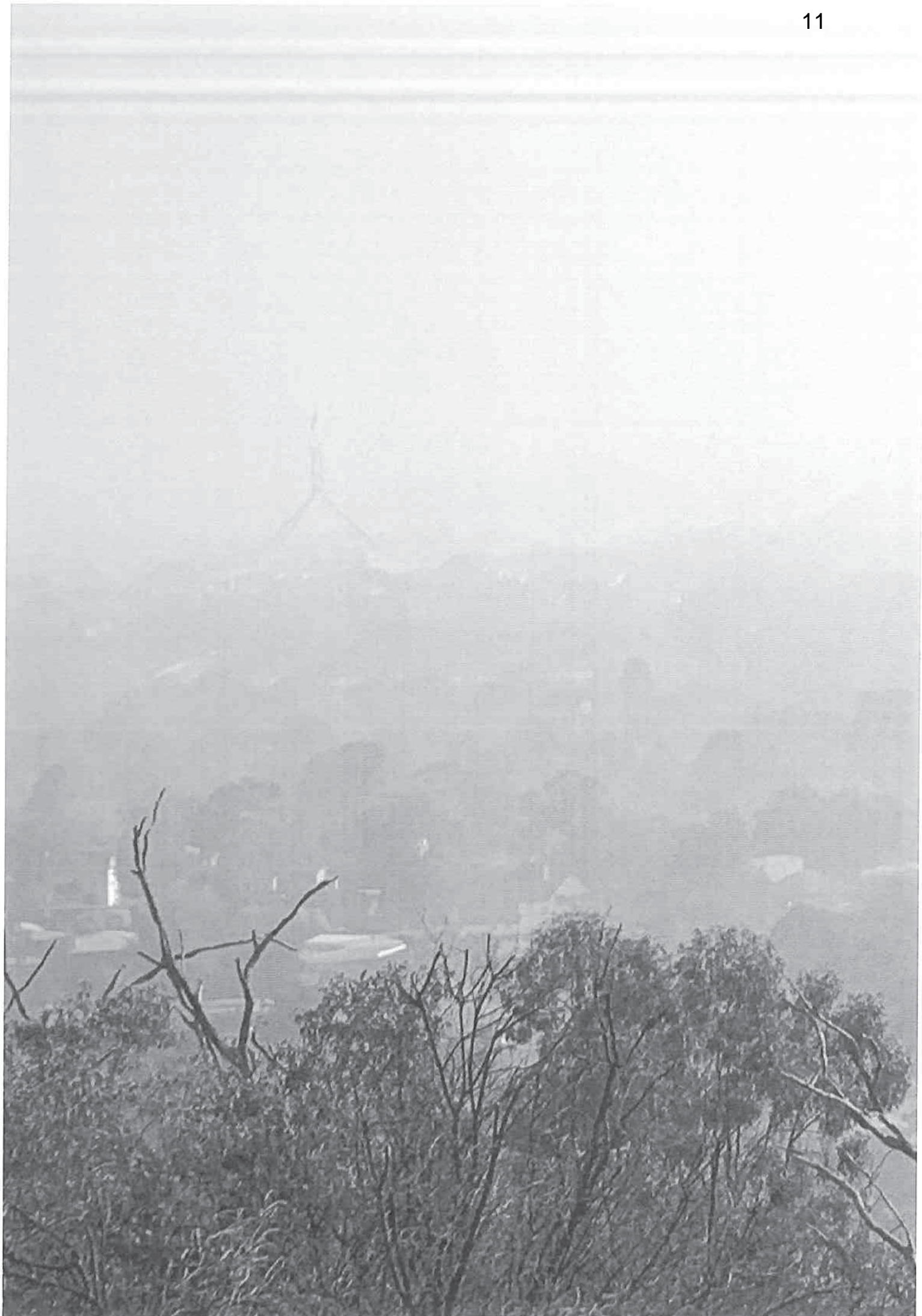
Statement ends

Media contact:

ACT Health Directorate

M 0403 344 080

E healthmedia@act.gov.au



Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Reid, David (Health) on behalf of ACT Health, HPSOps
Sent: Friday, 29 November 2019 9:31 AM
To: Barr, Conrad (Health); Bell, Elaine; Bennett, Marie; Berry, John; Frank Bowden (Calvary); Burkevics, Bren; Cairney, Karen; Calgaro, Luke; Cannon, Craig (Health); Chatham, Elizabeth (Health); Coleman, Kerryn (Health); Duggan, Mark; [REDACTED]; Free, Timothy; Garner, Michele; Kilpatrick, Robert; Mantel, Peta; [REDACTED]; Porritt, Elizabeth; Porritt, Julie; Pulli, Tracey (Health); [REDACTED]; Saccasan-Whelan, Trish; Sandford, Michael; Smith, Matt; Wells, Jenny; Wood, Jon
Cc: Reid, David (Health); Abrahamffy, Susie; Bernardi, Diana; Blackwell, Rhian (Health); Burkevics, Bren; Coulton, Gaylene; Defence, Joint Health Unit SNSW Ops; Garner, Denise; Garner, Michelle; Hughes, Dot; Duty Officer - JOSS (Defence); Kent, Tamara; [REDACTED]; McKerlie, Donna (Health); Mitchell, Jo; Srivastava, Sunila; Willis, Ben
Subject: ACT Health Sector Emergency Management Committee - Smoke Plume Impacting Air Quality
Attachments: Health update: Smoke plume impacting air quality
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

UNCLASSIFIED For-Official-Use-Only

To HSEMC member and alternates,

Be advised that the ACT Health Directorate have released a media release, "Health Update: Smoke plume impacting air quality."

Please see attached a copy of the media release for your information.

Kind regards,

David Reid | Assistant Director (Emergency Planning Coordinator)

Ph: 5124 9199 | Email: david.reid@act.gov.au

Health Emergency Management Unit | Public Health, Protection and Regulation | ACT Health Directorate

25 Mulley Street, Holder ACT 2611 | Locked Bag 5005, Weston Creek, ACT 2611

health.act.gov.au



RED Contact Officer - *'feel empowered to speak up'*

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Health Media
Sent: Sunday, 8 December 2019 11:04 AM
Subject: ACT Health alert: Air quality due to deteriorate tonight due to smoke

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi all,

Health alert just issued. Please note: Dr Vanessa Johnston will be doing a brief doorstep at midday today at the HPS.
Regards, HealthMedia



Media release

Sunday 8 December 2019

Health alert: Air quality due to deteriorate tonight due to smoke

The smoke haze across the ACT is expected to continue throughout the day and is likely to intensify into the evening.

Public Health Physician, Dr Vanessa Johnston says the ACT Health Directorate's air quality monitoring also indicates that these smoky conditions are forecast to remain until at least Wednesday.

"Due to the poor air quality, all Canberrans should avoid prolonged or heavy physical activity outside when there is smoke around. Anyone who is sensitive to the effects of smoke and air pollution should take measures to reduce their exposure," Dr Johnston said.

"People sensitive to air pollution, including those with chronic heart or lung conditions, children 14 years or younger, pregnant women and people over 65 years should avoid all physical activity outside.

"Anyone with a heart or lung condition should take their medication as prescribed by their doctor. People with asthma should follow their asthma action plan. Anyone with concerns about their health should seek medical advice from their doctor. Anyone experiencing wheezing, chest tightness or difficulty breathing should seek urgent medical attention and in the event of a medical emergency call triple-zero (000)", Dr Johnston said.

People can take the following precautions to help minimise the effects of smoke and air pollution:

- Stay indoors, with windows and doors closed;
- Stay in air-conditioned premises and switch the air-conditioner to 'recycle' or 'recirculate' to reduce the amount of smoke entering the building;
- Visit a local air-conditioned building such as a library, community centre or shopping centre; and
- Check on elderly neighbours or other people who you think might need extra help.

ACT Health will continue to monitor the air quality in the ACT and will advise the public of additional public health advice when needed and as information becomes available.

