

MINUTES

Wollondilly Local Recovery and Resilience Committee

Date: 18 January 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		✓
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	✓	
Matt McFarlane, Resilience NSW		✓
Natasha Lowe, 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		✓
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	✓	
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	✓	

Attendance	Present	Apology
Cr Matthew Deeth, Wollondilly Shire Council		✓
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
1. Welcome	Peter Wright welcomed attendees and acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land (Gundagurra and Tharawal).	
2. Attendance & Apologies	Apologies noted.	
3. Previous Minutes & Actions Arising	<p>Sandra Harlor reiterated that an update from the RFS for the next meeting to see what they can do with the dollars they have received to support properties that are fire impacted.</p> <p>ACTION: Rob Moran to follow up with the RFS. UPDATE: Rob has not had a chance to speak to the RFS. COMPLETE: Rob advised that the money made available to RFS through fundraising, etc is not available for the general clean-up of fire impacted properties. Rob advised that funding is available through other grants and the eligibility requirements are as follows:</p> <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>ACTION: Vanessa will take this on notice and advise the team. It was agreed now is the time to advocate to ensure momentum is not lost.</p> <p>UPDATE: Vanessa advised that Resilience NSW are looking at the recovery support service with proposals,</p>	Rob Moran

	<p><i>watch this space, there is a lot of work and we acknowledge the work the recovery support services are providing across the state and will be looking at extending.</i></p> <p>UPDATE: <i>There has not been a decision made yet, the recovery support system is still being looked at.</i></p> <p>UPDATE: <i>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.</i></p> <p>ACTION: <i>Peter Wright requested that this be left as a standing item.</i></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>ACTION: Rob Moran advised that we can include a resource library on the mobile van.</p> <p>UPDATE: <i>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.</i></p> <p>Natalie advised that we have also applied for resources through the Bushfire-generated green waste grants for a Recovery Resource Hub.</p> <p>Kerrie O’Grady asked if information could be included for an evacuation centre for people with animals and information for a point of contact to assist or find alternate accommodation for animals in time of an emergency. Could this maybe be the DPI?</p> <p>ACTION: Investigate whom the community should go to first if they need assistance with moving their animals when evacuating.</p> <p>UPDATE: Natalie advised that there is no information to provide as yet, however, the conversation has been started. Natalie will be able to provide an update that the next meeting.</p>	<p>Vanessa Nieuwenhuis</p> <p>Rob Moran</p> <p>Natalie McMullen</p>
<p>4. Update – Wollondilly Recovery Support Service – Community Links Wellbeing</p>	<p>Michele Lanigan was to provide an update in the absence of Tanya Smith. However, Michele experienced internet difficulties and was unable to join the meeting.</p> <p>Community Links Wellbeing will provide an update at the next meeting.</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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On 10 December, 2020 we recorded our Rebuild Webinar. This was presented by three independent architects who are members of the Australian Institute of Architects and a private Bushfire Consultant. There were approximately 13 pre-webinar registrations, however, only four community members attended. The webinar will be uploaded to the website this week and emailed to all registered people and shared on Council’s website. We will promote the link by social media. ▪ Wollondilly Shire Council supported the Recovery Support Service to hold a Hamper day for bushfire impacted residents at The Oaks. This was attended by approximately 10 families (16 people). All families were allocated one or more food hampers. Families were also able to take Christmas decorations if they wanted. WSC provided pizza and families were able to stay and spend time together or chat with the CRO or the Recovery Support Service. This was a really lovely afternoon, and some residents stayed well over an hour chatting. ▪ The draft version of the Youth Voices video was received and due to some of the sensitive content in the video we wanted to show some of the participants the video and ensure they were okay with the content before it was finalised. This was conducted on 18 December 2020. Final video with credits will be sent through this week and passed onto the Communications Team for captioning. Plans to share the video with participants at a mini movie premier during the school holidays have been postponed due to COVID-19. <p>Peter Wright and Vanessa Nieuwenhuis provided very positive feedback on the video and congratulated Natalie, Robyn and Rotary on the work that they have done on this project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wollondilly Shire Council, Wingecarribee Shire Council, the NBRA and the NSW RFS Rebuild Team met twice in January 2021 to resolve the issue of BAL Capping for residents rebuilding after a bushfire. This will affect two pending Development Applications (one in Wollondilly and one in Wingecarribee Shire) as well as future applications yet to be submitted. ▪ The first Wollondilly resident who lost their home in the bushfires moved into their rebuilt home on Christmas Eve. Thank you to the Planning team for all their hard-work to make this happen. ▪ Wollondilly Shire Council received the first draft of the report generated from the five Community 	
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b. Grant Funding Submissions (Community Recovery Toolkit and Mobile Recovery Hub)

