

MINUTES

Wollondilly Local Recovery and Resilience Committee

Date: 22 June 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		✓
Tanya Smith, 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	✓	
Vanessa Nieves, Regional Emergency Management Officer		✓
Geoff O'Brien, Picton Chamber	✓	
Karen Zelinsky, St Vincent de Paul Society		✓
Donna Rogers, Southern Highlands Homeless Service	✓	
Mayor Cr Matthew Deeth, Wollondilly Shire Council	✓	
Cr Judith Hannan, Wollondilly Shire Council	✓	
Cr 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	✓	

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	Apologies noted.	
3. Previous Minutes & Actions Arising	<p><i>Ally Dench to follow-up with the BEC</i></p> <p>ACTION: Ally to follow-up with the BEC regarding figures from last flood and circulate before the next meeting.</p> <p><i>Community Updates - OEM</i></p> <p>ACTION: Vanessa asked Kerrie O'Grady to send through details of fire affected properties and insurance issues so the OEM can assist.</p> <p>Council will liaise with OEM to ensure they have a complete list</p> <p><i>Local Police to provide an update to make sure social distancing is occurring</i></p> <p>Superintendent Darren Sly advised that the Police are implementing social distancing – no complaints came in regarding the particular matter at the BP that he is aware of. The Police are assisting where they can and encourage people to do the right thing. Superintendent Sly is happy to provide advice.</p> <p>ACTION: If any issues or concerns are identified in future these are to be forwarded onto the Police for their follow up.</p>	<p>Ally Dench Completed</p> <p>Vanessa Nieuwenhuis</p> <p>Ally Dench</p> <p>Committee members</p>
4. Update – Grant opportunities	<p>Ally Dench provided an update in regard to the report that went to last week's Council meeting in regard to grant opportunities:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and implement the Activate Wollondilly 2020 - 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 following projects:
 - \$30,000 - Picnic shelters located at Bargo and Oakdale
 - \$5,000 - Werombi Welcome signage
 - \$200,000 - Natural and Manmade Hazards Study
 - \$25,000 - Community and Stakeholder Debrief workshops and forums
 - \$40,000 - Activities and initiatives identified in the Activate Wollondilly 2020 Long Term Recovery and Resilience Plan.
3. Allocate \$75,000 of freed up resourcing from the original \$1million National Bushfire Recovery Agency immediate base payment stream to the following projects:
 - \$25,000 - Brimstone staging Facility – initial consultation and investigation
 - \$25,000 - Yerranderie equipment storage facility investigation and implementation
 - \$25,000 - Community resilience events – Bargo and Oakdale.
4. Allocate any unspent funds from the \$375,000 National Bushfire Recovery Agency immediate base payment and any funding obtained through grant opportunities as a result of the 2019/20 bushfire and storm events to fund the projects and activities in the Activate Wollondilly 2020 - Long Term Community Recovery and Resilience Plan.

Ally advised:-

Three Workshops are being implemented this coming Wednesday in regards to the Community Recovery Hub that was located at Balmoral Village Hall and they will be a part of the debriefing sessions that have been funded by the National Bushfire Recovery Agency immediate base payment.

These sessions are as follows:-

Green Wattle Creek Bushfire Community Recovery Hub Review -

12.00pm - Workshop 1 - Staff & Volunteers

2.30pm - Workshop 2 - Service Providers & Agencies

5.30pm - Workshop 3 - Community Members

Sharon Robertson enquired that if you cannot attend the Workshops will there be opportunities for feedback. Ally advised yes, Zoom meeting facility will also be available if you cannot physically attend the meeting. These are not the only workshops organised there will be others, we are running a series of workshops over the next 6 months and there will be an option to participate online after the workshop.

Rob Moran advised that in regard to Wednesday's Workshops 18 have registered for Workshop 1 - Staff & Volunteers; 12 have registered for Workshop 2 - Service Providers & Agencies; and 10 have registered for Workshop 3 – Community members.

These Workshops are being held as part of the Activate Wollondilly framework to look at what we did well and how we can improve on what we did for next time. All the feedback we get back will go into the 2020 Long Term Recovery and Resilience Plan. We have received funding to implement projects with that plan.

