

MINUTES

Wollondilly Local Recovery and Resilience Committee

Date: 19 April 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		✓
Charmaine Cooper, Wingecarribee Shire Council		✓
Danielle Lidgard, Wingecarribee Shire Council		✓
Jason Mitchell, Tharawal Land Council		✓
Superintendent Paul Fuller, Commander, Camden Police		✓
Vanesa Nieves, 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		✓
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		✓
Cr Judith Hannan, Wollondilly Shire Council		✓

Attendance	Present	Apology
Deputy Mayor Michael Banasik, Wollondilly Shire Council	✓	
Ben Taylor, Wollondilly Sire 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	Ally Dench welcomed attendees and acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land (Gundagurra and Tharawal).	
2. Attendance & Apologies	Apologies noted.	
3. Previous Minutes & Actions Arising	<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: 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.</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>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.</p> <p>ACTION: If we do not receive a response back soon we will need to accelerate this issue.</p>	Rob Moran

	<p>COMPLETE: Ally advised that a 12 month extension has been granted to the Community Recovery Officer, Natalie McMullen and Recovery Support Officer, Kim Hill's positions. Great news for Wollondilly.</p>	
<p>4. Update – Wollondilly Recovery Support Service – Community Links Wellbeing</p>	<p>Tanya Smith provided an update:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 39 Applications have been closed and there are 27 still active. ▪ 11 months ago we supported 66 applications. ▪ We have received the first flood referral from Natalie McMullen. ▪ Still issues with fencing as opposed to building. ▪ A brochure has been sent to Alison (to include with these minutes) regarding the Recovery Support Service. 	
<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"> ➤ In March 2021 Illawarra TAFE held the free chainsaw course planned in partnership with Habitat for Humanity. The purpose of this course was: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To assist Habitat for Humanity by up skilling their staff and volunteers. ▪ Assist with recruiting skilled volunteers to assist Habitat for Humanity with their bushfire clean-up work in Wollondilly and Wingecarribee Shires. ▪ To provide impacted residents with more skills to allow them to clean-up their impacted properties in a safe and efficient manner. ▪ To provide community members with the opportunity to undertake free vocational training. <p>The course was attended by seven people (2 impacted residents, 2 NSW RFS volunteers, Kristeen from Habitat for Humanity, one local Men's Shed member and a community member who plans of volunteering for Habitat for Humanity). The feedback from participants in the course was very positive and it is hoped this course will be offered in the area again in the future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Another resident is expected to reach lock-up in May 2021. This will be the second resident to move into their rebuilt home following the bushfire. ➤ In March, 2021 myself, Raelene and Michelle travelled to Yerranderie to meet a bushfire impacted family. This was a very productive meeting. We are now supporting three families from Yerranderie/ 	

<p>b. Grant expenditure and implementation to date</p> <p>c. Bushfire Community Recovery Resilience Fund</p> <p>d. Award Nomination</p>	<p>Colong and have been able to advocate on their behalf to the NSW RFS and Local Land Services about some of the unique issues being faced by these residents in their recovery.</p> <p>➤ Big thank you to the RSS for attending the Buxton event and having a stall. Thank you also to Stories of Regeneration, International Volunteers for Peace and At Full Potential for their attendance and support.</p> <p>Ally thanked Natalie McMullen, Kim Hill and Tanya Smith for their direct support to residents. Ally noted that Tanya’s role has also been extended.</p> <p>b. Grant expenditure and implementation to date</p> <p>Rob Moran noted that Saturday night was the final Bush Fire Recovery event held in Buxton. The other family fun day events were held in Warragamba and Bargo and live music nights in Oakdale and Buxton. All 4 events were very well supported by the community.</p> <p>We would like to thank both the State and Federal Governments for funding.</p> <p>\$1.3 million grants funding was implemented. A report is being collated on the other funded projects through the Long Term Recovery and Resilience Plan, on where expenditure has been so that it is clear and transparent for the community.</p> <p>Ally thanked Rob and other staff who supported the events.</p> <p>c. Bushfire Community Recovery Resilience Fund</p> <p>Ally Dench advised that we have applied for funding for the Mobile Community Recovery Hub and Digital Technology to assist with communications in the event there is a disaster.</p> <p>A formal announcement is imminent from the State member. It is sounding positive and we will discuss this further at the next meeting about this funding.</p> <p>d. Award Nomination</p> <p>Ally Dench advised that we have received a few emails asking Council to nominate for awards.</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</p>	
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	<p>partnership with Rotary North, South West Sydney Primary Health Network and Community Links. This is a unique project.</p> <p>Ally advised that there will be other initiatives if anyone would like to nominate, we are happy to support.</p> <p>Alex Stengl advised that she is aware that Council's Waste Management Team have submitted a nomination for their work with waste management through the bushfires. She is unaware which category but there is something being put in.</p>	
<p>6. Community Agency Updates as required</p>	<p><u>Kerrie O'Grady, Picton CWA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kerrie advised that this will be her last update as she is no longer with the Picton CWA Branch. Kerrie will remain on the committee as a community member. ▪ We have used up the final \$3,000 in the recovery hub account, we have purchased gift cards from Woolworths and Bunnings and have passed these onto 10 families that were identified. ▪ There is no money remaining in the Green Wattle hub. ▪ The final quilt has also been given out. 450 quilts were given out in total and was an initiative from local quilter groups and then other areas became involved as well. <p><u>Ryan Roumieh, Lifeline</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lifeline Macarthur has recently been able to get a mobile refreshment van for Wollondilly which goes down to the Southern Highlands as well. Everyone is welcome to sit and have a conversation about mental health. If there are any upcoming events that you would like us to attend please let us know. ▪ Sharon Robertson advised that there is a Wollondilly social men's health group that meet and Natalie McMullen advised that there is also one in the Southern Highlands where they meet twice a week, they have had some great outcomes. Natalie to forward the details. ▪ Kerrie O'Grady advised that there is a men's table also in the Southern Highlands, looking for contacts to meet in Wollondilly and network. <p><u>Karen Akehurst, Red Cross</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Red Cross previously had 2 new small grants available and there has been a third round for additional support for people on lower incomes. This grant is only available to people who have received 	<p>Natalie McMullen</p>