Recovery Forums and the Yerranderie Community Association meeting. Council have requested some additional information be included in the report. We hope to have the report in time for our February meeting.

- Four bushfire recovery events that were originally planned for 2020 but postponed due to COVID-19 have now been rescheduled. These events are:
 - I. Family Day at Civic Park Warragamba
6 February 2021.
 - II. Family Day at Bargo Sports Ground
19 February 2021.
 - III. Live Music Event at Willis Park Oakdale
5 March 2021.
 - IV. Live Music Event at Telopea Park Buxton
20 March 2021.
- CRO and Recovery Support Service met with the St Vincent de Paul Society to discuss their new community development Bushfire Recovery Program. This program has been piloted in the Mid-North Coast and is now being rolled out across other parts of NSW.
- CRO will be contacting organisations and community groups to discuss the role that their organisations can play in the recovery aspect of the Local Emergency Management Plan. This will be a review of our previous plans in line with Resilience NSW Requirements. It is expected that this meeting will take place in March 2021.

b. Grant Funding Submissions (Community Recovery Toolkit and Mobile Recovery Hub)

Natalie McMullen provided an update:

- The Rotary Regeneration Grants program commenced in December, 2020. A media release was sent out with Mayor Khan asked to speak on radio about the grants and C91.3 also shared the grants program on their news bulletin in January 2021. So far we have received 15 applications. 8 sets of vouchers have been allocated to total loss residents and vouchers for residents with significant damage will be allocated this week. Two families who have not previously connected with Council have applied for grants. One has been referred to the RSS and the other has been sent information for the RSS.
- Rob Moran and Natalie McMullen prepared and submitted an application for Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund Phase 2. This application was for a mobile recovery and resilience fund. The outcome of this application should be known in late January or February, 2021.
- Green Waste grants through the EPA were recently announced:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wollondilly Shire Council submitted an expression of interest for round 1 which will focus on removal of green waste on Council Land. ○ Council is considering an application for round 2 which will focus on supporting residents by allowing for a free round of green waste removal for fire impacted residents. Council is considering whether or not it is viable for green waste to be removed from the nature strip as a one-off. ▪ SWSPHN have announced the recipients of their first round of community grants. One organisation has already contacted Council in regards to the project that they are funded for. We look forward to hearing what other projects were announced and will be undertaken in Wollondilly. ▪ Wollondilly Shire Council has been approached to provide letters of support for three BLERF Grant applications for projects including aerial firefighting and community resilience projects. 	
<p>6. Community Agency Updates as required</p>	<p><u>Karen Akehurst, Red Cross</u> Service NSW and Red Cross have partnered to identify around 450 destroyed homes in NSW where the owners have not come forward to obtain any financial assistance. Service NSW and Red Cross are approaching these homeowners individually, to see if they are eligible for a grant and to see if they would like to apply for financial assistance to make sure that everyone who is eligible has been captured.</p> <p>The Red Cross grants closed on 31 December 2020. \$201 million was granted out of the \$240 million available funds including \$15 million for the recovery program.</p> <p>There were almost 1,800 people who applied for a Red Cross grant between July-September 2020 period which is why the funds were held back and extended to 31 December.</p> <p>There will be one more round of grants for low income applicants in February, like the last round, and this information will be distributed when it is available. However, anyone who has lost their home and approaches the Red Cross now for the first time will still be available for the full \$60,000.</p> <p><u>Ryan Roumieh, Lifeline</u> Calls for December 2020 were down from previous years which indicates a lower engagement from the community, however, the calls were only down by 10%. The calls have picked up now for January 2021 and have been higher than ever before.</p>	

Lifeline have developed three toolkits in regards to coping with change after a natural disaster, two for adults and one for children. These toolkits are printed and ready to go as well. A digital version of the adult tool kits are also available on the Lifeline Australia website <https://www.lifeline.org.au/resources/toolkit-downloads/>.