For further information on the health impacts of outdoor smoke, check out our outdoor smoke [fact sheet](#) on the ACT Health website.

For further information on weather conditions, visit: www.bom.gov.au

Statement ends

Media contact:

ACT Health Directorate M 0403 344 080

E healthmedia@act.gov.au

ACT Government | ACT Health Directorate



GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601



0403 344 080



www.health.act.gov.au

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Health Media
Sent: Monday, 9 December 2019 9:54 AM
Subject: ACT Health update: Health advice for smoke haze

UNCLASSIFIED



Media release

Monday 9 December 2019

Air quality update: Health advice

The health advice for today remains the same as the advice provided over the weekend regarding the smoke haze across Canberra. Please refer to ACT Health's fact sheet on the health impacts of outdoor smoke, [fact sheet](#). ACT Health is monitoring the air quality and will advise the public if there are any changes to this advice when needed.

For now, due to the poor air quality, all Canberrans should avoid prolonged or heavy physical activity outside when there is smoke around.

Anyone who is sensitive to the effects of smoke and air pollution should take measures to reduce their exposure. This includes people with chronic heart or lung conditions, children 14 years or younger, pregnant women and people over 65 years should avoid all physical activity outside.

Anyone with a heart or lung condition should take their medication as prescribed by their doctor. People with asthma should follow their asthma action plan. Anyone with concerns about their health should seek medical advice from their doctor. Anyone experiencing wheezing, chest tightness or difficulty breathing should seek urgent medical attention and in the event of a medical emergency call triple-zero (000).

People can take the following precautions to help minimise the effects of smoke and air pollution:

- Stay indoors, with windows and doors closed;
- Stay in air-conditioned premises and switch the air-conditioner to 'recycle' or 'recirculate' to reduce the amount of smoke entering the building;
- Visit a local air-conditioned building such as a library, community centre or shopping centre; and
- Check on elderly neighbours or other people who you think might need extra help.

ACT Health will continue to monitor the air quality in the ACT and will advise the public of additional public health advice when needed and as information becomes available.

For further information on weather conditions, visit: www.bom.gov.au

Statement ends

Media contact:

ACT Health Directorate M 0403 344 080 E healthmedia@act.gov.au

ACT Government | ACT Health Directorate



GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601



0403 344 080



www.health.act.gov.au

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Reid, David (Health) on behalf of ACT Health, HPSOps
Sent: Monday, 9 December 2019 9:58 AM
To: Barr, Conrad (Health); Bell, Elaine; Bennett, Marie; Berry, John; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] Burkevics, Bren; Cairney, Karen; Calgaro, Luke; Cannon, Craig (Health); Chatham, Elizabeth (Health); Coleman, Kerryn (Health); Duggan, Mark; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] Free, Timothy; Garner, Michele; Kilpatrick, Robert; Mantel, Peta; [REDACTED] Porritt, Elizabeth; Porritt, Julie; Pulli, Tracey (Health); [REDACTED] Saccasan-Whelan, Trish; Sandford, Michael; Smith, Matt; Wells, Jenny; Wood, Jon
Cc: Reid, David (Health); Abrahamffy, Susie; Bernardi, Diana; Blackwell, Rhian (Health); Burkevics, Bren; Coulton, Gaylene; Defence, Joint Health Unit SNSW Ops; Garner, Denise; Garner, Michelle; Hughes, Dot; Duty Officer - JOSS (Defence); Kent, Tamara; [REDACTED] McKerlie, Donna (Health); Mitchell, Jo; Srivastava, Sunila; Willis, Ben
Subject: ACT Health Sector Emergency Management Committee - Air Quality Update
Attachments: ACT Health update: Health advice for smoke haze
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

UNCLASSIFIED For-Official-Use-Only

To HSEMC members and alternates,

Be advised that the ACT Health Directorate has issued health advice regarding air quality in the ACT.

Please see attached an email for your information and action as appropriate.

Kind regards,

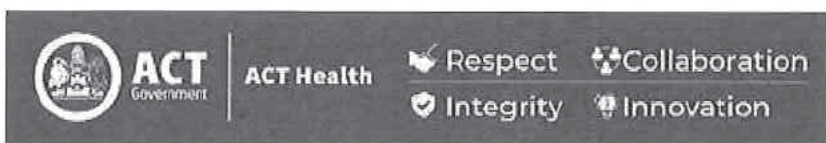
David Reid | Assistant Director (Emergency Planning Coordinator)

Ph: 5124 9199 | Email: david.reid@act.gov.au

Health Emergency Management Unit | Public Health, Protection and Regulation | ACT Health Directorate

25 Mulley Street, Holder ACT 2611 | Locked Bag 5005, Weston Creek, ACT 2611

health.act.gov.au



RED Contact Officer - *'feel empowered to speak up'*

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Pulli, Tracey (Health) on behalf of Health Media
Sent: Thursday, 12 December 2019 11:47 AM
Subject: ACT Health air quality update: smoke haze eases

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

UNCLASSIFIED



Media release

Thursday 12 December 2019

Air quality update: smoke haze eases

With the smoky conditions across the ACT easing this morning, the ACT Health Directorate has issued an air quality update.

At this time, intermittent patchy smoke haze is expected to linger until Sunday. In the coming days, the ACT Health Directorate will continue to monitor the air quality in the ACT and will issue further health advice if needed.

To view the ACT Health Directorate's latest update, visit our website at: <https://www.health.act.gov.au/public-health-alert/air-quality-update-11am-thu-12-dec>

Statement ends

Media contact:

ACT Health Directorate M 0403 344 080 E healthmedia@act.gov.au

ACT Government | ACT Health Directorate



GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601



0403 344 080



www.health.act.gov.au

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Cannon, Craig (Health) on behalf of ACT Health, HPSOps
Sent: Wednesday, 18 December 2019 10:57 AM
To: Barr, Conrad (Health); Bell, Elaine; Bennett, Marie; Berry, John; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] Burkevics, Bren; Cairney, Karen; Calgaro, Luke; Cannon, Craig (Health); Chatham, Elizabeth (Health); Coleman, Kerry (Health); Duggan, Mark; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] Free, Timothy; Garner, Michele; Kilpatrick, Robert; Mantel, Peta; [REDACTED] Porritt, Elizabeth; Porritt, Julie; Pulli, Tracey (Health); [REDACTED] Saccasan-Whelan, Trish; Sandford, Michael; Smith, Matt; Wells, Jenny; Wood, Jon
Cc: Reid, David (Health); Abrahamffy, Susie; Bernardi, Diana; Blackwell, Rhian (Health); Coulton, Gaylene; Defence, Joint Health Unit SNSW Ops; Garner, Denise; Garner, Michelle; Hughes, Dot; Duty Officer - JOSS (Defence); Kent, Tamara; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] McKerlie, Donna (Health); Mitchell, Jo; Srivastava, Sunila; Willis, Ben; Kelly, Chris (Health)
Subject: ACT Health alert: Air quality deterioration overnight will continue to impact the ACT today
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

UNCLASSIFIED

To HSEMC members and alternates,

Be advised that the ACT Health Directorate has issued an alert regarding air quality in the ACT.

Please see below for your information and action as appropriate.

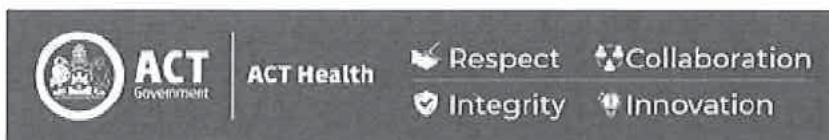
Kind regards,

Craig Cannon | Director

Ph: (02) 5124 9202 | Email: craig.cannon@act.gov.au

Health Emergency Management Unit, Health Protection Service, Public Health, Protection and Regulation | ACT Health Directorate
 25 Mulley Street, HOLDER ACT 2611

health.act.gov.au



Media release

Wednesday 18 December 2019

ACT Health alert: Air quality deterioration overnight will continue to impact the ACT today

The smoke haze which rolled into Canberra last night continues to impact on the air quality levels across the ACT this morning. Due to weather conditions this will take some time to clear today.