Ally noted that if there were any unspent funds from the National Bushfire Recovery Agency immediate base payment or further bushfire grant opportunities they will be allocated to any projects and activities identified in the 2020 Activate Wollondilly Long Term Recovery and Resilience Plan.

Funding has been received through Resilience NSW for a Community Recovery Officer position that is currently being recruited to help to drive, write and implement the 2020 Activate Wollondilly Long Term Recovery and Resilience Plan. This position was endorsed at the last meeting of Council.

We have received another grant from Wollondilly North Rotary, which was finalised last Friday for \$15,000 for the Wollondilly Children's Voices Project. This project will be a debriefing project with children and young people to ensure their voices are also included in the plan. The project will develop a children's book and will help to develop resources to assist in future preparedness activities.

Michael Banasik advised that in regard to young people they are not showing respect for social distancing on public transport, they are not following guidelines at all. Can we talk to the local High Schools to try and assist? Ally Dench noted that this was a separate issue to the project.

Sharon Robertson also noted that school buses going to and from Wollondilly Anglican were also not following social distancing rules.

It was noted that this is a separate issue and the 4 metre rule does not apply to school children on public transport.

Sandra Harlor asked how will the funding work, will people go out to schools? Ally advised that Council's Children and Youth Librarian will be running 4 sessions across Wollondilly. Information will go out shortly and

	<p>locations are yet to be determined at this stage. We will more than likely use the Dilly Wanderer as the service is located in an open area that will allow for social distancing requirements. . We are seeking children’s input as to what worked in the recovery response to the bushfires. We will be resourcing a professionally trained child educator to assist with the development of the sessions and a book that will document children’s experiences in Wollondilly. The book will become part of the collection in the library and participants will also receive a copy. . We will be using Media Releases, Council’s Facebook page, etc. over the next 3 to 4 months to disseminate the information about the sessions.</p> <p>Karen Akehurst noted that Red Cross have some fantastic resources for working with children and young people to assist young children in a crisis, which is for caregivers and parents. The Pillowcase Program is specifically designed for young children around preparedness. Karen is happy to liaise with Council in regard to this and advised that they have trained volunteers to assist. ACTION: Ally Dench and Robyn Syphers to liaise with the Red Cross regarding resources.</p> <p>Rob Moran noted that an additional \$10,000 has been received from South Western Sydney Local Health District for recovery projects in Wollondilly.</p>	<p>Ally Dench</p>
<p>5. Update – Greater Sydney Region Recovery Committee</p>	<p>Ally Dench provided an update in regard to the Greater Sydney Region Recovery Committee and advised that they have developed a Draft Recovery Action Plan for the region. Once Ally receives the go ahead she can disseminate the Action Plan to the group. Our 2020 Activate Wollondilly Long Term Recovery and Resilience Plan will also feed into the Regional Plan. Alison Morgan is the chair of the Greater Sydney Regional Recovery Committee aligning the issues. Ally has provided the Committee with issues that have arisen through this Committee ie. – clean-up, gaps, fencing, grant opportunities, rate relief, communications, messaging. This will all feed into the impact assessment reports, in relation to their draft recovery plan.</p>	
<p>6. COVID-19: Defining vulnerable communities</p>	<p>Ally Dench advised that Council are working with the Department of Health in regard to COVID-19.</p> <p>We need to keep diligent with our hygiene practises and the data is showing that we are still doing okay.</p> <p>Any referrals for vulnerable communities have been referred on.</p>	

