

MINUTES

Wollondilly Local Recovery and Resilience Committee

Date: 20 April 2020

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		✓
Greg Dobson, Rotary		✓
Steve Moxon, Rotary		✓
Barry McConville, Rotary		✓
Kelli Bennett-Smith, Angus Taylor's Office	✓	
Peter McLaughlin, Nathaniel Smith's Office		✓
Ben Brungs, OEM		✓
Alison Morgan, OEM / GSC		✓
Vanessa Nieuwenhuis, OEM	✓	
Matt McFarlane, OEM		✓
Natasha Lowe, OEM		✓
Mark McMullen, Red Cross		✓
Jessie Huard, Red Cross		✓
Karen Akehurst, Red Cross	✓	
Mark Pepping, Wingecarribee Shire Council	✓	
Charmaine Cooper, Wingecarribee Shire Council		✓
Danielle Lidgard, Wingecarribee Shire Council		✓
Jason Mitchell, Tharawal Land Council		✓
Darren Sly, Superintendent, Camden Police		✓
Vanesa Nievas, Regional Emergency Management Officer		✓
Geoff O'Brien, Picton Chamber	✓	
Karen Zelinsky, St Vincent de Paul Society		✓
Mayor Cr Matthew Deeth, Wollondilly Shire Council		✓
Cr Judith Hannan, Wollondilly Shire Council	✓	
Cr Noel Lowry, 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	✓	
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. Present & Apologies	Attendees introduced themselves, apologies noted.	
3. Previous Minutes & Actions Arising	<p><i>Council to speak to the Tattoo shop in regard to removing these sandbags.</i></p> <p>Sandbags are still located outside the tattoo shop and NRMA; to be followed up.</p> <p>ACTION: Council to speak to the Tattoo shop in regard to moving these sandbags and check if they are new or not, as this could be a health issue.</p> <p><i>Ally Dench to follow-up with the BEC</i></p> <p>ACTION: Ally to follow up BEC regarding figures from last flood.</p> <p>4. Update – Grant opportunities</p> <p><i>Kim McGuinness to distribute information of grant for small businesses to Committee which opens for applications today.</i></p> <p>https://www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au/business/business-investment/business-support/</p> <p>ACTION: Ally to follow-up with Kim McGuinness for next meeting.</p> <p>7. Community agency updates as required</p> <p><i>An update was provided on which fees were waived for bushfire impacted properties in addition to concierge services for bushfire affected residents. It was suggested this information be posted on Facebook and furthermore, be created into a flyer for display at the Recovery Hub in Balmoral.</i></p> <p>ACTION: Council to post information about fees waived for bushfire affected residents and the clean-up services provided by Services NSW. A poster will also be provided for the Recovery Hub outlining the same information.</p>	<p>Sharon O'Regan</p> <p>Ally Dench</p> <p>Ally Dench Kim McGuinness</p> <p>Peter Wright Toni Averay</p>

<p>4. Update – Grant opportunities</p>	<p>a. 21 April 2020 Council report</p> <p>Ally Dench advised that tomorrow evening the Long Term Community Recovery and Resilience Plan and Grant Opportunities Report will be put up to the Council Meeting. After the outcome of tomorrow night’s Council meeting we will be able to implement some online workshops. It is to be noted that these are strategies that are long term, not quick fix programs:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and implement a Long Term Community Recovery and Resilience Plan, as a result of the recovery debrief, review workshops and forums, that guides a strategic and action focused approach to programs and activities regarding community recovery and resilience as a result of the 2019/20 Bushfire and Storm events. 2. Allocate the additional \$300,000 National Bushfire Recovery Agency immediate base payment to the projects outlined in this report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$30,000 – Community resilience events • \$70,000 - Community and Stakeholder Debrief workshops and forums • \$60,000 - Interactive Digital Kiosks • \$50,000 – Natural and Manmade Hazards Study • \$90,000 - Long term Recovery Plan – Community Identified Projects and Activities 3. Note the grant funding opportunities and the applications being made by Council for programs and projects through these funding streams. 4. Include funding obtained through grant opportunities as a result of the 2019/20 bushfire and storm events fund the projects and activities in the Wollondilly Long Term Community Recovery and Resilience Plan. <p>ACTION: It was agreed that as part of the grant process we need to incorporate The Oaks, Oakdale and Warragamba areas (Damfest, The Oaks Christmas Carols, etc.) community based grants. Rob Moran noted that Council have submitted a grant and nothing has been determined yet.</p> <p>ACTION: Ally Dench to provide information to Cr Judith Hannan so that she can support the northern areas in community grant processes.</p>	<p>Rob Moran</p> <p>Ally Dench</p>
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	<p>b. Wollondilly and Wingecarribee - Boundary fencing support package</p> <p>There has been an announcement from the NSW Government regarding funding available for boundary fencing support for private landholders, particularly for areas with boundary fencing bordering public lands. There is an eligibility criteria. All information is on Wollondilly Shire Council's website and the below link:-</p> <p>https://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/what-we-do/our-major-projects/supporting-our-neighbours-public-land-boundary-fencing-program</p> <p>c. Council Program of Works – National Recovery Agency Grant</p> <p>George Hodgson from the National Bushfire Recovery Agency provided virtual visits. Major issues were discussed including evacuation and the Community Links wellbeing was successful in being rolled out with a step by step program from Wollondilly and extending down to Wingecarribee. Fencing issues and the recovery plan were also discussed.</p>	
<p>5. Update – Greater Sydney Region Recovery Committee</p>	<p>Ally Dench advised that she attended the Greater Sydney Regional Recovery Committee Meeting on 15 April 2020. The Subcommittees provide updates at this meeting. There was not much to report back to this meeting due to COVID-19.</p> <p>Ally advised that Laing O'Rourke are currently contacting people who have registered through Service NSW.</p> <p>ACTION: Advice regarding the clean-up through Service NSW's Contractors to be put on Council's Facebook page.</p> <p>ACTION: Ally to forward the Service NSW link to the Committee.</p>	<p>Peter Wright</p> <p>Ally Dench</p>
<p>6. COVID-19: Defining vulnerable communities</p>	<p>The Department of Health have identified vulnerable people in the area who may not have connection with family or they may be feeling isolated due to services that have closed down due to social distancing rules. The Department of Health have been receiving a lot of calls and they are looking at each person as a case by case issue and have advised that they would get in touch with the relevant Local Council who may be able to assist with linking into other services available.</p> <p>ACTION: If the Committee hear of any vulnerable people in their community please let Council know.</p>	<p>Committee</p>