Vanessa Nieuwenhuis, Resilience NSW

Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Funding evaluations are underway. ResNSW are expecting to provide advice to applicants on application outcomes mid to late February 2021.

The Community Recovery Officer (CRO) program is operating across the State. Natalie McMullen has been asked to present at the January monthly CRO forum to showcase the youth work in Wollondilly and some other aspects of her role. ResNSW are pleased to be able to share the recovery work of Wollondilly.

Nicole Daley, Big Yellow Umbrella

This is the first time at these meetings so just wanted to say hello and looking forward to being a part of these meetings.

Have been in touch with Natalie McMullen as have received some funding for some therapeutic art sessions. The intention is to connect more with Natalie McMullen and Rob Moran. Will be having a discussion with Kate Johnson, SWSPHN around what other therapeutic art sessions are going to run in the Wollondilly area.

Sharon Robertson, Community Member

Shining Stars Foundation gave out hampers and toys to Balmoral as well as 100 meals to Bargo. Shining Stars will be back in action in February 2021 and will be alternating locations between Bargo and Picton on a Monday afternoon. Sharon has spoken to Lomandra Food Pantry in Leumeah who advised that they had a bit of a rush before Christmas and are still needing help for this area.

Kate Johnson, South West Sydney Primary Health Network

Gave an update on the SWSPHN Post-bushfire Community Health & Wellbeing Consultation, the survey is for those who were affected by the 2019/20 bushfires and is still open. It is found on the HealthChat [site](#). Round 1 for the Supporting Communities in Recovery Grants has closed and we in the process of finalising these grants. We are opening a second round on 1 February 2021 and will advise the committee when the grants are open.

Will touch base with Nicole Daley regarding art therapy groups as some of the grants that are funded in Round 1 relate to this.

Kerrie O’Grady – Picton CWA

Picton District Branch has been successful in obtaining funding to offer training courses for members of the Illawarra group, approximately 130 members, for Self-Care and Vicarious Trauma. This will assist with our planning and preparedness for future disasters and provide CWA members with skills to allow them to assist and offer care to future victims and themselves.

Kim Hill, Community Support Officer

Local Land Services – Boundary fencing bordering public lands during 2019/20 bushfire season. Grants for up to \$5,000 per kilometre to purchase fencing materials through the Supporting our Neighbours program.

Applications close on 3 March 2021

www.lls.nsw.gov.au/fencing or call 1300 778 080.

Grants:

Veolia Funding for Community Projects in 2021 – Opened 18 January 2021 and closes 18 February 2021.

Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal – Grants up to \$25,000 for non-for profits in areas affected by the 2019/20 bushfires. Applications open now and close 17 February 2021.

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment - Estimated Grant Value from \$5,000 to \$1,000,000.

Close date and time is 30 June 2021 at 5:00pm

Primary Category: 211006 - Natural Resources - Conservation and Protection

Secondary Category: 211011 - Zoos, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Conservation of Endangered Species.

Other Information:

The National Bushfire Recovery Agency (NBRA) is working on a bushfire book project that aims to tell the story of the experiences of people impacted by the 2019-20 bushfires. As a national agency, we are uniquely placed to illustrate how the bushfires have impacted people right across the country and their different recovery journeys.

The book will focus on the people, communities and landscapes affected, and will acknowledge the heroism of people during the fires and their resilience during the recovery period.

The competition launched on the Kids News website on 9 December 2020 and will close at 5.00pm on 20 February 2021.