The ACT Health Directorate's air quality monitoring stations are currently registering at hazardous levels across the city.

Canberrans are reminded that during periods of poor air quality, all Canberrans should avoid prolonged or heavy physical activity outside when there is smoke around.

People who are sensitive to smoke, especially those with pre-existing heart and lung conditions, should take measures to reduce their exposure. This includes staying indoors (with windows and doors closed) where possible, and taking medication as prescribed by their doctor.

People with asthma should follow their asthma action plan. Anyone with concerns about their health should seek medical advice from their doctor. And anyone experiencing wheezing, chest tightness or difficulty breathing should seek urgent medical attention and in the event of a medical emergency call triple-zero (000).

To monitor the levels of smoke in the air (PM2.5), and for the most up-to-date health advice relating to smoky conditions, see the [Health advice for smoky air](#) page on the ACT Health website.

ACT Health will continue to monitor the air quality in the ACT and will advise the public of additional public health advice when needed and as information becomes available.

For further information on minimising the health impacts of outdoor smoke, refer to our [factsheet](#).

For further information on weather conditions, visit: www.bom.gov.au

Statement ends

Media contact:

ACT Health Directorate M 0403 344 080 E healthmedia@act.gov.au

ACT Government | ACT Health Directorate



GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601



0403 344 080



www.health.act.gov.au

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Reid, David (Health) on behalf of ACT Health, HPSOps
Sent: Friday, 20 December 2019 12:05 PM
To: Barr, Conrad (Health); Bell, Elaine; Bennett, Marie; Berry, John [REDACTED];
 [REDACTED] Burkevics, Bren; Cairney, Karen; Calgaro, Luke; Cannon, Craig (Health);
 Chatham, Elizabeth (Health); Coleman, Kerry (Health); Duggan, Mark; [REDACTED];
 [REDACTED] Free, Timothy; Garner, Michele; Kilpatrick, Robert; Mantel, Peta;
 [REDACTED] Porritt, Elizabeth; Porritt, Julie; Pulli, Tracey (Health);
 [REDACTED] Saccasan-Whelan, Trish; Sandford, Michael; Smith, Matt;
 Wood, Jon
Cc: McRae, Rick; Thompson, Rob; Wells, Jenny; Young, Megan; Cox, Trevor; Johnston,
 Vanessa (Health); ACT Health, HPSOps; Abrahamffy, Susie; Bernardi, Diana;
 Blackwell, Rhian (Health); Burkevics, Bren; Coulton, Gaylene; Defence, Joint Health
 Unit SNSW Ops; Garner, Denise; Garner, Michelle; Hughes, Dot; Duty Officer - JOSS
 (Defence); Kent, Tamara [REDACTED] McKerlie, Donna (Health); Mitchell,
 Jo; Reid, David (Health); Srivastava, Sunila; Willis, Ben
Subject: HECC Situation Report #1 - as of 1100hrs - Heat and Air Quality
Attachments: HECC SitRep #1 - Heat and Smoke CLEARED.pdf; ACT Health Advice 1200 hours
 20122019.docx
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

UNCLASSIFIED For-Official-Use-Only

To whom it may concern,

The Health Emergency Control Centre was activated at 0930hrs for situational monitoring of the heat and air quality in the ACT. Dr Vanessa Johnston is the Health Controller.

Please see attached for your information:

- Situation Report #1 as of 1100hrs
- ACT Health Public Health Advice as of 1200hrs

There are no actions required at this time, unless you have been requested directly.

Further information, including situation reports and public information, will be distributed when required.

Kind regards,

David Reid | Assistant Director (Emergency Planning Coordinator)

Ph: 5124 9199 | Email: david.reid@act.gov.au

Health Emergency Management Unit | Public Health, Protection and Regulation | ACT Health Directorate

25 Mulley Street, Holder ACT 2611 | Locked Bag 5005, Weston Creek, ACT 2611

health.act.gov.au



RED Contact Officer - 'feel empowered to speak up'



Distribution of SitRep to: Health Sector Emergency Management Committee, HECC Teleconference Attendees (Community Services Directorate, Education Directorate, Emergency Services Agency)

Incident: Heat and Smoke Event – 20 December 2019

Location: Whole-of-ACT

The following contains sensitive information – NOT FOR FURTHER DISTRIBUTION

SitRep No: 1

at Date: 20 December 2019

Time: 11:00hrs

1. SITUATION SUMMARY:

The Chief Health Officer requested establishment of Health Emergency Control Centre (HECC). Dr Vanessa Johnston is the Health Controller.

The purpose of the HECC is to provide situational monitoring for the heat and smoke event in the ACT, to manage population health impacts of heat and smoke, and to ensure a consistent and coordinated response across the ACT health sector.

Hot and smoky conditions are forecast on Friday and Saturday 20/21 December. Air-quality from PM2.5 particles across Canberra could be in the 'hazardous high' health category for the next 24-48 hours, particularly in North Canberra.

All incident correspondence to be sent to hpsops@act.gov.au.

2. ACTIONS TAKEN:

- Health Emergency Control Centre (HECC) activated as of 0930hrs for situational awareness (02 5124 9271).
- Liaison Officers from ACT Health Directorate Media, ACT Government Analytical Laboratories called to attend the HECC.
- WebSMS Incident Notification (ACT Health Sector / Health Directorate / Canberra Health Services / Calvary Public) at 1015hrs.
- Teleconference held at 1030hrs with representatives from Education Directorate (EDU), Community Services Directorate (CSD), and Emergency Services Agency (ESA).
 - Discussed current and forecast weather conditions, including heat and smoke;
 - Agency updates from Health, CSD, EDU, and ESA;
 - Media 'Door Stop' scheduled for 1330hrs with Health Controller;
 - Messaging to be developed specifically for vulnerable groups (elderly, children, pregnant women, people with chronic heart/lung conditions) and the general population, including advice to avoid outdoor activities and available public locations for refuge;
 - No additional teleconference scheduled at this time.
- Second teleconference scheduled for 1130hrs with ACT public and private hospital representatives.

- Liaised with Calvary Public Hospital – have not activated an Incident Management Team (IMT).
- Liaised with Canberra Health Services (situation report):
 - Emergency Department air quality compromised due to bushfire smoke entering the department through doors constantly opening;
 - Some patients with existing respiratory problems affected;
 - Increase in smoke related presentations;
 - CHS HEOC activated 0930hrs;
 - Outpatient lists being reviewed;
 - Home based services being reviewed;
 - Pharmacy stocks being reviewed;
 - All CHS facilities being checked including outlying buildings/facilities;
 - Chief Health Officer consulted;
 - ACT Health Emergency Management Unit briefed;
 - Further updates to follow.
- The ACT Health Directorate are upgrading health advice to the community due to the deterioration of air quality across Canberra from smoke.
 - A health alert will be issued and media doorstep held with Public Health Physician, Dr Vanessa Johnston and Dr Greg Hollis from Canberra Health Services at 1330hrs today.
 - Information will also be updated on the ACT Health website and messaging disseminated across ACT Health social media channels and broader ACT Government channels.
 - In addition, the Health Directorate will be disseminating messaging through health sector stakeholders and partners.
 - The ACT Health Directorate will respond to further media enquiries throughout the day. At this time, it is anticipated an update to the community will be provided tomorrow morning.

3. EVALUATION / THREAT ANALYSIS:

- N/A

Next HECC Briefing: TBC

Name: Dr Vanessa Johnston

Appointment: Health Controller

Signature:

Date: 20 December 2019

ACT Health alert: Smoke and extreme heat impacting Canberra

The ACT Health Directorate are today upgrading health advice to the community due to the deterioration of air quality across Canberra from smoke.

