

MINUTES

Wollondilly Local Recovery and Resilience Committee

Date: 19 July 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		✓

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. MOVED: Rob Moran and SECONDED: Sandra Harlor	
4. Update – Wollondilly Recovery Support Service – Community Links Wellbeing	Michele Lanigan provided an update:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We are thinking through the transition out of the program which is due to finish 31 December 2021 and how do we ensure that we support people and ensure they understand what other agencies are out there to assist. We are in the planning phase at the moment. ▪ In terms of what we are finding at the moment, we are averaging around 8 new referrals a month. It is a bit of a mixture, some had initial contact and some are brand new contacts. It's the complexity that has now changed, a number of people have started to move forward in their recovery path, others are experiencing the harsh reality of where they stand now. ▪ We are supporting people and advocating on their behalf. We are mindful that people know that we will not be continuing on and that referrals are made so that people will still be supported by other agencies and we are making sure that they are aware of that. 	

	<p>Ally noted that this committee is good at linking back and people can be guided to the right services.</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"> ▪ Response, Recovery and Resilience Expo planning is going very well. The venue has been booked for the 19th, 20th and 21st of November 2021 at Mittagong RSL. Kim has put together a fantastic group of speakers and exhibitors and is doing a fantastic job planning the event. The event will be a collaboration between the NRRRA, Wollondilly Shire Council and Wingecarribee Shire Council. ▪ It was great to attend the launch of the Listening Post website. The virtual event was a great success and it was lovely to see the presentation from several people including residents and students from Buxton Public School who have submitted stories to the website. ▪ Ally, Kim and Natalie attended a 2 day training with Resilience NSW in the Blue Mountains. This was a great opportunity to learn more about community engagement and to connect with other Recovery Practitioners from across Greater Sydney. ▪ Wollondilly Shire Council were very honoured to be a finalist in the NSW Local Government Awards for the Children and Youth Voices projects. We did not win the award, but it was a great honour to be selected as a finalist. ▪ We recently purchased and had an orientation session in Social PinPoint software which will be used to undertake the asset mapping and community profile project. ▪ In June 2021 we held the first meeting of the Working Group for the Community Recovery Hub Toolkit project being undertaken by Anne Leadbeater. This project was funded as part of the BCRRF Stream 1 grant. We are very grateful to the members of our Local Recovery and Resilience Committee who are a part of this group and project. ▪ Kim Hill, myself a number of CROs visited the ‘Sapphire’ in the Blue Mountains. A concept home believed to be the first BAL Flamezone and Passivhaus in the world. Blue Eco Homes who built the home will be an exhibitor at the Response, Recovery and Resilience Expo. ▪ CRO became aware of a potential scammer incident for one of our residents rebuilding after the bushfires. A reminder of the need to remain vigilant of scammers and fraudulent tradesmen. 	

- BCRRF Stream 2 Workshop update

Last week we held a workshop for all grant recipients of BCRRF Stream 2 funding who will be delivering projects in the Wollondilly. The workshop was attended by a large number of grant recipients as well as Kim Hill (NRRRA), Tanya Smith (Community Links Wellbeing) and Vanessa (Resilience NSW) Funded projects include:

- Seeds of Hope: a project that will support community gardens at early childhood centres, schools and community facilities in bushfire impacted communities. Provides resources and education. Offered across Wollondilly LGA as well as other LGAs.
- Catholic Care: Funded for multiple projects including REACH and Cool Kids Bushfire Anxiety Program that are delivered in schools. Also the Trees and Minds program that involves removing dangerous trees while also providing psychological/ wellbeing support. Catholic Care's projects will be delivered in Warragamba and Silverdale as they are limited by diocesan boundaries.
- Mackillop: Good Grief and Storm Birds projects delivered in schools by therapists. Wollondilly wide. Offered across Wollondilly LGA as well as other LGAs.
- Habitat for Humanity: This project offers practical support to build community resilience, capacity, and management of bushfire prevention activities. Habitat for Humanity assists residents and volunteers to be better organised and to prepare for, and respond to, bushfires.
- Fire Thrive: Community based behaviour change project aimed at increasing preparedness. Offered across Wollondilly LGA as well as other LGAs.
- Buxton RFS: upgrades and extensions to the Buxton RFS shed.
- Buxton Community Association: Clear unused scrub and plant fire resistant native plants and native food garden. Involve the entire Community by providing a horticulturalist and Native Food plant specialists to provide workshops and instructions on the best plantings.
- Wollondilly Shire Council Mobile Recovery and Resilience Hub Project: A mobile Recovery and Resilience van that will be utilised by Wollondilly Shire Council to provide immediate outreach support to impacted residents and businesses during and immediately after a disaster as well as ongoing resilience building programs.
- Wollondilly Shire Council Connect and Interact Project: Connect and Interact Wollondilly supports sustained community recovery and resilience by providing public WiFi and interactive kiosks in bushfire impacted communities. Internet connectivity in public spaces provides universal communications access