	<p>Sharon Robertson asked if Council could put on their Facebook page for residents to get in contact with their elderly community and advise that newspapers are no longer being printed. A suggestion was to put a letter in their mailboxes, due to social distancing. Could the Facebook post be an image not a word document so that it is visually easier to read. Rob Moran advised that Wollondilly Shire Council have already put information on our website advising of this.</p> <p>Judy Hannan noted that the District Reporter are intending to increase their range of paper delivery to get their newspaper out to more residents. Perhaps we should look at what other Councils are doing.</p> <p>ACTION: Vickie Tierney and Rob Moran to reach out to the elderly to see if they are okay. Possibly a mail out.</p> <p>ACTION: Social Media post with a template document for neighbours of the elderly, so that the neighbour can print off and leave in their mail box offering help.</p>	<p>Vickie Tierney Rob Moran Peter Wright</p>
<p>7. Wollondilly Council Updates</p>	<p>a. Mayor’s Relief Fund</p> <p>Rob Moran advised that we have assisted 186 families with \$454,926.</p> <p>Rob noted that Council are not promoting an active round, but the fund is still open and we are still accepting donations. If we receive any other applications we will look at them. 100% of funds donated have gone out.</p> <p>b. Waste / clean up issues and updates</p> <p>i. Service NSW bushfire clean-up webpage - https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/register-opt-nsw-bushfire-clean</p> <p>ii. Laing O’Rourke clean up and Info Hub Website – Finalising the registered property list - https://cleanup.lnbr.com.au/</p> <p>Ally Dench noted that this was discussed previously in Item 5.</p> <p>c. Future recovery workshops /recovery plan</p> <p>Ally Dench advised that she will be meeting with Peter Wright and Rob Moran on Wednesday after tomorrow night’s Council meeting to look at the development of the recovery plan and workshops. Ally advised that she would like this Committee to have input.</p> <p>ACTION: Ally Dench to compile the Draft Recovery Plan and send out to the Committee for comment.</p>	<p>Ally Dench</p>

8. Community agency updates as required

Kerrie O'Grady – Community Recovery Hub

- They have received the linen that was ordered through Giveit. The orders were packed and residents picked them up on Easter Saturday. COVID-19 has visibly upset a lot of residents, they feel like COVID-19 has taken over and they have been forgotten. We are assuring them that we are still working in the background to assist them. They miss not going to talk to people at the hub.
- Kerrie has received a telephone call from Peter McLaughlin asking how we were. Kerrie advised that they were having difficulty not being able to get warm clothing to people, they cannot get an exemption for that. Kerrie wrote a procedure to advise the government and Peter phoned back and said that Brad Hazzard and the Police Minister did not have an issue with reopening the Hub with strict guidelines to be put in place. They both agreed that this is essential for fire victims. We are still awaiting correspondence from the Department of Health and are hoping to get a redemption to open the Hub in writing. We will then contact people advising them that they will have to register and then they will be given a timeslot to come in with social distancing rules.
- We have identified goods. Charmaine Cooper from Wingecarribee Shire Council is working hard to move that forward. We haven't heard back from Giveit.
- On Wednesday we are being interviewed by the National Bush Fire Recovery Agency as part of their community engagement project.
- There is a Webinar being run by a security group called Nemesis which is leadership in crisis.
- Gift cards – thankyou Ally and Charmaine for their support. Applications have been mailed out to people by Wollondilly and Wingecarribee and we get together every Friday to go through the applications received via Teams Meeting to decide who will receive the gift cards.
- Mark Pepping noted that everyone that has donated to the Community Recovery Hub over the last 6 months will receive a letter of thanks.

Karen Akehurst - Red Cross

- Let people know that a \$20,000 rebuild grant has just been launched for home owners whose primary place of residence has been destroyed or uninhabitable.
- We realise that things are a bit slow due to COVID-19 and it is a bit too soon for some people who may need more time before they want to rebuild.
- Watch this space – open for applications.

	<p>Stephen Swanepoel - St Stephens Thirlmere</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Vouchers and hampers are still available. ▪ We are encouraging our local communities and they are assisting elderly people the best they can. 	
9. General Business	<p><u>Bush Fire Royal Commission</u></p> <p>Ally Dench advised that the Bush Fire Royal Commission are asking for submissions in regard to the black summer fires. Council are putting in a submission which closes on 28 April 2020. Ally encouraged anyone who would like to give feedback or input to contact her. Wollondilly have put in a fairly comprehensive submission including:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The size of the event and resourcing ▪ Clean-up issues and evacuation processes ▪ Locally led recovery issues ▪ Emergency Management Planning ▪ Planning zoning and legislation ▪ Fire reduction <p>Ally has used feedback from this committee in regard to response and preparedness. Ally can forward the Terms of Reference and website address if anyone is interested.</p>	
10. Next Meeting	<p>Meeting Closed 4.30pm</p> <p>Next Meeting Monday 25 May 2020, 3.00pm via Microsoft Teams</p>	