Air quality is being significantly impacted by this combination of bushfire smoke, extremely high temperatures and lack of wind, which means the smoke is lingering

During these periods of heavy smoke haze, all Canberrans are advised to avoid physical activity outside.

People who are sensitive to smoke, especially those with pre-existing heart and lung conditions, should take extra care and stay indoors where possible and take medication prescribed by their doctor.

People who are sensitive to smoke and air pollution can also be more vulnerable to heat-related illness. This includes:

- people with heart or lung conditions (including asthma)
- children aged less than 14 years
- pregnant women, and
- people over 65 years of age.

We are strongly advising people more vulnerable to these conditions to take extra care while these heavy levels of smoke are lingering. This includes remaining indoors and keeping activity levels as low as possible.

Anyone with a heart or lung condition should take their medication as prescribed by their doctor. People with asthma should follow their asthma action plan.

Anyone with concerns about their health should seek medical advice from their doctor. And anyone experiencing wheezing, chest tightness or difficulty breathing should seek urgent medical attention and in the event of a medical emergency call triple-zero (000)."

At this time, the smoky air conditions are expected to continue to impact the ACT while the NSW bushfires are burning, with dense smoke impacting a large area of our region.

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Reid, David (Health) on behalf of ACT Health, HPSOps
Sent: Friday, 20 December 2019 1:08 PM
To: ACT Health, HPSOps; Barr, Conrad (Health); Bell, Elaine; Bennett, Marie; Berry, John; [REDACTED] Burkevics, Bren; Cairney, Karen; Calgaro, Luke; Cannon, Craig (Health); Chatham, Elizabeth (Health); Coleman, Kerryn (Health); Duggan, Mark; [REDACTED] Free, Timothy; Garner, Michele; Kilpatrick, Robert; Mantel, Peta; [REDACTED] Porritt, Elizabeth; Porritt, Julie; Pulli, Tracey (Health); [REDACTED] Saccasan-Whelan, Trish; Sandford, Michael; Smith, Matt; Wood, Jon
Cc: McRae, Rick; Thompson, Rob; Wells, Jenny; Young, Megan; Cox, Trevor; Johnston, Vanessa (Health); Jonasson, Kylie (Health); Abrahamffy, Susie; Bernardi, Diana; Blackwell, Rhian (Health); Burkevics, Bren; Coulton, Gaylene; Defence, Joint Health Unit SNSW Ops; Garner, Denise; Garner, Michelle; Hughes, Dot; Duty Officer - JOSS (Defence); Kent, Tamara; [REDACTED] McKerlie, Donna (Health); Mitchell, Jo; Srivastava, Sunila; Willis, Ben
Subject: HECC Situation Report #2 - as of 1300hrs - Heat and Air Quality
Attachments: ACT Health alert: Smoke and extreme heat impacting Canberra ; HECC SitRep #2 - Heat and Smoke CLEARED.pdf
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

UNCLASSIFIED For-Official-Use-Only

To whom it may concern,

Please see attached from the Health Emergency Control Centre (HECC):

- Situation Report #2 as of 1300hrs (New information is in red font)
- Updated ACT Health Media Alert

There are no actions required at this time, unless you have been requested directly.

Further information, including situation reports and public information, will be distributed when required.

Kind regards,

David Reid | Assistant Director (Emergency Planning Coordinator)

Ph: 5124 9199 | Email: david.reid@act.gov.au

Health Emergency Management Unit | Public Health, Protection and Regulation | ACT Health Directorate

25 Mulley Street, Holder ACT 2611 | Locked Bag 5005, Weston Creek, ACT 2611

health.act.gov.au



RED Contact Officer - *'feel empowered to speak up'*

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Pulli, Tracey (Health) on behalf of Health Media
Sent: Friday, 20 December 2019 12:17 PM
Subject: ACT Health alert: Smoke and extreme heat impacting Canberra

UNCLASSIFIED

Please see below ACT Health alert on smoke and extreme health impacting Canberra. A media doorstep with Public Health Physician, Dr Vanessa Johnston, and Clinical Director of the Canberra Hospital Emergency Department , Dr Greg Hollis, will be held at 1.30pm today. Details also below:

Media Doorstop

TIME: 1.30 pm

WHERE: Health Protection Service, 25 Mulley Road Holder

SPOKESPEOPLE: ACT Health Public Health Physician, Dr Vanessa Johnston
Clinical Director of the Canberra Hospital Emergency Department, Dr
Greg Hollis



Media release

ACT Health alert: Smoke and extreme heat impacting Canberra

The ACT Health Directorate are today upgrading health advice to the community due to the deterioration of air quality across Canberra from smoke.

ACT Public Health Physician, Dr Vanessa Johnston said the impact of the smoke haze on air quality is being intensified by the extreme heat conditions that are forecast to continue over the coming days.

“Our air quality is being significantly impacted by this combination of bushfire smoke, extremely high temperatures and lack of wind, which means the smoke is lingering,” Dr Johnston said.

“During these periods of heavy smoke haze, all Canberrans are advised to avoid physical activity outside.

“People who are sensitive to smoke, especially those with pre-existing heart and lung conditions, should take extra care and stay indoors where possible and take medication prescribed by their doctor.”

People who are sensitive to smoke and air pollution can also be more vulnerable to heat-related illness. This includes:

- people with heart or lung conditions (including asthma)
- children aged less than 14 years
- pregnant women, and
- people over 65 years of age.

“With the extreme heat, it is also important for everyone to be aware and prepare for the hot temperatures,” Dr Johnston said.

“During these times, it is vital for people to stay hydrated and to keep cool.

“People should make sure they are drinking plenty of cool water – don’t wait until you are thirsty. People should also avoid being outdoors in the hottest parts of the day.

“We are strongly advising people more vulnerable to these conditions to take extra care while these heavy levels of smoke are lingering. This includes remaining indoors and keeping activity levels as low as possible.

“Anyone with a heart or lung condition should take their medication as prescribed by their doctor. People with asthma should follow their asthma action plan.

“Anyone with concerns about their health should seek medical advice from their doctor. And anyone experiencing wheezing, chest tightness or difficulty breathing should seek urgent medical attention and in the event of a medical emergency call triple-zero (000).”

Canberra Health Services Chief Operating Officer Elizabeth Chatham said the Emergency Department at Canberra Hospital had seen a small increase in respiratory-related presentations today.

“We would like to reinforce ACT Health’s advice to avoid outside physical activity, stay indoors with windows and doors closed and use recycled air conditioning,” Ms Chatham said.

“We can implement plans should we see a spike in presentations for asthma and respiratory related illnesses, however this is not necessary at this stage.

“If you have an appointment with any of our clinics today and feel well enough to come in, please attend your appointment as planned.

“However, if you are sensitive to smoke you should take measures to reduce your exposure. This includes staying indoors (with windows and doors closed) where possible. Canberra Health Services staff will work with you to reschedule your appointment if you’re unable to attend due to the smoke.”

For further information on minimising the health impacts of outdoor smoke, refer to our [factsheet](#).

The ACT Health Directorate is continuing to monitor the air quality in the ACT and will advise the public of additional public health advice when needed and as information becomes available.

For those interested in monitoring the levels of smoke in the air (PM2.5), see our [Health advice for smoky air](#) page.

At this time, the smoky air conditions are expected to continue to impact the ACT while the NSW bushfires are burning, with dense smoke impacting a large area of our region.

For further information on weather conditions, visit: www.bom.gov.au

Statement ends

Media contact:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| ACT Health Directorate | M 0403 344 080 | E healthmedia@act.gov.au |
| Canberra Health Services | M 0466 948 935 | E chsmedia@act.gov.au |

ACT Government | ACT Health Directorate



GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601



0403 344 080



www.health.act.gov.au



Distribution of SitRep to: Health Sector Emergency Management Committee, HECC Teleconference Attendees (Community Services Directorate, Education Directorate, Emergency Services Agency)

Incident: Heat and Smoke Event – 20 December 2019

Location: Whole-of-ACT

The following contains sensitive information – NOT FOR FURTHER DISTRIBUTION

SitRep No: 2

at Date: 20 December 2019

Time: 13:00hrs

1. SITUATION SUMMARY:

The Chief Health Officer requested establishment of Health Emergency Control Centre (HECC). Dr Vanessa Johnston is the Health Controller.