	<p>Ally Dench advised that Council staff are meeting this week to discuss the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery (BSBR) grants, well done Natalie McMullen, Rob Moran and Peter Wright for pulling this plan together and being guided by this Committee. This will be going up to the Council Meeting tomorrow night for adoption. It will also be an evolving document.</p> <p>Natalie McMullen noted that we received lovely feedback towards Kerrie O’Grady and Kim Hill from a man who had a lot of praise for the work they did with the hub.</p> <p>Rob Moran advised that in regard to the previous round of bush fire funding we are opening positions with our youth training, RSA, RCG, Resume Writing & Interview coaching. Training is targeted to young people living in bush fire impacted communities. Please contact Rob if you know of anyone that this may benefit.</p>	
<p>6. Community Agency Updates as required</p>	<p><u>Kate Johnson, South West Sydney Primary Health Network</u></p> <p>An update around bush fire activities:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Round 1 finished on 30 June 2021, we are currently awaiting reports from everyone and then we will be able to provide more of an update on how they are going as well as sharing information on our website. ▪ Round 2 finishes on 30 October 2021. ▪ The SWSPHN Community Wellbeing and Participation Measure for Bushfire Affected Communities Request for Proposal (RFP) will close at 5pm Monday 26th July 2021. Eligible organisations are invited to apply by completing the application form on Tenderlink. Kate will forward the information to Alison to email to the Committee. <p>ACTION: Complete</p> <p><u>Geoff O’Brien</u></p> <p>When will the Village marketing plans be completed. Ally to take on notice and will find out from the team.</p> <p><u>Cheryl Mitchell, South West Sydney Local Health District</u></p> <p>On 17 September 2021 a pizza and pie night with entertainment and a panel to talk about wellbeing and mental health will be held at Mittagong RSL, doors open at 6.00pm to commence at 6.30pm, a flyer will be forthcoming.</p>	<p>Alison Ferguson</p> <p>Ally Dench</p>

Kerrie O'Grady

Kerrie advised that she joined a webinar [Post-traumatic growth: exploring the 10 Years Beyond Bushfires Report | Recovery Matters - YouTube](#) run by ID&R regarding post traumatic growth, enlightening how they had looked at the growth people had made after the fires. This is a different take on post traumatic growth on how people have grown and developed after the fires.

Ally Dench noted the different language they are using and maybe this is something that we can look at and initiate as part of the toolkit and see if we can add in.

Kerrie advised that one of the ladies had lost all of her family in the Victorian fires and she advises that you don't exclude people who don't live in the fire impact area. Her experience is don't exclude people because they have the wrong postcode.

Kelli Bennett-Smith, Angus Taylor MP's Office

In regard to the funding announcements:-

- Camden, Wollondilly, and Wingecarribee local government areas will benefit from a \$200 million recovery funding package to support communities affected by the February and March 2021 storms and floods.
- In addition, a \$200 million Infrastructure Betterment Fund will be established to support the reconstruction and improved disaster resilience of public assets damaged during the recent storms and floods as well as the 2019-20 bushfires.
- The black summer funding opens on 22 July 2021.

Ally thanked Kelli for keeping us in the loop and advocating on behalf of Wollondilly. The Long Term Resilience Plan will guide us as to what grants we will be applying for.

Sandra Harlor

Sandra advised that an average of 80 to 100 hampers goes out per week as well as frozen foods. Meals are still being distributed, not face to face. With the current lockdowns we probably would have more. It is only this Friday and next Friday as the funding ceases.

