

## MINUTES

### Wollondilly Local Recovery and Resilience Committee

**Date:** 15 February 2021

**Time:** 3.00pm till 4.30pm

**Venue:** Via Microsoft Teams

#### Present and Apologies

Attendance	Present	Apology
Sharon Robertson, Community Member	✓	
Sandra Harlor, Community Member	✓	
Catherine Stuart, Wollondilly Resilience Network		✓
Sue Mossman, Wollondilly Resilience Network	✓	
Brodie Pitt-Owen		✓
Kerrie O'Grady, Picton CWA		✓
Stephen Swanepoel, St Stephens Thirlmere		✓
Christine Wilesmith, Community Links Wellbeing		✓
Tanya Smith, Community Links Wellbeing	✓	
Michele Lanigan, Community Links	✓	
Greg Dobson, Rotary		✓
Steve Moxon, Rotary		✓
Barry McConville, Rotary		✓
Kelli Bennett-Smith, Angus Taylor MP's Office		✓
Ben Brungs, Resilience NSW		✓
Alison Morgan, Resilience NSW / GSC		✓
Vanessa Nieuwenhuis, Resilience NSW	✓	
Mark McMullen, Red Cross		✓
Jessie Huard, Red Cross		✓
Karen Akehurst, Red Cross	✓	
Karen Quinn, Salvation Army		✓
Mark Pepping, Wingecarribee Shire Council		✓
Charmaine Cooper, Wingecarribee Shire Council		✓
Danielle Lidgard, Wingecarribee Shire Council		✓
Jason Mitchell, Tharawal Land Council		✓
Superintendent Paul Fuller, Commander, Camden Police		✓
Vanessa Nievas, Regional Emergency Management Officer		✓
Geoff O'Brien, Picton Chamber	✓	
Karen Zelinsky, St Vincent de Paul Society		✓
John Fenech, St Vincent de Paul Society		✓
Donna Rogers, Southern Highlands Homeless Service		✓
Michael McKibbin, Southern Highlands Homeless Service		✓
Ryan Roumieh, Lifeline	✓	
Kim Hill, Community Support Officer	✓	
Daneeka Bertolissio, South West Sydney Local Health District		✓
Kate Johnson, South West Sydney Primary Health Network	✓	
Nicole Daley, Big Yellow Umbrella		✓
Mayor Robert Khan, Wollondilly Shire Council	✓	
Cr Matthew Deeth, Wollondilly Shire Council		✓

Attendance	Present	Apology
Cr Judith Hannan, Wollondilly Shire Council		✓
Deputy Mayor Michael Banasik, Wollondilly Shire Council	✓	
Ben Taylor, Wollondilly Shire Council		✓
Ally Dench, Wollondilly Shire Council	✓	
Toni Averay, Wollondilly Shire Council		✓
Michael Malone, Wollondilly Shire Council		✓
Peter Wright, Wollondilly Shire Council		✓
Rob Moran, Wollondilly Shire Council	✓	
Natalie McMullen, Wollondilly Shire Council	✓	
Alex Stengl, Wollondilly Shire Council		✓
Mandy Marino, Wollondilly Shire Council		✓
Kevin Abey, Wollondilly Shire Council		✓
Kerrie Shelton, Wollondilly Shire Council		✓
Brianna Murray, Wollondilly Shire Council		✓
Chad Neilson, Wollondilly Shire Council		✓
Kerry Whitehead, Wollondilly Shire Council	✓	
Sharon O'Regan, Wollondilly Shire Council		✓
Kersti Martin, Wollondilly Shire Council		✓
Kim McGuinness, Wollondilly Shire Council		✓

Agenda Item	Discussion, Decision, Recommendation	Responsible
<b>1. Welcome</b>	Ally Dench welcomed attendees and acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land (Gundagurra and Tharawal).	
<b>2. Attendance &amp; Apologies</b>	Apologies noted.	
<b>3. Previous Minutes &amp; Actions Arising</b>	<p>Vanessa Nieuwenhuis advised Resilience NSW is aware programs can take longer than 12 months to reach people and have impact. It is something Resilience NSW is hearing from across the state and there will be a review.</p> <p><b>UPDATE: Vanessa advised that an extension has been requested for the recovery support services. The Community Recovery Officer (CRO) is still a work in progress in relation to the extension. Wollondilly Shire Council have provided a letter to Shane Fitzsimmons and they are aware that the request has been put in. Vanessa will advise as soon as she hears anything further.</b></p> <p><b>ACTION: Peter Wright requested that this be left as a standing item.</b></p> <p>Sharon Robertson enquired if Factsheets could be organised for Wollondilly residents that are unique to Wollondilly and delivered to all Wollondilly residents. It was suggested that a resource library be included in the mobile library van.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Rob Moran advised that we can include a resource library on the mobile van.</b></p>	Vanessa Nieuwenhuis