The purpose of the HECC is to provide situational monitoring for the heat and smoke event in the ACT, to manage population health impacts of heat and smoke, and to ensure a consistent and coordinated response across the ACT health sector.

Hot and smoky conditions are forecast on Friday and Saturday 20/21 December. Air-quality from PM2.5 particles across Canberra could be in the 'hazardous high' health category for the next 24-48 hours, particularly in North Canberra.

All incident correspondence to be sent to hpsops@act.gov.au.

2. ACTIONS TAKEN:

- Health Emergency Control Centre (HECC) activated as of 0930hrs for situational awareness (02 5124 9271).
- Liaison Officers from ACT Health Directorate Media, ACT Government Analytical Laboratories called to attend the HECC.
- WebSMS Incident Notification (ACT Health Sector / Health Directorate / Canberra Health Services / Calvary Public) at 1015hrs.
- Teleconference held at 1030hrs with representatives from Education Directorate (EDU), Community Services Directorate (CSD), and Emergency Services Agency (ESA).
 - Discussed current and forecast weather conditions, including heat and smoke;
 - Agency updates from Health, CSD, EDU, and ESA;
 - Media 'Door Stop' scheduled for 1200hrs with Health Controller;
 - Messaging to be developed specifically for vulnerable groups (elderly, children, pregnant women, people with chronic heart/lung conditions) and the general population, including advice to avoid outdoor activities and available public locations for refuge;
 - No additional teleconference scheduled at this time.
- Second teleconference scheduled for 1130hrs with ACT public and private hospital representatives.

- Liaised with Calvary Public Hospital – have not activated an Incident Management Team (IMT).
- Liaised with Canberra Health Services (situation report):
 - Emergency Department air quality compromised due to bushfire smoke entering the department through doors constantly opening;
 - Some patients with existing respiratory problems affected;
 - Increase in smoke related presentations;
 - CHS HEOC activated 0930hrs;
 - Outpatient lists being reviewed;
 - Home based services being reviewed;
 - Pharmacy stocks being reviewed;
 - All CHS facilities being checked including outlying buildings/facilities;
 - Chief Health Officer consulted;
 - ACT Health Emergency Management Unit briefed;
 - Further updates to follow.
- Teleconference held at 1130hrs with representatives from Canberra Health Services (CHS), Calvary Hospital Bruce Public and Private Hospitals (CHB) and Calvary John James Hospital (CJJH):
 - Discussed current and forecast weather conditions, including heat and smoke;
 - Service updates from CHS, CHB and CJJH;
 - Business as usual is continuing across all public and private hospitals in Canberra, however smoke is impacting the indoor air-quality at CHS and CHB;
 - No additional teleconference scheduled at this time.
- Media 'Door Stop' scheduled for 13:30hrs at the Health Protection Service with Health Controller and Dr Greg Hollis, Director of the Canberra Hospital Emergency Department.
- ACTHD Media have released a Health Alert with upgraded health advice.
- Update on Bureau of Meteorology ACT Forecast received from ESA:
 - It will be hot today, with peak temperatures expected mid to late afternoon;
 - Winds this afternoon will be NW 20 km/hr, then a sea breeze will bring smoke in from fires to the east, after about 8pm. This smoke will then linger tomorrow morning;
 - Winds tomorrow will be westerly, with a wind change from the E or SE expected after 7pm Saturday. If the fire situation does not alter, then the peak smoke should pass north of Canberra. The fires will be monitored from this perspective.
 - The wind change on Saturday may produce storms to our east of perhaps over the high country to our west. This band is currently near Adelaide and is active. It will be monitored. Getting the best forecast for this requires weather balloon flights. There will be flights locally today and tomorrow, and Wagga has been flown today. Given our situation, a request has been placed for the Wagga observer to fly a balloon tomorrow, incurring overtime costs.
- Most recent PM2.5 health advisory categories from the Florey and Civic air-monitoring stations are in the 'hazardous high' range. Monash is in the 'Unhealthy for all' category.
- Housing ACT from CSD have advised that they activated their ACT Heatwave Response for Seniors on the 18th of December 2019:
 - As part of this response, welfare check calls are made to tenants 80 years and over;

- Housing ACT has not been required to call the any emergency services at present from the heatwave response.
- Housing ACT will continue to contact any tenants they hold concerns about and follow up how they are coping, take appropriate action. Emergency services will be contacted if Housing ACT has further concerns.
- Housing ACT will continue to request supply of fans from Programmed Facility Management for any senior tenant contacted if required.

3. EVALUATION / THREAT ANALYSIS:

- N/A

Next HECC Briefing: TBC

Name: Dr Vanessa Johnston

Appointment: Health Controller

Signature:

Date: 20 December 2019

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Reid, David (Health) on behalf of ACT Health, HPSOps
Sent: Friday, 20 December 2019 3:23 PM
To: ACT Health, HPSOps; Barr, Conrad (Health); Bell, Elaine; Bennett, Marie; Berry, John; [REDACTED] Burkevics, Bren; Cairney, Karen; Calgaro, Luke; Cannon, Craig (Health); Chatham, Elizabeth (Health); Coleman, Kerryn (Health); Duggan, Mark; [REDACTED] Free, Timothy; Garner, Michele; Kilpatrick, Robert; Mantel, Peta; [REDACTED] Porritt, Elizabeth; Porritt, Julie; Pulli, Tracey (Health); [REDACTED] Saccasan-Whelan, Trish; Sandford, Michael; Smith, Matt; Wood, Jon
Cc: McRae, Rick; Thompson, Rob; Wells, Jenny; Young, Megan; Cox, Trevor; Johnston, Vanessa (Health); Jonasson, Kylie (Health); Abrahamffy, Susie; Bernardi, Diana; Blackwell, Rhian (Health); Burkevics, Bren; Coulton, Gaylene; Defence, Joint Health Unit SNSW Ops; Garner, Denise; Garner, Michelle; Hughes, Dot; Duty Officer - JOSS (Defence); Kent, Tamara; [REDACTED] McKerlie, Donna (Health); Mitchell, Jo; Srivastava, Sunila; Willis, Ben
Subject: HECC Situation Report #3 and Stand-down - as of 1515hrs - Heat and Air Quality
Attachments: HECC SitRep #3 - Heat and Smoke - 20Dec2019.pdf
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

UNCLASSIFIED For-Official-Use-Only

To whom it may concern,

Please see attached the final Situation Report (#3) from the Health Emergency Control Centre (HECC) (New information is in red font).

The HECC has been stood down, as of 1515hrs.

There are no actions required at this time, unless you have been requested directly.

Kind regards,

David Reid | Assistant Director (Emergency Planning Coordinator)

Ph: 5124 9199 | Email: david.reid@act.gov.au

Health Emergency Management Unit | Public Health, Protection and Regulation | ACT Health Directorate

25 Mulley Street, Holder ACT 2611 | Locked Bag 5005, Weston Creek, ACT 2611

health.act.gov.au



RED Contact Officer - *'feel empowered to speak up'*



Distribution of SitRep to: Health Sector Emergency Management Committee, HECC Teleconference Attendees (Community Services Directorate, Education Directorate, Emergency Services Agency)

Incident: Heat and Smoke Event – 20 December 2019

Location: Whole-of-ACT

The following contains sensitive information – NOT FOR FURTHER DISTRIBUTION

SitRep No: 3

at Date: 20 December 2019

Time: 15:00hrs

1. SITUATION SUMMARY:

The Chief Health Officer requested establishment of Health Emergency Control Centre (HECC). Dr Vanessa Johnston is the Health Controller.

