

## Local Recovery and Resilience Advisory Group Meeting Minutes

21/07/2022

Meeting open at 4:05pm

1. **Acknowledgment of Country** from Cr. Briggs

2. **Disclosure of Interests:**

- Committee member David James informed the group that he is employed by Service NSW in a Disaster Recovery role. As a result, there may be some discussions that David will exclude himself from. David has previously informed Council via Natalie of McMullen of this Disclosure of Interest. Wollondilly Shire Council have acknowledged this and believe that this and found that this does not preclude David from maintaining a position on the committee.

3. **Attendance and Apologies:**

Present:

- Cr. Blair Briggs (Chair)
- Mayor Matt Gould
- Chris Keneally
- David James
- Kerrie O'Grady
- Phoebe Ward (National Recovery and Resilience Agency)
- Cr. Suzy Brandstater
- Allan Chilcott
- Rob Moran
- Natalie McMullen
- Brooklyn Ingle
- Sandra Harlor
- Tanya Smith (Community Links Wellbeing)
- Kristeen Chao (Habitat for Humanity)
- Sharon Robertson
- Cheryl Mitchell (South-West Sydney Local Health District)

Apologies:

- Ryan Roumieh (Lifeline)
- Patrick Nellestein
- Cr. Michael Banasik
- Cally Sheehan (Resilience NSW)

4. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes:** not applicable for this meeting as this is the first meeting of this Advisory Group.

## 5. Committee Induction:

- Chair Cr. Briggs presented the following documents to the Committee:
  - Terms of Reference and Scope for the Local Recovery and Resilience Advisory Group
  - Code of Conduct for Committee members
  - Resourcing Strategy
  - Delivery Program
  - Community Strategic plan
  - Activate Wollondilly Long-Term Recovery and Resilience plan (also given to committee members physically present at the meeting in hard copy).
- Meeting scheduling and timing discussed. Natalie McMullen to send out an email requesting feedback from members about the most suitable date to meet going forward.
- Remote/ online attendance will also be available via Teams or Zoom.
- Member introductions:
  - **Natalie McMullen**- Community Recovery Officer at Wollondilly Shire Council. Has been in the position for 2 years. Previous background in Community Development. RFS Volunteer. Natalie's position at Council has been funded by Resilience NSW and commenced after the 2019/ 20 bushfires. Thankfully in the most recent flood event we have seen less impact on individuals in the community (in terms of the number of residents requesting support/ accessing free waste services). Some referrals have been received though, as recently as today. Natalie attended the Flood Recovery Centre in Camden and will maintain contact with community services at the centre to support residents from Wollondilly. Impacted individuals can continue to contact Council for support if they have been impacted by the flood events. A major impact has been on our infrastructure which includes over \$20 million dollars of damage to roads and other key infrastructure. This will require a long-term recovery effort.
  - **Mayor Matthew Gould**- Current Mayor of Wollondilly. Lifelong Shire resident. Member of the Bushfire Management Committee. Background including paid and volunteer roles with the NSW RFS. Currently an active member of Silverdale RFS. Has a strong passion for emergency management/ recovery and sees this as a key priority for Council. Also acknowledged that the Cobbitty Bridge closure is one of the major impacts for Wollondilly residents following the July flood event. This had added a significant travel time to families with children attending school and commuters. Although this asset is not owned by Wollondilly Council, we are working alongside Camden Council in the assessment and repair of the bridge as in some ways the closure of the bridge impacts Wollondilly residents most significantly.
  - **Rob Moran**- Acting Manager Community Services, Library Services and Children's Services. Sits as the Local Recovery Coordinator on the Local Emergency Management Committee. Rob's portfolio includes Recovery and Resilience and Rob has played a leading role in recovery from previous events including the 2016 flood, 2019/ 20 bushfires and a number of other disasters. Rob is also responsible for activating the Mayor's Relief Fund following a disaster.
  - **Sandra Harlor**- Warragamba resident. Long time community advocate. Sandra has been a long-term volunteer and now paid employee at the Warragamba Silverdale Neighbourhood Centre. Sandra was a member of the previous Wollondilly Local Recovery and Resilience Committee.