	<p><b>UPDATE: Rob advised that the new Library Services Team Leader only commenced today, however, Rob will speak to her in regards to this. It was noted that the Dilly Wanderer already has resources available.</b></p> <p><b>Natalie advised that we have also applied for resources through the Bushfire-generated green waste grants for a Recovery Resource Hub.</b></p>	Rob Moran
<p><b>4. Update – Wollondilly Recovery Support Service – Community Links Wellbeing</b></p>	<p>Tanya Smith provided an update:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ We continue to receive a steady stream of referrals - 13 months after receiving the first.</li> <li>▪ The main issues remain the same, trees and clearing.</li> <li>▪ We are seeing that more people are concerned with the lack of progress, people thought they would be further along.</li> <li>▪ We are continuing to work with anyone impacted by the fires.</li> <li>▪ Tanya asked the Committee to continue to refer people to Community Links Wellbeing.</li> <li>▪ I encourage people to consider recovery support services as a first point of call.</li> </ul> <p>Michele Lanigan advised that she would like to reiterate that people are at different points and that the existing referrals are re-engaging in a complex way, their needs have changed and they are re-engaging.</p>	
<p><b>5. Wollondilly Council Updates</b></p> <p><b>a. Update on Recovery Coordinator activities</b></p>	<p><b>a. Update on Recovery Coordinator activities</b></p> <p>Natalie McMullen provided an update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All of the Rotary Regeneration grants have now been distributed. There were 20 vouchers that have all been allocated to families who lost their homes or experienced significant damage in the bushfires. Five of these families were families not previously known to Council.</li> <li>▪ Wollondilly Shire Council’s Regeneration Small Grants program will open in March, 2021.</li> <li>▪ The Youth Voices film was released to the public. This film has been met with great feedback and has been viewed several thousand times. The Youth Voices film will also be showcased on the Southern Tablelands Arts ‘Stories from the Studio’ section of their website.</li> <li>▪ We had our first Bushfire Recovery event on 6th February, 2021. This was a Family Fun Day at Warragamba. The weather was terrible at mid-day, but thankfully cleared for the event. We had a good turnout with approximately 250 people attending.</li> </ul>	

- Two more DAs have been approved, allowing two families who lost their homes in Bargo to start the rebuild.
- Wollondilly Shire Council, Wingecarribee Shire Council and the NSW RFS met and resolved the BAL Capping issue which had delayed the approval of one resident's DA. Thank you to Corrie, Stephen and Jake from the Planning team and to Kim from the NBRA for your support in resolving this issue. This was the first DA in Wollondilly Shire to test the BAL Capping legislation and this resolution will hopefully allow for faster approval of future DAs requesting permission to rebuild using BAL Capping.
- We made 5 new referrals to the Recovery Support Service. 4 of these people were identified through the Rotary Regeneration grants.
- Wollondilly Shire Council submitted applications for the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund. We were also approached by six organisations requesting support for their BLERF applications. We look forward to the outcomes of not only our own applications, but also the applications of other organisations operating in Wollondilly.

Cr Michael Banasik noted that the residents are still struggling with the DA process. Perhaps having a dedicated person to help them individually would assist. Council officers have assisted and they are great, but we don't have that dedicated person to assist. Do we have a draft recovery footnote to help people with DA's and if we haven't could we do that? Corrie and his team are trying to coordinate a red carpet process and a dedicated planner in the area.

Kim Hill advised that she had a discussion in relation to this and there was discussion around the concierge process. We are awaiting Wendy Spear from Council to come back and do some training with Natalie and I.

Kim also advised that she is in the process of putting together a rebuild booklet for residents moving forward and further resilience within the community. This has gone to development and planning and some other areas within Council and then it will be put to the Executive Team.

Kim has collated information from various issues across the state and other areas. If any questions come through Natalie and Kim are the first point of call.

Natalie advised that we have spoken about having pre DA meetings and we have come up with an internal process, we will be looking at the unique situation of individual residents. It was noted there is a fee waiver for pre DA's for bush fires.