<https://www.kidsnews.com.au/arts/kids-news-launches-bushfire-poetry-competition/news-story/25e6c852f49f1222e73ba2dba9caf6e8>

	<p>Have come across these books and would like to share, maybe something to think of to purchase with left over money and give to various schools and libraries in areas which were affected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hey Sigmund – Author Karen Young, has resources and books including the bestselling ‘Hey Warrior’ and ‘Hey Awesome’, which creatively assist children to understand and manage anxiety. The books have been translated into a number of languages and have sold more than 150,000 copies worldwide. These books can help adults in the process as well! https://www.heysigmund.com/shop/ • Children’s Health Queensland – Birdie Stories – covering natural hazards and disasters, including birdie and the virus. Helps children understand disasters and how they can recover. https://www.childrens.health.qld.gov.au/chq/our-services/mental-health-services/qcpimh/natural-disaster-resources/storybooks/ <p><u>Kelli Bennett-Smith, Angus Taylor MP’s Office</u> Stronger Communities Programme Round 6 is open for expressions of interest up to \$20,000. Expressions of Interests (EOI) close 15 February 2021 and to get an EOI please contact Angus Taylor MP, Camden or Goulburn office.</p> <p>Not for profit organisations can apply for 100% of the funds needed for a project.</p> <p>Councils can apply, however, need to have matching funding. \$150,000 is available across the electorate to fund small capital works projects.</p> <p>The Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund (BLERF) will close next week.</p> <p><u>Natalie McMullen, Community Recovery Officer</u> Noted that Primary Producers might benefit from financial advice.</p>	
<p>7. COVID-19 a. Emerging Issues</p>	<p><u>Economic Development Update</u> It was noted that the previously mentioned issues in regards to COVID are ongoing with no further new issues at this stage.</p> <p>Sandra Harlor asked what businesses need a QR code and when are these businesses required to use the QR code? And which business do not need a QR code? As Sandra has been advised that if you are simply getting take away, then there is no need to worry about the QR code. Is it possible for Council to go to the various villages to inspect for compliance?</p>	

	<p>Peter Wright advised that if it is a really small business then they will be exempt from requiring a QR code, however, all businesses registered with the Wollondilly Business newsletter have been given an update twice on what is required.</p> <p>Rob Moran requested Sandra to pass on any information of businesses who do not appear to be complying with the QR code to either himself or Sharon O'Regan, Council's Environmental Health Officer, so those businesses can be checked for QR code compliance. It is Sharon O'Regan's role to ensure the various villages are QR code compliant.</p>	
<p>8. General Business</p>	<p>Development of Long Term Recovery & Resistance Plan</p> <p>Rob Moran, Natalie McMullen, Ally Dench and Peter Wright have been discussing the timing of this plan and it has been scheduled to be presented to Council in April 2021 as a draft. The Plan will then most likely go out to the community for consultation and exhibition. It is anticipated that a fair bit of work will be completed by mid to late March 2021.</p> <p>Council would like to set up a small working group with members of this committee to be of assistance with the drafting of this Plan. Once the document is drafted, there will be sections of text to review and the working group will be primarily involved in giving feedback on that text as it develops. There will not be a lot of meetings as the text will be distributed via email as that will be a better use of everyone's time. They will be a couple of meetings on an 'as needed' basis.</p> <p>All the committee will be invited to assist with the working group. An email will be sent out to the whole committee so as to include those who have not attended this meeting.</p> <p>After being presented to the Council, the Plan will then be further refined and the working group will then have an ongoing role in refining the process.</p> <p>Kerrie O'Grady asked to be included in the working group.</p> <p>Ongoing Role of Recovery and Resilience Committee</p> <p>Peter Wright advised that Ally Dench would like to discuss with this group about where they see this group going in the future. This is a very big group, although, attendance has diminished as we have moved further away from the bushfire event.</p>	

	Ally would like to explore the direction of this committee going forward and its ongoing role. As Ally is an apology for this meeting, it will be discussed at the next meeting.	
9. Next Meeting	Meeting Closed 3.54pm. The next Meeting will be Monday 15 February 2021, 3.00pm via Microsoft Teams.	