- **Kristeen Chao**- Community Development Manager, Bushfire Resilience at Habitat for Humanity. Has been working in disaster recovery since 2019 in both Wollondilly and Wingecarribee. Kristeen's role includes delivery of a bushfire resilience project that supports residents to prepare their properties for bushfire resilience. Has a team of volunteers and they are currently able to take on new referrals. Kristeen was a member of the Wollondilly Local Recovery and Resilience Committee as well as Wingecarribee's Recovery and Resilience Committee.
- **Tanya Smith**- Manager of Recovery and Resilience at Community Links Wellbeing. Previously Tanya was Manager of the Resilience NSW funded Recovery Support Service that commenced in May, 2020. The team now operates under funding from the South West Sydney Primary Health Network as well as a number of smaller grants. Covers Wollondilly, Wingecarribee and now Camden. Tanya has also been attending the Recovery Centre in Camden and asks that the committee note that a number of people impacted by flooding in Camden, and even Lismore are now residing in Wollondilly as they have been displaced by the floods. Tanya was a member of the previous Wollondilly Local Recovery and Resilience Committee.
- **Cheryl Mitchell**- Disaster Recovery Mental Health Coordinator at South West Sydney Local Health District. Cheryl's role covers all of South-West Sydney- however her main areas of impact include Wollondilly, Wingecarribee and Camden. Cheryl has been working at the flood recovery centre at Camden over the last 2 weeks as well as being on the ground in evacuation centres. Cheryl was a member of the previous Wollondilly Local Recovery and Resilience Committee.
- **Cr Blair Briggs**- Current Councilor at Wollondilly Shire Council. Blair will be the chair of the Recovery and Resilience Advisory Group. Blair has been involved with the NSW RFS for 27 years and is currently an active member. Due to this experience Blair is familiar with the anxiety and angst that follows a disaster event. Blair is passionate about the role of this committee.
- **Allan Chilcott**- Until recently semi-retired and recently retired. Allan is interested in giving back to the community and saw the committee as a great opportunity to do this. Allan's daughter and sister-in-law are involved with the RFS and SES and this has given Allan an insight into the impact of disaster and importance of recovery and resilience.
- **Kerrie O'Grady**- President of the One Stop Community Association. Previously Kerrie worked at the Department of Primary Industries in an Emergency Response capacity. Kerrie was a leader at the Community Recovery Hub established after the Green Wattle Creek bushfire. Kerrie was a member of the Wollondilly Local Recovery and Resilience Committee and has been a member of working groups including the Community Led Recovery Hub Toolkit working group.
- **Cr Suzy Brandstater**- Current Wollondilly Councilor. In her role as a teacher with Picton High School was a part of the Critical Incident Response Team- supporting students after a number of disaster events. In a personal capacity Suzy was impacted by the Thirlmere Storm in October, 2021- still working through her insurance claim and saw the significant impact this event had on her community.
- **Phoebe Ward**- Recovery Support Officer at the National Recovery and Resilience Agency. The NRRRA is currently merging with Emergency Management Australia and transitioning to the name National Emergency Management, Resilience and Recovery Agency (NEMRRA). Phoebe's main areas are Wollondilly and Wingecarribee. Phoebe is based in Moss Vale. The NRRRA work alongside Local Government and State to support

community recovery and feedback important issues to the Commonwealth Government. Phoebe recently completed her University studies in Disaster Management and has previously worked at Wingecarribee Shire Council.