	<p><b>ACTION: Cr Michael Banasik asked for this item to be left on the Agenda as a standing item.</b></p> <p>Tanya Smith would like noted that the planning phase of managing this process for bush fire impacted residents is that they don't want to be building a house, they have to. They have already been through a massive trauma, these residents.</p> <p>Kim Hill advised that she has received input from different departments for this booklet and has tried to make it easy to read for anyone that has been through a trauma. This is a totally different process from building a new house.</p>	<p><b>Ally Dench Alison Ferguson</b></p>
<p><b>6. Community Agency Updates as required</b></p>	<p>Kim Hill, Community Support Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Kim advised that at the moment there is a lot of discussion around the funding that has gone out to some areas that are fire affected and not others that have been impacted. Wollondilly has received funding, if anyone has concerns please advise Kim.</li> <li>▪ National Bushfire Recovery Agency and Tourism Australia are partnering to deliver a 15-part video series on bushfire recovery and have put together stories for the initiative. I am happy to share once it gets underway.</li> <li>▪ NBRA are boosting tourism advising that we are open again, we are building on advising that businesses are happy for people to come into the area.</li> <li>▪ Wollondilly didn't receive funding but Wingecarribee did and the main reason was because we didn't lose enough houses, we lost area but not houses.</li> <li>▪ We have a new initiative with Buxton School, the Red Cross are coming out and doing a Pillow Talk Program. We will be working with certain years at the school and they decorate their own pillowcase. We are also looking at implementing at a few other schools.</li> <li>▪ Natalie, myself and Amy from Wingecarribee have put forward a project "Create Koala Funding" project. I am happy to share the information. If anyone has any insight it would be much appreciated.</li> </ul> <p><u>Ryan Roumieh, Lifeline</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ryan advised that the crisis line they have been running was in January 2021 the highest they have ever had with just over 10,000 calls and it was also one of the highest in general nationally with 94,000 calls. We are finding trends in family domestic violence, COVID lockdowns and drug misuse.</li> <li>▪ 4 and 5 January 2021 were two of the busiest days we have ever had on the crisis lines for Australia.</li> <li>▪ We haven't had many calls for bushfire related issues.</li> </ul>	

- We have a new service which is after suicides for family and friends who require physical and emotional support.
- The number of people phoning in from bush fire related help from 17 February to 30 June 2020 nationally was 36,163.

Karen Akehurst, Red Cross

Karen advised that we have been through a long planning process. Pillowcase is a program that has been designed for Grades 3 and 4 and its preparedness and it is an award winning program. We appreciate what Kim Hill has done in assisting with sending letters out to schools in the Wollondilly and Wingecarribee areas. We do a session with children and also with the P&C for all members of the household. We have had a lot of volunteers put through the program. We will be delivering resources to the Dilly Wanderer and Family Fun days this week and catching up with Natalie and Kim.

Kate Johnson, South West Sydney Primary Health Network

- Kate advised that Bushfire consultation has now closed. We have interviewed 6 people and received 30 surveys. In regard to the funding we have received I would need to draft a report and finalise and then can share the report.
- The first round of bushfire grants have closed. We have awarded 11 grants and are just awaiting all contracts to be executed. This information will be live on our worksite.
- The second grant round is closing on Monday next week.

**CLOSED ACTION: Alison Ferguson shared the below link to the Committee directly after the meeting.**

<https://healthchat.swsphn.com.au/bushfire-community-grant>

Sue Mossman, Wollondilly Resilience Network

Sue advised that there is not much to update but they have a project with the local church around general resilience.

Sharon Robertson, Community Member

Sharon Robertson noted that Shining Stars is back in the community at Picton and Bargo IGA's and they will be at Warragamba too. There has been quite a few people using this service since they have reopened. It's good to see people are getting the help they need.