<p>7. Wollondilly Council Updates</p>	<p>a. Mayor’s Relief Fund</p> <p>Rob Moran advised that the Mayor’s Relief Fund remains open for donations but closed for applications. The Mayor’s Fund has officially closed but is still open for any future relief assistance that the community may incur.</p> <p>Council are looking at a review of the Mayor’s Relief Fund but we are awaiting feedback from the debriefing sessions.</p> <p>Michael Banasik asked Rob how much was left in the fund. Rob advised \$24,000 has been collected since 2016 and the balance is still there. We have allocated every cent that was donated in relation to the Bushfires to community members that were successful in obtaining the Mayor’s Relief Fund.</p> <p>b. Waste / clean up issues and updates</p> <p>In regard to the waste / clean up Laing O’Rourke have been doing a good job, there were some issues with individuals previously and these issues have been followed up. If there are still concerns please let us know.</p> <p>Tanya Smith advised that Community Links Wellbeing is partnering with habitat and community help which is for smaller clean-ups with putting things back together. We will start looking at this tomorrow.</p> <p>c. Future recovery workshops /recovery plan</p> <p>Ally Dench advised that this was previously discussed in the Grants Opportunities update. We will be sending out further information when the next Workshops will be occurring.</p>	
<p>8. Australian Disaster Resilience Knowledge Hub</p>	<p>Ally Dench advised that she has included this item on the Agenda https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/ for information in regard to recovery issues.</p>	
<p>9. Australian Disaster Resilience Handbook Collection</p>	<p>This item has also been included for information in regard to recovery issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AUSTRALIAN DISASTER RESILIENCE HANDBOOK COLLECTION - Community Recovery - Handbook 2 https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/media/5634/community-recovery-handbook.pdf 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toolkit 2-1 Community recovery checklists https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/media/5456/toolkit-community-recovery-checklists.pdf • Toolkit 2-2 Community recovery – further resources https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/media/5455/toolkit-community-recovery-further-resources.pdf • Communities Responding to Disasters: Planning for Spontaneous Volunteers – Handbook 12 https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/media/5618/aidr-communities-responding-to-disasters-planning-for-spontaneous-volunteers-handbook.pdf • Managing Volunteers In Emergencies Kit - Gannawarra Shire Council https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/media/4827/gannawarra-shire-council_managing-volunteers-in-emergencies-kit.pdf • Managing Volunteers in and Emergency Plan - Gannawarra Shire Council https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/media/4828/gannawarra-shire-council_managing-volunteers-in-emergencies-plan.pdf <p>Ally advised that we are looking at resources in relation to our Recovery Plan. These toolkits may be useful to assist us with issues that may arise from the workshops. The Australian Disaster Resilience Handbook Collection has a lot of resources.</p> <p>Kerrie O’Grady advised that it would have been great if we had this previously. Ally noted that Handbook No. 2 has a toolkit and Ally encouraged everyone to have a read and also No. 12. Ally wanted to put this on the agenda for people’s awareness.</p> <p>Kerrie advised that she has read quite a few, it’s easy reading and straight forward and makes a lot of sense, if you have time have a read. They are very matter of fact resources and not overboard, you will get a lot of information from them.</p> <p>Ally acknowledged that we are using these toolkits for the review of the Recovery Plan.</p>	
<p>10. Articles</p>	<p>Ally advised that the below articles are very good resourcing tools.</p>	

	<p>a. How can governments enable and support community-led disaster recovery? - Carole Owen, University of Tasmania, Hobart, Tasmania. https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/media/5028/ajem-33-01-20.pdf</p> <p>b. Disaster recovery towards resilience: contributions of an assets-based community development approach - Helen Scott; , Bruce Smith and Birgit Schaedler https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/media/5026/ajem-33-01-18.pdf</p> <p>c. Valuing recovery through risk ownership - Celeste Young and Roger N Jones https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/media/5025/ajem-33-01-17.pdf</p>	
<p>11. Community agency updates as required</p>	<p>Bushfire Assistance Update from DPIE, outlining current support and funding available was noted (email was attached to the Agenda).</p> <p><u>Peter McLaughlin, Nathaniel Smith's Office</u></p> <p>Peter advised in regard to our recovery around tourism, we are looking at the reopening of the Burragorang Lookout. There is a proposed meeting with the Mayor and CEO to discuss this. We have already sent the proposal to the Premier's Office.</p> <p><u>Tanya Smith, Community Links Wellbeing</u></p> <p>Tanya advised that Community Links Wellbeing are now in their eighth week in the community with over 40 referrals in the Wingecarribee/Wollondilly areas. We have 10 referrals in Wollondilly that are currently being case managed. Most of the issues we are seeing would be people just coming out of their shell now and needing to report. A lot will be mental health referrals but currently none at this stage. It will be slowly, slowly as we work through it. If you are talking to people who can benefit from our assistance, please pass their number onto us and we will follow-up and we will let them know where we received the information from. We encourage people to do that. Contact number Community Links Wellbeing case management service for Recovery is 4683 2776</p> <p>Sharon Robertson asked if they can get sessions at Balmoral and Buxton for residents that are suffering with PTSD and would like counselling. Communities have had some issues of late. Tanya asked if they could be given the numbers so that they can follow-up.</p>	