- **Chris Keneally-** Chris has a long-term history with the NSW Rural Fire Service where he was an active member at Silverdale brigade from 1989- 2013. Chris was previously Captain of the Silverdale brigade. Chris himself was personally impacted by the 2019/20 bushfires at his property at Oakdale. Chris is looking forward to contributing to the committee.
- **David James-** David is a Picton resident. David has previous professional experience including roles with the NSW RFS Communications team, NSW State Government and disaster preparedness at Resilience NSW. David is currently working at Service NSW in a Disaster Recovery Role.
- **Sharon Robertson-** Sharon loves helping others. Sharon previously led the Dilly Drought Drive. Sharon currently has roles at Shining Stars Foundation and Mother Hubbard's Cupboard. Sharon has recently been attending the flood recovery centre in Camden. Sharon was also a member of the previous Wollondilly Local Recovery and Resilience Committee.

## 6. CSP Strategies and Delivery Action Plans

- Relevant documents discussed in the Induction section of today's meeting.
- **Issues and Priorities Ahead:**
  - Councilor Briggs asked that the committee acknowledge the current threat of Foot and Mouth Disease. This is a real threat to Australia and could have a significant impact on Wollondilly if an outbreak did occur. The committee must be mindful of this and prepared to address the matter if an outbreak were to occur.
  - Cr Brandstater also asked that the committee be aware of the emerging issue of a mite affecting bee populations and the potential for this to impact our community.
  - Sharon Robertson raised the importance of having services present at Emergency Evacuation Centres.
  - Tanya Smith asked that the committee note that horse transport and agistment is an emerging issue from recent flood events. This has been an issue in Camden and also for displaced people currently residing in Wollondilly.
  - Kerrie O'Grady asked that the committee officially advocate to Resilience NSW on the importance of keeping recovery centres open for extended periods of time as this would allow people more time to access the supports they need, and closing too early may prevent this. Sandra stated that between Camden and Narellan-recovery centres had been available for 3 weeks following the July flood event. Tanya Smith stated that she did not believe this would be required in this case as numbers had been reducing throughout the two week period. Tanya feels that the bigger issue is consent to share information between services. Tanya feels that Wollondilly were able to overcome consent issues with the practices put in place at the Thirlmere Storm Recovery points.
  - Sharon highlighted that an issue that had emerged that we must learn from is that a number of services will not accept key documentation saved on hard drive. Community must be educated about acceptable forms of evidence and avenues for replacing lost documentation.

- Sandra Harlor stated that she feels that Wollondilly Shire Council are a benchmark in disaster recovery. However, the challenge remains sharing information out across the shire in a way that reaches all residents.

## **7. General Business:**

- Kerrie O'Grady requested an update regarding the Community Led Recovery Hub Toolkit that the previous committee were a part of through the sub-working group. Natalie apologized for the delay in the roll-out of this document. The toolkit itself has now been finalized and was recently prepared for publication by the Graphic Design team. Natalie is currently in the process of setting up the online training modules that will support the toolkit. The software has now been sourced and finalizing training will be a priority for this quarter. Once training is finalized the toolkit will be printed and made publicly available.
- Natalie informed the group that Wollondilly Council is holding an event on 1/09/2022 about the impacts of Climate Change on our health. An invitation will be shared with all committee members.
- Natalie informed the group that Wollondilly Shire Council will be co-hosting an event called Person Centred Emergency Planning with Sydney University on 8/09/2022.
- Natalie reminded the committee that September is Get Ready month. A number of RFS brigades will be hosting Get Ready Weekend events on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of September, 2022. Council is also hoping to launch our Mobile Recovery and Resilience van on 23/09/2022. The committee will all be invited to attend.
- Habitat for Humanity asked that the committee assist by promoting Habitat for Humanity's bushfire resilience program as referral numbers are currently low. Priority groups are people with disability, elderly people, low income earners and people living in bushfire prone areas. Council to share the Habitat for Humanity Flyer. Cr Briggs to seek to invite Kristeen to a Bushfire Management Committee meeting.

Meeting closed at 5:24pm.