The purpose of the HECC is to provide situational monitoring for the heat and smoke event in the ACT, to manage population health impacts of heat and smoke, and to ensure a consistent and coordinated response across the ACT health sector.

Hot and smoky conditions are forecast on Friday and Saturday 20/21 December. Air-quality from PM2.5 particles across Canberra is expected to fluctuate but could range into the 'hazardous high' or 'hazardous extreme' health categories for the next 24-48 hours, particularly in North Canberra.

All incident correspondence to be sent to hpsops@act.gov.au.

2. ACTIONS TAKEN:

- Health Emergency Control Centre (HECC) activated as of 0930hrs for situational awareness (02 5124 9271).
- Liaison Officers from ACT Health Directorate Media, ACT Government Analytical Laboratories called to attend the HECC.
- WebSMS Incident Notification (ACT Health Sector / Health Directorate / Canberra Health Services / Calvary Public) at 1015hrs.
- Teleconference held at 1030hrs with representatives from Education Directorate (EDU), Community Services Directorate (CSD), and Emergency Services Agency (ESA).
 - Discussed current and forecast weather conditions, including heat and smoke;
 - Agency updates from Health, CSD, EDU, and ESA;
 - Media 'Door Stop' scheduled for 1200hrs with Health Controller;
 - Messaging to be developed specifically for vulnerable groups (elderly, children, pregnant women, people with chronic heart/lung conditions) and the general population, including advice to avoid outdoor activities and available public locations for refuge;
 - No additional teleconference scheduled at this time.
- Second teleconference scheduled for 1130hrs with ACT public and private hospital representatives.

- Liaised with Calvary Public Hospital – have not activated an Incident Management Team (IMT).
- Liaised with Canberra Health Services (situation report):
 - Emergency Department air quality compromised due to bushfire smoke entering the department through doors constantly opening;
 - Some patients with existing respiratory problems affected;
 - Increase in smoke related presentations;
 - CHS HEOC activated 0930hrs;
 - Outpatient lists being reviewed;
 - Home based services being reviewed;
 - Pharmacy stocks being reviewed;
 - All CHS facilities being checked including outlying buildings/facilities;
 - Chief Health Officer consulted;
 - ACT Health Emergency Management Unit briefed;
 - Further updates to follow.
- Teleconference held at 1130hrs with representatives from Canberra Health Services (CHS), Calvary Hospital Bruce Public and Private Hospitals (CHB) and Calvary John James Hospital (CJJH):
 - Discussed current and forecast weather conditions, including heat and smoke;
 - Service updates from CHS, CHB and CJJH;
 - Business as usual is continuing across all public and private hospitals in Canberra, however smoke is impacting the indoor air-quality at CHS and CHB;
 - No additional teleconference scheduled at this time.
- Media 'Door Stop' scheduled for 13:30hrs at the Health Protection Service with Health Controller and Dr Greg Hollis, Director of the Canberra Hospital Emergency Department.
- ACTHD Media have released a Health Alert with upgraded health advice.
- Update on Bureau of Meteorology ACT Forecast received from ESA:
 - It will be hot today, with peak temperatures expected mid to late afternoon;
 - Winds this afternoon will be NW 20 km/hr, then a sea breeze will bring smoke in from fires to the east, after about 8pm. This smoke will then linger tomorrow morning;
 - Winds tomorrow will be westerly, with a wind change from the E or SE expected after 7pm Saturday. If the fire situation does not alter, then the peak smoke should pass north of Canberra. The fires will be monitored from this perspective.
 - The wind change on Saturday may produce storms to our east of perhaps over the high country to our west. This band is currently near Adelaide and is active. It will be monitored. Getting the best forecast for this requires weather balloon flights. There will be flights locally today and tomorrow, and Wagga has been flown today. Given our situation, a request has been placed for the Wagga observer to fly a balloon tomorrow, incurring overtime costs.
- Most recent PM2.5 health advisory categories from the Florey and Civic air-monitoring stations are in the 'hazardous high' range. Monash is in the 'Unhealthy for all' category.
- Housing ACT from CSD have advised that they activated their ACT Heatwave Response for Seniors on the 18th of December 2019:
 - As part of this response, welfare check calls are made to tenants 80 years and over;

- Housing ACT has not been required to call the any emergency services at present from the heatwave response.
- Housing ACT will continue to contact any tenants they hold concerns about and follow up how they are coping, take appropriate action. Emergency services will be contacted if Housing ACT has further concerns.
- Housing ACT will continue to request supply of fans from Programmed Facility Management for any senior tenant contacted if required.
- Update from Bureau of Meteorology via ESA at 14:20hrs:
 - Additional smoke is forecast to be blown into the ACT from easterly/south easterly winds this evening, similar to what occurred on Thursday evening, however the smoke is currently expected to arrive two-hours earlier than last night (~17.00hrs);
 - The additional smoke could reduce temperatures at times;
 - There is already a heavy smoke load in the ACT up to 1800m above sea level. Much of this will be undercut by the new smoke when it arrives, potentially adding to the total smoke load on Saturday morning.
- Big-Bash League (BBL) cricket match at Manuka Oval on evening of Saturday 21 December 2019:
 - Teleconference held with the Security and Emergency Management Branch of the Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JCSD) at 14.25hrs.
 - JCSD has advised that the BBL match is due to commence at 18.10hrs, with crowds expected to arrive from 17.30hrs
 - The estimated crowd is 6000 – 7000 people.
 - Free water will be available for the crowd at the bar and also from 2 bubblers on-site. Bottled water will also be available to distribute to the crowd if necessary.
 - There will be an ambulance on site, additional first-aid points have been added and there will be 2 air-conditioned triage first-aid tents on site.
 - ACT Health has distributed the most recent health alert to JCSD, who will contact Ticketek to arrange for an email to be sent to ticket holders referring to current health advice from ACT Health.
 - The match umpire will have responsibility for assessing risk to the cricket players during the match and can stop play if deemed necessary.

3. EVALUATION / THREAT ANALYSIS:

- Air quality to continue to be hazardous this evening and into tomorrow morning. All appropriate actions in coordination of response and public/stakeholder messaging have been undertaken.
- CHO/HEMU/media on-call officers will continue to monitor the situation over the weekend.
- This is the final sitrep. HECC stood down at 1515hrs.

| |
|----------------------------|
| Next HECC Briefing: |
|----------------------------|

Name: Dr Vanessa Johnston

Appointment: Health Controller

Signature:

Date: 20 December 2019

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Pulli, Tracey (Health)
Sent: Friday, 20 December 2019 3:56 PM
To: Johnston, Vanessa (Health); HECC Controller
Subject: AC script for review
Attachments: Access Canberra Information - Smoke haze and extreme heat in Canberra (as at 1.30pm 191220).doc

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Vanessa

For your review and approval.

Cheers
Tracey

Tracey Pulli | Senior Director of Media

Ph: (02) 5124 9444 | Email: tracey.pulli@act.gov.au

Communications and Government Relations | Office of the Director-General | ACT Health Directorate

Level 5, 6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

health.act.gov.au

Information for Access Canberra

ISSUE: SMOKE HAZE AND EXTREME HEAT IMPACTING CANBERRA

UPDATED: As at 1.30PM on FRIDAY 20 DECEMBER 2019

Referral Points:

- **If the caller is after general information:**
 - The smoke haze across the ACT is continuing to affect air quality in the ACT. The smoke is being intensified by the extreme heat conditions that are forecast to continue over the coming days.
 - The ACT Health Directorate advise that all Canberrans are advised to avoid physical activity outside.
 - People who are sensitive to smoke, especially those with pre-existing heart and lung conditions, should take extra care and stay indoors where possible and take medication prescribed by their doctor.
 - With the extreme heat, it is also important for everyone to be aware and prepare for the hot temperatures. During these times, it is vital for people to stay hydrated and to keep cool.
 - Encourage the caller to go to the “Health alerts” section of the ACT Health website (www.health.act.gov.au) for relevant health advice and updates, or to follow the ACT Health Facebook and Twitter social media accounts.
 - Encourage the caller to go to the ACT Health website (www.health.act.gov.au) and search “Summer Safety” for tips on how to beat the heat.
 - ACT Health is monitoring the air quality and will advise the public if there are any changes to this advice when needed.