	<p>funding from round 1 or 2 and are still experiencing financial hardship. The grant closes on 2 May.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is a Flood grant available for people whose primary place of residence was destroyed. Any questions please give Karen a call. <p><u>Sharon Robertson, Community Member</u></p> <p>Shining stars are still continuing and is growing. This is a great cause for the community and we are giving out up to 100 meals now.</p> <p><u>Cheryl Mitchell (South Western Sydney LHD)</u></p> <p>Natalie McMullen noted that Cheryl from the South Western Sydney LHD has been doing great things, really good projects with the health network.</p> <p><u>Nicole Daley, Big Yellow Umbrella</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yellow hampers are available to people in the Macarthur area, you need to come to Narellan to collect and they are free and offered Mondays and Fridays. ▪ Holding an Art Program for young people. ▪ Not too much success with the Healthy Art Program but it is still open. ▪ We are running workshops with 13 ladies attending each week. ▪ Program for Buxton Playgroup which was great collaborating with the small children. ▪ We are working with Community Links running a program for Bargo elders. <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>Deputy Mayor Michael Banasik advised that in regard to mental health we have to try and assist the elderly and get them out of their homes. We also need to assist volunteers as much as possible.</p> <p>Cheryl Mitchell advised that she is more than happy to be involved in mental health support. Unfortunately for the elderly there is not much outreach available. We would like to provide education and support. Cheryl noted that her position is until the end of June and is hoping to have her position extended for another 12 months.</p>	

	<p>Vickie Tierney, Council’s Community Projects Officer has released a new Café Connects Calendar for Over 55’s, as this program is now back up and running. https://www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au/assets/Documents-NEW/Resident-Services/Community/Cafe-Connect/Cafe-Connect-Wollondilly-2021-Program.pdf</p>	
<p>8. Flood 2021 support</p>	<p>Ally Dench provided an update in regard to the recent flood event:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As Natalie McMullen reported there have been quite a few residents impacted and only 7 identified as requiring ongoing support because of inundation of water. ▪ Everyone in the main street of Picton were prepared, most had sand bags in place. ▪ Support was provided by the SES. ▪ The main street was closed for about 1 hour because water went over the bridge slightly and then it went down very quickly. ▪ There are extensive potholes around the Shire. A strategy has been implemented on how Council will respond to the event. <p>Mayor Robert Khan noted that the SES were more organised this time and the water flowed a lot quicker down Stonequarry Creek than previously.</p> <p>Ally agreed that a lot of work has been done on the creek to assist with waterflow.</p> <p>Kerry Whitehead provided a Council update:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We have been out with the jet patcher and our own flowcons, we also have 2 contractors with flowcon trucks. ▪ We have a Program of Heavy Patching ready to start, the first one commenced today. ▪ We are looking at cold mix patches to commence. <p>Ally noted that Kerry and the Council team have been magnificent with responding to the concerns of residents.</p> <p>Kerry advised that Council try to ensure the roads are safe as the first priority. The jet patcher is not there to fix the road it is there to make it safe until the road can be fixed properly. We have a lot of roads to look after and we have no State or Regional roads in the area, so therefore no assistance, we are looking at handing back some of our roads to the relevant Departments as we receive no funding.</p> <p>Kerry noted that Council have had both positive and negative responses from residents.</p>	