	<p><u>Vanessa Nieuwenhuis, Resilience NSW</u></p> <p>Vanessa advised that the BCRRF has closed and we are awaiting the announcement at the end of February. Vanessa noted that the BLERF is not managed by Resilience NSW.</p>	
<p><b>7. COVID-19</b> <b>a. Emerging Issues</b></p>	<p>Nil.</p>	
<p><b>8. General Business</b></p>	<p><u>Activate Wollondilly 2020 Long Term Recovery &amp; Resilience Plan – Report to April Council Meeting</u></p> <p>Natalie McMullen advised that she is putting together the broader Recovery and Resilience Plan to support the broader community and businesses. Last meeting we spoke about having a subcommittee and some committee members have put their hand up to be involved. Natalie will be organising a meeting in a few weeks and if anyone else is interested in the taskforce before the draft document goes to Council for approval in April 2021, we are keen to get feedback beforehand.</p> <p>Ally Dench advised that the plan is going to reflect everything we have discussed, all of the research, it's our roadmap forward on how we are going to be recovering and build on from the Green Wattle event. When future funding opportunities arise we can go straight to that document. Also having funding, implementing activities and initiatives. We encourage the Committee to provide feedback to Natalie.</p> <p>Sharon Robertson enquired do we have any documentation regarding how long residents were in their houses before they were destroyed? Natalie advised that she keeps a working document with the houses and where they are up to and majority of residents have been in their houses for longer than 5 years.</p> <p><u>Ongoing Role of Recovery and Resilience Committee</u></p> <p>Ally Dench advised that now we are developing a plan, how do we build that resilient community and ensure things get implemented and reported back. Should this current committee evolve into an implementation committee?</p> <p>Kim Hill advised that she would like Council to hold and host expo's in different towns and have staff from Council, Insurance Australia and other agencies involved so that residents can understand what their roles are, and understand.</p>	

Natalie McMullen advised that we have BLERF projects in and we are hoping to get the projects through working on resilient communities.

Ally noted that there is information on Council's website.

Karen Akehurst noted that the Red Cross have had "Hey neighbour signs" to drop in letterboxes. Karen noted that they have a community lead model around supporting local communities to be self-reliant. Red Cross have a whole lot of ways of supporting.

Rob Moran reminded the Committee of Council's program "know your neighbour" and we are currently running bushfire programs across the Shire and we encourage services to come on board and promote their services.

Cr Michael Banasik noted that the program should be for all disasters - bush fire, storm, flood, etc.

Kim Hill asked if it was possible for Council to put something out in regard to what funding has been approved and applied for, this gives transparency back to the community.

**ACTION: Ally Dench advised that we put this information into our Council reports but not everyone reads the report. We will include an item on our Facebook page.**

Peter Wright

#### Service NSW App

Sharon Robertson advised that in regard to streamlining who has been affected by fires, floods, etc. she has spoken to Nathaniel Smith about a proposal to get an app and register with Service NSW. Kim Hill advised that it is a privacy issue and we are looking at this at the Commonwealth level. Sharon noted that no one else can see the app except the person who has downloaded it and Service NSW and it's up to that person to give their information out. This will assist with them registering with the correct agencies.

#### Community Recovery Officer

Ally Dench noted that on behalf of the Mayor, Rob Moran has written to Shane Fitzsimmons asking for an ongoing role for the Community Recovery Officer. Rob noted that we have received an acknowledgement that they have received our letter, but not an answer to our questions.

**ACTION: If we do not receive a response back soon we will need to accelerate this issue.**

Rob Moran



	<p>Ally asked Vanessa Nieuwenhuis has she had any information regarding the extension of this position.</p> <p>Vanessa advised that we still don't have any answers as yet, we know that the extension is well supported internally, whether or not that is going to happen it is still a work in progress. Vanessa advised that it is not that we aren't working on it and we have expressed concern around the timelines.</p> <p>Ally advised that it is a big concern for our organisation that we will lose our talented staff as the position is only funded until July 2021 and they will be looking for other jobs if they do not have certainty that the job will be ongoing. It will be good to get a response back from Mr Fitzsimmons.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Vanessa Nieuwenhuis to follow-up response from Mr Fitzsimmons.</b></p> <p><u>Youth Voices Project</u></p> <p>Vanessa Nieuwenhuis congratulated Natalie McMullen and Robyn Syphers on the work they have done on the Youth Voices Project. Both Natalie and Robyn have been acknowledged by Resilience NSW for the great work they have done. This has been accelerated to a senior level and I wanted to highlight the great work Natalie and the team have done, congratulations.</p> <p>Vanessa also noted the incredible work done across the LGA from other agencies and the work they have done is to be commended. The information they are providing to Resilient NSW is fantastic.</p> <p><u>Tom Alexander from Habitat for Humanity</u></p> <p>Natalie McMullen noted that Council would like to thank Tom Alexander from Habitat for Humanity as he finishes up today and has done amazing work.</p> <p><b>ACTION: A letter from the Mayor is to be drafted, thanking him and the organisation for all the work they have done.</b></p>	<p>Vanessa Nieuwenhuis</p> <p>Natalie McMullen</p>
<p><b>9. Next Meeting</b></p>	<p>Meeting Closed 4.25pm.</p> <p>The next Meeting will be Monday 15 March 2021, 3.00pm via Microsoft Teams.</p>	