

MINUTES
Wollondilly Local Recovery and Resilience Committee
Date: 17 May 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, Community Member	✓	
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		✓
Charmaine Cooper, Wingecarribee Shire Council		✓
Danielle Lidgard, Wingecarribee Shire Council		✓
Jason Mitchell, Tharawal Land Council		✓
Superintendent Paul Fuller, Commander, Camden Police		✓
Vanesa 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		✓
Anne Rogers, Lifeline	✓	
Kim Hill, Community Support Officer		✓
Cheryl Mitchell, 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		✓
Kerrie Shelton, 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
1. Welcome	Ally Dench welcomed attendees and acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land (Gundagurra, Dharawal)	
2. Attendance & Apologies	Apologies noted.	
3. Previous Minutes & Actions Arising	No actions.	
4. Update – Wollondilly Recovery Support Service – Community Links Wellbeing	<p>Tanya Smith was an apology for this meeting and provided an update before the meeting:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New cases for Wollondilly for April 2021 – 4 ▪ Total active cases April 2021 – 28 ▪ Total closed cases (cumulative to date) – 42 ▪ Total family groups assisted - 70 <p>We have moved into the second year of recovery post the Green Wattle Bushfires and many residents may only now begin to feel the full effect of the fires. While the focus to date has been on those who experienced the greatest loss, there are still many who have been impacted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damaged or destroyed fencing • Damaged trees that are now dangerous • Damaged or destroyed gardens • Damaged or destroyed outbuildings and their contents • Damaged or destroyed second/holiday homes 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damaged or destroyed illegal dwellings • Tenants who lived in homes that were damaged or destroyed <p>Even now, 16 months on from the fires, many property owners are faced with a mammoth task in terms of clean up and replacing what was damaged or destroyed. The work required can be daunting, many residents just don't know where to start.</p> <p>Starting a conversation about the practical needs of residents will usually result in listening to people's stories about the event and the impact it has had on all aspects of their lives.</p> <p>There are also residents who are facing the process of rebuilding – these residents are often people who never wanted to build a home and are entering this phase with very little understanding of what is involved.</p> <p>As the financial year draws to a close, many formal support services that were set up to help people with financial and material assistance, case management and counselling, may no longer be available. It is important that residents can access supports while they are still in place.</p> <p>We have been talking with Natalie McMullen about strategies we can implement to reach this cohort, as well as any flood-impacted residents in the shire. Appropriate details will be released once strategies have been confirmed.</p>	
<p>5. Wollondilly Council Updates</p> <p>a. Update on Recovery Coordinator activities</p>	<p>a. Update on Recovery Coordinator activities</p> <p>Natalie McMullen provided an update:</p> <p>Salvation Army have been conducting outreach for flood and bushfire impacted residents. Three residents were identified who had not received the maximum support for total loss. Salvation Army is now working with these residents.</p> <p>Additional new residents identified through the Regeneration Grants project were identified and referred to the RSS for support.</p> <p>One more resident is expected to move into their rebuilt home this month. This is the second resident to move home after completing their rebuild.</p> <p>Last of the Rotary Regeneration Vouchers were delivered to residents who were very grateful for the support from Rotary.</p>	

b. Grant Announcements

CRO met with the Learning and Development team to discuss an internal training that will support staff working with disaster impacted residents. This training will take place in the second part of 2021.

CRO working alongside fleet team to submit a grant to improve radios across Council's fleet of vehicles. This will play an important role in disaster response.

b. Grant Announcements

Rob Moran provided an update:-

- Connect Wollondilly - \$280,000 public Wi-Fi in interactive kiosk in open space areas and setting up interactive noticeboards, we are starting to implement the project.
- Another grant for a community mobile recovery and preparedness hub, for a mobile van (which includes costs for the vehicle and a person on the vehicle, ongoing maintenance and fitout). The vehicle will be used during an event for awareness raising to get prepared. This will be funded for \$221,215 and the idea came out of our community consultation. There will be more information available as we implement.

Kate Johnson asked for more information in regard to the hub.

Natalie McMullen advised that when there is a disaster, we can get out and do outreach work. We will also be taking out water, food hampers, emergency goods. We were also hoping that other services can come out as well. During a non-disaster period, it will be used for education around preparedness.