- **If the caller is after information about working outdoors:**
 - With the smoke haze across the ACT affecting Canberra’s air quality, people who are required to work outdoors should avoid prolonged or heavy physical activity while they are working outside.
 - Refer the caller to [WorkSafe ACT](#) for further advice on working outdoors in smoky conditions.
 - Employers should conduct a risk assessment of the potential exposure of their workers to the smoke haze. Heavy or strenuous activity should be eliminated or at least limited where the activity cannot be avoided. This is the same for hot conditions which may also coincide with reduced air quality from smoke.
 - Encourage the caller to go to the “Health alerts” section of the ACT Health website (www.health.act.gov.au) for relevant health advice and updates, or to follow the ACT Health Facebook and Twitter social media accounts.

- **If the caller is after information about childcare centres:**
 - Encourage the caller to contact their childcare centre directly for further advice on arrangements being put in place in facilities. Reiterate general health advice (above).
 - Encourage the caller to go to the “Health alerts” section of the ACT Health website (www.health.act.gov.au) for relevant health advice and updates, or to follow the ACT Health Facebook and Twitter social media accounts.

- **If the caller is a journalist/media:**
 - Put them through to the ACT Health media on-call mobile on: 0403 344 080.

- **If the caller needs medical assistance or emergency care:**
 - Anyone with concerns about their health should seek medical advice from their doctor (General Practitioner).
 - Anyone experiencing wheezing, chest tightness or difficulty breathing should seek urgent medical attention and in the event of a medical emergency call triple-zero (000).

- **If the caller needs information on Canberra Hospital Services outpatient clinics:**
 - Canberra Health Services are advising that if people with clinic appointments feel well enough to come in, they can attend their appointment as planned. If not, call Canberra Health Services and reschedule.
 - Encourage the caller to contact the Canberra Health Services Switchboard (5124 2613) to speak directly to the specific clinic about their appointment.

- **If the caller needs information on the Big Bash game happening at Manuka Oval on Saturday 21 December:**
 - Encourage the caller to visit the Manuka Oval website (www.manukaoval.com.au) for updates.

Latest ACT Health alert (as at 12.46pm, Friday 20 December 2019):

ACT Health alert: Smoke and extreme heat impacting Canberra

The ACT Health Directorate are today upgrading health advice to the community due to the deterioration of air quality across Canberra from smoke.

ACT Public Health Physician, Dr Vanessa Johnston said the impact of the smoke haze on air quality is being intensified by the extreme heat conditions that are forecast to continue over the coming days.

“Our air quality is being significantly impacted by this combination of bushfire smoke, extremely high temperatures and lack of wind, which means the smoke is lingering,” Dr Johnston said.

“During these periods of heavy smoke haze, all Canberrans are advised to avoid physical activity outside.

“People who are sensitive to smoke, especially those with pre-existing heart and lung conditions, should take extra care and stay indoors where possible and take medication prescribed by their doctor.”

People who are sensitive to smoke and air pollution can also be more vulnerable to heat-related illness. This includes:

- people with heart or lung conditions (including asthma)
- children aged less than 14 years
- pregnant women, and
- people over 65 years of age.

"With the extreme heat, it is also important for everyone to be aware and prepare for the hot temperatures," Dr Johnston said.

"During these times, it is vital for people to stay hydrated and to keep cool.

"People should make sure they are drinking plenty of cool water – don't wait until you are thirsty. People should also avoid being outdoors in the hottest parts of the day.

"We are strongly advising people more vulnerable to these conditions to take extra care while these heavy levels of smoke are lingering. This includes remaining indoors and keeping activity levels as low as possible.

"Anyone with a heart or lung condition should take their medication as prescribed by their doctor. People with asthma should follow their asthma action plan.

"Anyone with concerns about their health should seek medical advice from their doctor. And anyone experiencing wheezing, chest tightness or difficulty breathing should seek urgent medical attention and in the event of a medical emergency call triple-zero (000)."

Canberra Health Services Chief Operating Officer Elizabeth Chatham said the Emergency Department at Canberra Hospital had seen a small increase in respiratory-related presentations today.

"We would like to reinforce ACT Health's advice to avoid outside physical activity, stay indoors with windows and doors closed and use recycled air conditioning," Ms Chatham said.

"We can implement plans should we see a spike in presentations for asthma and respiratory related illnesses, however this is not necessary at this stage.

"If you have an appointment with any of our clinics today and feel well enough to come in, please attend your appointment as planned.

"However, if you are sensitive to smoke you should take measures to reduce your exposure. This includes staying indoors (with windows and doors closed) where possible. Canberra Health Services staff will work with you to reschedule your appointment if you're unable to attend due to the smoke."

For further information on minimising the health impacts of outdoor smoke, refer to our [factsheet](#).

The ACT Health Directorate is continuing to monitor the air quality in the ACT and will advise the public of additional public health advice when needed and as information becomes available.

For those interested in monitoring the levels of smoke in the air (PM2.5), see our [Health advice for smoky air](#) page.

At this time, the smoky air conditions are expected to continue to impact the ACT while the NSW bushfires are burning, with dense smoke impacting a large area of our region.

For further information on weather conditions, visit: www.bom.gov.au

Pond, Aleks (Health)

From: Elkins, Matthew
Sent: Friday, 20 December 2019 4:26 PM
To: Pulli, Tracey (Health); Bailey, Daniel; Polglase, David; Pottie, Megan; Treasury DLO; ODonoghue, Yersheena; Bradley, Kellie; Laughridge, Hatley
Cc: Johnston, Vanessa (Health); Coleman, Kerryn (Health); HECC Controller; ACT Health, HPSOps; Polglase, David; CMTEDDMedia; Febo, Vanessa
Subject: RE: ACT Health alert - smoke and extreme heat impacting Canberra
Attachments: Implementations BBL 21 Dec (002).docx; NO PYRO.JPG; WATER REFILL AVAILABLE.JPG; FIRST AID AVAILABLE.JPG

Hi All

Sorry for the group email please find attached Implementation plan for BBL 21/12/2019. Please note the social media post and edm still needs final approval before release.

Thanks

Matt

Matthew Elkins | A/g Executive Branch Manager |
Phone 02 6256 6708 | Fax 02 6253 2085 | Mobile [REDACTED]
Venues Canberra | Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | **ACT Government**
 30 Battye Street, Bruce ACT 2617 | PO Box 666 Jamison ACT 2614 |

www.giostadiumcanberra.com.au
www.stromloforestpark.com.au
www.manukaoval.com.au
www.exhibitionparkincanberra.com

From: Pulli, Tracey (Health)
Sent: Friday, 20 December 2019 3:08 PM
To: Elkins, Matthew <Matthew.Elkins@act.gov.au>
Cc: Johnston, Vanessa (Health) <Vanessa.Johnston@act.gov.au>; Coleman, Kerryn (Health) <Kerryn.Coleman@act.gov.au>; HECC Controller <HECC.Controller@act.gov.au>; ACT Health, HPSOps <ACTHealthHPSOps@act.gov.au>; Polglase, David <David.Polglase@act.gov.au>; CMTEDDMedia <CMTEDDMedia@act.gov.au>
Subject: ACT Health alert - smoke and extreme heat impacting Canberra

UNCLASSIFIED

Hi Matthew

Nice to speak with you earlier.

Please see below the health alert that the ACT Health Directorate has issued today.

In regards to where to refer people for the latest health advice on smoke and our tips to beat the heat, please let them know to go to the ACT Health website (www.health.act.gov.au).

As discussed with Dr Johnston, if you could respond and let us know what your plans are for tomorrow and how you will get the message out to those attending, that would be much appreciated.