	<p>Mayor Robert Khan noted that Council also have to maintain local bridges as well.</p> <p>Mayor Robert Khan praised Kerry and her team and advised that they did a great job.</p> <p>Ally advised that some staff went above and beyond to assist people who were isolated, people along the Colong stock route didn't have access to basics, things such as food and medication. Alex Stengl, Natalie McMullen, Rob Moran and Kerry Whitehead went above and beyond to assist.</p> <p>Alex Stengl noted that having the connections through this committee have assisted.</p> <p>Natalie McMullen advised that the rapid response team were amazing in supporting the different services. They have attended all bushfire recovery events.</p> <p>Sharon Robertson noted that they have also provided hay to farmers in the drought.</p> <p>Alex Stengl advised that in regard to waste collection we sent out a number of letters to residents who were flood impacted and inundated, so far to date 6.44 tonnes have been received from landfill in Wollondilly. Flooding is a bit of a black hole for residents, some residents think that they are not eligible. There may be some feedback regarding issues around that.</p>	
<p>9. General Business</p> <p>a. Activate Wollondilly 2020 Long Term Recovery & Resilience Plan – Report to Council Meeting</p> <p>b. Bushfire Grants Program</p> <p>c. Council D.A. process and support</p> <p>d. Hazzard and Emergency Management Study</p>	<p>a. Activate Wollondilly 2020 Long Term Recovery & Resilience Plan – Report to Council Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ally advised that a report is going up to the May Council Meeting and there has been a subgroup formed from this committee working on the plan to provide feedback to Natalie McMullen. Thank you Natalie and Rob Moran, the report is coming along really good. ▪ The Draft plan has been circulated to the subcommittee for comment. If you would like to look at the draft plan please connect. ▪ The Action Plan outlines all the different grants received and initiatives that have been done. ▪ Rob Moran noted that we have made some internal amendments to the draft report. ▪ Ally advised that the report will go out on exhibition for 28 days and then come back to Council for final adoption. <p>b. Bushfire Grants Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Part of the funding through Resilience NSW - 25% funding went into the Community Grants Program. ▪ Not just total loss. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We received 35 applications, 33 were eligible and we have allocated \$65,019 to 33 recipients. All money goes back into the economy, to support local residents and businesses. <p>c. Council D.A. process and support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ally Dench advised that we are supporting people with their DA applications and continue to provide support for bushfire affected residents. Thank you Natalie McMullen and Kim Hill for assisting, as the status of land has changed the BAL level. ▪ Received an email from the Manger Development Services and he has advised that the building team continue to prioritise any applications for fire impacted residents, they are receiving red carpet service. We have been waiving fees and charges in regard to development applications. Quite a few of the applications have been approved, only three have been withdraw. ▪ Bushfire mapping is progressing and will be resubmitted to the RFS for their review. There is no timeframe but we are working towards review of maps, a project is being funded under the LEP budget to do that. Not a quick process as there is a lot of fine detail to ensure that this is done correctly. ▪ A report for Council’s consideration will be completed soon. <p>d. Hazzard and Emergency Management Study</p> <p>Ally Dench advised the committee that a Hazzard and Emergency Management Study has started to be implemented by Council and is being funded out of the \$1.3 million we received to look at evacuation and manmade hazards. A Consultant has been engaged. Kylie Fairhall, Council’s Senior Strategic Planner is the officer who is working on this project. The committee may be called upon to provide comments.</p> <p>e. Traxside Update</p> <p>Natalie McMullen advised that unfortunately Traxside have postponed the Revive program which was scheduled for Term 2 in Wollondilly. The program was a free, clinical program using creative arts that was aimed at supporting young people who have been experiencing ongoing anxiety since the Green Wattle Creek bushfire. The program was due to take place at Picton Library. The goal will be to host the program in Term 3, 2021. The program was also postponed in Wingecarribee due to lack of registrations. The low registrations may be due to numerous grant funded wellbeing programs that are currently taking place across both LGA’s.</p>	
10. Next Meeting	Meeting Closed 4.25pm.	

	The next Meeting will be Monday 17 May 2021, 3.00pm via Microsoft Teams.	
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