Rob Moran advised that this program is for 18 months, but once we purchase the vehicle it will remain with Council. This is also a mentor type service for other LGA's. The funding is for the vehicle upkeep and wages for someone to go out.

Ally Dench noted that this will be around the emergency aspect focus, recovery and preparedness.

Kate asked Nicole Daley if the Big Yellow Umbrella ran a similar service. Nicole advised yes we use a bus to go to a fixed location to be able to offer the healing for art program. Ours is more to offer a program not to offer emergency support of goods.

Rob advised that the Dilly Wanderer offers a referral pathway, through the information we have on the vehicle we can process referrals to other agencies. This is a service that primarily focuses on working with key agencies for young families.

<p>c. Award Nomination</p>	<p>Ally advised that it does have a focus on early intervention but has other services as well.</p> <p>Nicole advised that the Healing for Art Program was in the Wollondilly area but we didn't get as much attendance as hoped. We are running out of Colovale and once a month at Buxton.</p> <p>Ally advised Nicole that we can assist and Rob advised that we can have the Dilly Wanderer go out as well.</p> <p>c. Award Nomination</p> <p>Rob Moran advised that we have put a nomination in for the Local Government Excellence Award in Community Partnerships for the Children's Voices Project in partnership with Rotary North, South West Sydney Primary Health Network and Community Links. This is a unique project and we are pleased to announce that we are finalists.</p>	
<p>6. Community Agency Updates as required</p>	<p><u>Anne Rogers, Lifeline</u></p> <p>Anne advised that Lifeline have a free coffee van that goes out to events and is manned by 2 crisis support officers.</p> <p>Nicole Daley asked would it be possible for the van to attend a healing for arts program. Anne said yes that would be possible.</p> <p>Natalie asked if it would be possible for the coffee van to come out when the outreach, storm, flood sessions commence.</p> <p>Anne advised that the coffee van is on trial for 3 to 4 months, but will hopefully be ongoing.</p> <p><u>Kate Johnson, South West Sydney Primary Health Network</u></p> <p>Kate advised that we have awarded the grants from 2 of our bushfire grant programs, we are awaiting our communications team to update the website advising that 6 grants have been awarded. We need to finalise the one pager regarding key issues and recommendations from the report and I will send to everyone once completed.</p> <p><u>Nicole Daley, Big Yellow Umbrella</u></p> <p>Nicole advised that the Healing for Arts Program is open to other locations, we are happy to move on from Colovale but we are not getting much traction with attendance.</p>	

This is an arts group with a therapeutic process and we have had a lot of success with this program. We did go out to The Oaks but unfortunately we did not have high attendance, just 3 people. We were out there for a few weeks.

Nicole advised that she is involved in the Listening Post and they are looking at a website in June. They are going to do an online launch and they are looking for a venue. VIP's will be invited and it will more than likely be a Thursday in the evening. Ally and Natalie suggested that Nicole contact Picton Bowling Club, Bargo Sports Club and Thirlmere Steam Museum.

Vanessa Nieuwenhuis, Resilience NSW

Vanessa provided the below update:-

Awards

Applications are now open for the 2021 NSW Resilient Australia and Get Ready Community Awards.

The Resilient Australia Awards is a national program that recognises and promotes initiatives that strengthen community disaster resilience. The awards celebrate people, communities and businesses who have worked to help our communities to better prepare, respond or recover from disasters. The awards recognise outstanding contributions in each state and territory in six categories including community, business, local government, government, school and photography. You can find out more information about the Resilient Australia awards <https://www.aidr.org.au/programs/resilient-australia-awards/>

Applications will close on 3 June 2021

The Get Ready Community Award is a Resilience NSW initiative that recognises locally led initiatives to make communities more prepared and better able to recover from disasters. The award celebrates grass roots efforts of community members in building disaster resilience through partnerships and collaboration across the community. You can find out more information about the Get Ready Community award

<https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/Pages/emergency-management/Awards/NSW-get-ready-community-award/NSW-Get-Ready-Community-Award.aspx>

The Get Ready Community Awards Applications will close 15 June 2021.