We will provide you an update on our health advice if it changes.

David – I hear you are on-call for CMTEDD media tomorrow.

Kind regards
Tracey

Tracey Pulli | Senior Director of Media

Ph: (02) 5124 9444 | Email: tracey.pulli@act.gov.au

Communications and Government Relations | Office of the Director-General | ACT Health Directorate

Level 5, 6 Bowes Street Phillip ACT 2606

health.act.gov.au



Media release

ACT Health alert: Smoke and extreme heat impacting Canberra

The ACT Health Directorate are today upgrading health advice to the community due to the deterioration of air quality across Canberra from smoke.

ACT Public Health Physician, Dr Vanessa Johnston said the impact of the smoke haze on air quality is being intensified by the extreme heat conditions that are forecast to continue over the coming days.

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“During these periods of heavy smoke haze, all Canberrans are advised to avoid physical activity outside.

“People who are sensitive to smoke, especially those with pre-existing heart and lung conditions, should take extra care and stay indoors where possible and take medication prescribed by their doctor.”

People who are sensitive to smoke and air pollution can also be more vulnerable to heat-related illness. This includes:

- people with heart or lung conditions (including asthma)
- children aged less than 14 years
- pregnant women, and
- people over 65 years of age.

“With the extreme heat, it is also important for everyone to be aware and prepare for the hot temperatures,” Dr Johnston said.

“During these times, it is vital for people to stay hydrated and to keep cool.

“People should make sure they are drinking plenty of cool water – don’t wait until you are thirsty. People should also avoid being outdoors in the hottest parts of the day.

“We are strongly advising people more vulnerable to these conditions to take extra care while these heavy levels of smoke are lingering. This includes remaining indoors and keeping activity levels as low as possible.

“Anyone with a heart or lung condition should take their medication as prescribed by their doctor. People with asthma should follow their asthma action plan.

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Canberra Health Services Chief Operating Officer Elizabeth Chatham said the Emergency Department at Canberra Hospital had seen a small increase in respiratory-related presentations today.

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For those interested in monitoring the levels of smoke in the air (PM2.5), see our [Health advice for smoky air](#) page.

At this time, the smoky air conditions are expected to continue to impact the ACT while the NSW bushfires are burning, with dense smoke impacting a large area of our region.

For further information on weather conditions, visit: www.bom.gov.au

Statement ends

Media contact:

ACT Health Directorate M 0403 344 080 E healthmedia@act.gov.au

Canberra Health Services M 0466 948 935 E chsmedia@act.gov.au

ACT Government | ACT Health Directorate

 GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601

 0403 344 080

 www.health.act.gov.au

BBL: 21st Dec 2019 Manuka Oval**Sydney Thunder v Adelaide Strikers**

EBM Venues Canberra– Matthew Elkins (Senior Manager at Match)
matthew.elkins@act.gov.au

Manuka Oval will implement the following for the BBL match between Thunder and Strikers Sat 21st Dec.

Expected weather (taken BOM 3pm 20/12):


Saturday 21 December



Min 17 Max 41

Hot. Smoke haze.

Possible rainfall: 0 to 2 mm

Chance of any rain: 30% 

Canberra area

Hot and mostly sunny. Areas of smoke haze. Slight (30%) chance of a shower in the afternoon and evening. The chance of a thunderstorm in the afternoon and evening. Light winds becoming west to northwesterly 30 to 45 km/h in the morning then shifting easterly 15 to 25 km/h in the evening.

Sun protection recommended from 8:40 am to 5:00 pm, UV Index predicted to reach 13 [Extreme]

Match timings:

- Gates 4:10pm
- Match start 6:10pm
- Match finish 9:30pm (approx.)

Venue Command Centre: Located level 2 Bradman Stand

- 1 x ACTAS Ambulance Commander
- 1 x patron medical commander. Will be asked for hourly briefings from medical to Starbase
- 2 x ACT Policing
- Link to ACT Comms staff member onsite for match for any messaging

Medical:

- Hirer considerations
 - o Pre match medical briefing (5:10pm). Smoke issues to be added to the briefing hosted onsite 60 minutes prior to the scheduled match time and match Dr to advise the medical briefing of the current particle rating in the air
 - Venue Manager, ACTAS Commander, patron medical commander and medicab driver to attend briefing
 - o Consideration of additional drinks break to be taken at the end of the 10th over
- Ambulance

- Patron dedicated ambulance onsite 5:30pm-9:30pm (parked outside East gate)
- Player dedicated ambulance onsite (as per all International/BBL matches) 5pm-9:30pm
- Patron first aid
 - Ambulance Australia onsite 4pm-9:30pm
 - 2 x Paramedic
 - 1 x Commander/ECC
 - 1 x Medicab Driver
 - 7 x Ambulance Officers/Medics
 - Provision of additional Ventolin as suggested by ACTAS. Also bringing hydrolytes. Additional fridge provided to cool IV fluids
- Triage areas
 - East 6m x 3m first aid site shed (adjacent to substation). Air conditioned
 - Cottage ground floor. As required. Air conditioned
- Staff Briefings and Tasking's to advise staff to remain hydrated and to bring and use personal medications as required
- All contractors have been advised

Additional equipment:

- 1 x pallet room temperature water for patrons
- Free Water stations
 - Main gate- permanent on toilet block (approx. 8 bubblers/refill taps)
 - East gate- large station (approx. 10 bubblers/refill taps)
 - PC3 – 3 individual units (3 x refill taps)
 - Cricket net gate - large station (approx. 10 bubblers/refill taps)
 - Fan zone – 2 x individual units (2 x refill taps)
- Misting fans
 - Hawke first aid station
 - East first aid station
 - Break out space behind cricket nets
 - Fourth location TBC. Potentially main gate
- Break out space
 - Picnic tables behind cricket nets under trees with misting fan in that location

Event Presentation:

- Thunder have cancelled their flame units and theatrical pyrotechnics with the TOBAN in place
- Additional vision screen slides supported by reads
- Reads and announcements advising of free water and first aid station locations

“Patrons are advised that water refill stations are located around the venue this evening at the West gate, East gate and Fan Zone. Should any patrons begin to feel unwell or dehydrated, please see our first aid team located behind the Hawke Stand or adjacent to the East Gate”

Social Media and Communication

- Social media posts through Venues Canberra channels

Heading to the oval on Saturday to watch the Sydney Thunder v Adelaide Strikers BBL match? Take precautions with ACT Health's information on bushfire haze and hot weather: [factsheet](#). For current public health alerts: <https://www.health.act.gov.au/>

- EDM sent to ticket holders through Ticketek database.

Dear Ticketholder

We look forward to seeing you at the Sydney Thunder v Adelaide Strikers BBL match on Saturday, 21 December.

Gates open at 4.10pm and the match is set to start at 6.10pm.

The ACT Health Directorate has upgraded health advice to the community due to the deterioration of air quality across Canberra from smoke.

With the forecast bushfire haze and hot weather, take appropriate precautions with ACT Health's [factsheet](#).

People who are sensitive to smoke and air pollution can also be more vulnerable to heat-related illness. This includes:

- *people with heart or lung conditions (including asthma)*
- *children aged less than 14 years*
- *pregnant women, and*
- *people over 65 years of age.*

Anyone at the match with concerns about their health should seek assistance from the first aid teams stationed at Manuka Oval, behind the Hawke Stand on the western side of the oval and adjacent to the East Gate.

The ACT Health Directorate is continuing to monitor the air quality in the ACT and will advise the public of additional public health advice when needed and as information becomes available: <https://www.health.act.gov.au/>

Event Cancellation

Any decision to abandon the match will be made by the match umpire from the same perspective that rain is managed at a cricket match.

Patrons will be eligible for a refund if less than six (6) overs are completed during the entire Match and no result is recorded for the Match

http://d35kvm5iuwj9t.cloudfront.net/pdf/BBL1920_RefundPolicy.pdf