	<p><u>Vanessa Nieuwenhuis, Resilience NSW</u></p> <p>Vanessa provided the below update via email:-</p> <p>Please accept my apologies for this afternoon’s meeting. Please note the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resilience NSW are currently recruiting for positions in the new organisational structure. As new staff transition into the various teams, Resilience NSW will continue to provide the usual services. You will be notified of any changes to your usual Resilience contacts as the transition occurs. ▪ Community Recovery Officer program – congratulations to the continued work of Natalie McMullen in this role in Wollondilly. Resilience NSW are very pleased to see the continued work in this LGA, including the proactive approach of working with organisations who have been approved for BCRRF funding who commence projects in this area shortly. ▪ Community Links Recovery Support Services contract is schedule to end in December 2021. Resilience NSW are currently working with all RSSs on a transition plan. ResNSW will advise of the processes in due course. 	
<p>7. COVID-19</p> <p>a. Lockdown – any emerging issues</p> <p>b. Business Support</p> <p>c. Community Messaging</p>	<p>Ally Dench asked if there were any emerging issues in regards to the lockdown. There has been a significant increase in calls to Council. During this time there is a lot of frustration from residents who expect the same level of service before lockdown. We are still trying to assist the community as much as possible. Council are keeping parks and reserves open so that people can get outdoors. Council have closed their doors but we are still there to support, our telephones are still operating.</p> <p>If Council need to advocate on behalf of a service let us know. We understand that mental health issues could come out of this lockdown. We have information on our website and Facebook pages and are advising how we can support local businesses during this time. The Economic Development Community Advisory Committee meet this week and we will be discussing the possibility of the re-enactment of the community taskforce. I encourage you to direct people to our website.</p> <p>Sharon Robertson asked if we could look at something for HSC students, maybe study groups in the afternoon, as trials have been pushed back 2 weeks. This could relieve the stress and help them through. Ally advised that our Library has assisted HSC students with study groups in the past. Rob Moran advised that they are doing study cram as part the funding in partnership with the Library, contact Emily Plews, Council’s Community</p>	

	<p>Project Officer. This information is on our social media sites.</p> <p>ACTION: Peter Wright to speak to the Library around communication.</p> <p>Geoff O'Brien thanked Council for the community newsletter Business Wollondilly which links to business support. Geoff believes this lockdown will be different to the last, in particular to construction. Does the Council have contacts of their registered businesses, tradies and construction workers and can they be contacted directly and is there other ways to reach out to them. I am just worried they will fall through the cracks. Ally advised we will take Geoff's concern back to our small business support team. We will need to see if they are registered.</p> <p>ACTION: Small Business support team to reach out to registered businesses, tradies and construction workers and offer assistance.</p> <p>Ally asked Christine Wilesmith if Community Links have seen an increase in people requiring assistance. Christine advised that absolutely there has been an increase and particularly around issues with Covid. Mainly issues about loneliness and support for younger children and home schooling. I have received a number of referrals where the referral may be anxiety or depression, but now the issues are highlighting other issues, in particular bush fire. People are going no not again and how am I going to cope with this.</p> <p>Ryan Roumieh advised that there has been a big increase nationally in Lifeline and an increase in the Macarthur and Western Sydney areas. We had an increase from 200 to 300 a day, to an extra 8,000 calls per day over the past couple of weeks. Clients that we work with need our support more than ever and have moved to online as well.</p> <p>Cheryl Mitchell advised that there has been an increase in enquiries with South West Sydney Local Health District as well, if there are people that need mental health support we have people ready to help and can still do face to face. Instruction from health is that it is business as usual.</p> <p>Ally advised the Committee that if they receive any enquiries and people would like to know about Council's Covid services, please share the below link</p> <p>https://www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au/emergency-information/covid-19-updates/latest-news-on-council-services/</p>	<p>Peter Wright</p> <p>Kersti Martin</p>
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<p>8. General Business</p>	<p><u>Dave Owen's Report</u></p> <p>Kerrie O'Grady asked in regard to the review that Dave Owens undertook for Council where is it up to. Rob Moran advised that it is Wingecarribee's review not Wollondilly's. Ally advised that we will be looking at any feedback from Dave Owen's report that may assist with what we do.</p> <p><u>Resilience Song</u></p> <p>Ally Dench shared the song Resilience based on the green wattle fires and funded through PHN initiative, written by Patrick Nellestein and Council's very own Alex Stengl. Please share with everyone.</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZgkhLgY64oU</p>	
<p>9. 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 13 September 2021, 3.00pm via Microsoft Teams.</p>	