BCRRF

- 173 projects valued at \$29m were announced on Sunday 28 March 2021

- The full list of projects is available through an interactive map at the following location: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/bushfire-community-recovery-and-resilience-fund>
- De-brief sessions with unsuccessful applicants are expected to be held in late May/early June – all who have registered have been communicated to.
- Any enquiries received should be directed to bccrf@resilience.nsw.gov.au

BLERF

Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Funding BLERF applications are being reviewed and outcomes are expected to be announced late June – July.

CRO extension

The Federal Minister for Emergency Management David Littleproud and New South Wales Deputy Premier and Minister Responsible for Disaster Recovery John Barilaro today announced a 12-month extension to the provision of NSW bushfire Community Recovery Officers (CROs), with their support services extending to flood recovery as well.

The extension means community-based liaison officers are available to help bushfire and flood victims navigate immediate assistance, grants for household and structural repairs, and other recovery needs.

Kerrie O’Grady, Community Member

Kerrie advised that we received acknowledgment from the families of the 3 American’s who lost their lives in the 2019/2020 fires, that they received their quilts and were extremely grateful.

Natalie McMullen

Natalie advised that a project has been set-up by Appin Fire Brigade for a cadet fire brigade. They currently have 15 members and young people can join even if they don’t want to become a fire fighter, it is based on life skills.

Natalie and Kim Hill are planning an expo at Mittagong RSL and are looking at different aspects of disasters – recovery, resilience, response. There will be key note speakers, markets, building, landscaping, preparedness and early stages of planning and we will be working with Wingecarribee. We are hoping to have the expo in August or September before the next fire season. Kate Johnson asked if they could attend, Natalie advised that Expressions of Interest need to be submitted for stall

	<p>holders but would love to have the South West Sydney Primary Health Network attend.</p> <p>Ally thanked all external agencies who have supported Wollondilly and Wingecarribee, there is still a long journey ahead.</p>	
<p>7. COVID-19 a. Emerging Issues</p>	<p>Ally Dench encouraged everyone to have their vaccinations and follow the NSW health guidelines.</p>	
<p>8. Flood 2021 support</p>	<p>Natalie McMullen advised that she has mostly had contact with two primary producers and three residents and has linked one of the residents for support. The other two have not yet. The two primary producers have accepted support, they have provided outreach. The sad thing is that both are looking at selling their properties after the recent flood event. One is now waiting to see if they receive a grant, the other one has decided that they are going to sell.</p> <p>Salvation Army and Rural Financial Counselling Service have been conducting outreach flood support in Wollondilly (Picton and Warragamba). Support has been provided to primary producers and residents. Outreach will continue on an ongoing basis over coming months.</p> <p>Natalie also met with Vanessa and Tanya to discuss other support and outreach that we can conduct to support storm impacted residents.</p> <p>We encourage everyone to reach out and receive support.</p> <p>We are still having people come forward for bushfire damage. What we are seeing with rebuilds is a huge delay from when the DA is approved to when they build. Tradesman are out-quoting and there are delays from building companies. If people are having delays please contact us and we can assist with grants and outreach programs.</p>	
<p>9. General Business a. Activate Wollondilly 2020 Long Term Recovery & Resilience Plan – Report to Council Meeting</p>	<p>a. Activate Wollondilly 2020 Long Term Recovery & Resilience Plan – Report to Council Meeting</p> <p>Ally Dench thanked Natalie McMullen and Rob Moran for putting the report together. The report will be going to our Council Meeting tomorrow night and we are asking for endorsement for the plan to go on a 28 day exhibition and then will go back to the July Council Meeting for adoption. I encourage everyone to look at the plan. You can provide a submission during the exhibition period.</p>	

<p>b. Council D.A. process and support</p>	<p>Council's recommendation is:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Council endorse the public exhibition of the Draft Activate Wollondilly 2020 Long Term Recovery and Resilience Plan for a period of 28 days. 2. That a report come to Council following the public exhibition period for the Plan to be adopted. <p>b. Council D.A. process and support</p> <p>Natalie McMullen discussed this previously in her update.</p> <p>Ally advised that Natalie and Kim Hill are working with this and are hoping to have as part of the recovery hub.</p>	
<p>10. Next Meeting</p>	<p>Meeting Closed 4.00pm.</p> <p>The Committee agreed at this point in time, to hold the meetings bimonthly, therefore the next meeting will be Monday 19 July 2021, 3.00pm via Microsoft Teams.</p>	