	<p>Sharon asked if they could post this information on Facebook so that she can share the link to those areas telling people where to go.</p> <p>Tanya asked the committee to direct people to their website and refer to our recovery service.</p> <p>Sandra Harlor asked if Tanya and her colleagues might be able to visit those areas Sharon Robertson had mentioned on a regular basis, similar to how she came out to Warragamba on Friday night, thus allowing people to approach her.</p> <p>Tanya advised yes we are liaising with the Salvation Army and Red Cross regarding coffee outreach events, so that people know we will be there. We are currently regularly at Bundanoon and Warragamba but soon we will be at Balmoral.</p> <p><u>Karen Akehurst, Red Cross</u></p> <p>Karen advised that there has been a spike across the state at the moment with people coming forward suffering from PTSD. Red Cross have announced further expansion of grants. The deadline will remain until 31 August 2020 with the repair grant \$5,000 increased to \$10,000; \$30,000 increased to \$40,000 for home owner occupier; injury grant \$15,000; bereavement grant \$30,000. It is to be noted that people who have already received grants will be invited for a top-up as well as anyone who has not come forward and applied for a grant. Information and applications are on the Red Cross website.</p> <p>ACTION: Karen Akehurst to forward an updated flyer to the Committee.</p> <p><u>Darren Sly, Superintendent, Camden Police</u></p> <p>No update.</p> <p><u>Donna Rogers, Southern Highlands Homeless Service</u></p> <p>Donna advised that their service is still very much operational and accepting referrals. There are restrictions around visiting, but operational and keep the referrals coming through.</p>	<p>Karen Akehurst</p>
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Kerrie O'Grady, Picton CWA

Kerrie advised that there are 3 containers left at the Balmoral hub. The Coates container is still full of tools to be disseminated. We will be relocating this container to Milton, Ulladulla, the Masons are looking forward to taking on the task down there. The other 2 containers we are chasing up to see when they will be ready to be picked up.

We are still working with the quilters with the initiative being to give a quilt to everyone who had a total loss and we have distributed 150 to date in the Wollondilly and Wingecarribee areas. We are working with the CWA and small schools down the south coast with three CWA ladies doing runs down to Eden with quilts. We had 7 boxes coming up from Goulburn and 7 boxes from North Queensland for distribution, in collaboration with other CWA Branches and other people who are doing one on one visits. Could the Committee ask people if they haven't received a quilt and if they would like one please get their age and their colour preferences. We have 5 or 6 superb quilts put aside and will provide those quilts to the families who had a loss of life.

We have made a few referrals to Recovery Support Officers, someone at Fitzroy Falls has been sick as a direct consequence of smoke inhalation from the fires and a gentleman in Balmoral.

Kim Hill has received an additional grant from the Commonwealth Bank towards the Memorial at Telopea Park which now is well over \$200,000.

Matthew Deeth thanked Kerrie and Kim for running the hub and running the memorial project and congratulated them on the fantastic job they have done.

Ally Dench, Wollondilly Shire Council

Ally advised that Council will be presenting at the Royal Commission on Wednesday to provide further evidence into the Royal Commission National Natural Disaster Inquiry. They are keen to find out what worked and we will be feeding back. Ally advised that she will be providing an update at the next meeting and will share the submission that was made.

Sharon Robertson

Sharon advised that foodwise for community people have electrical gear and beds. If anyone from Community Links that still need them can contact Lomandra School on (02) 4627 2096.

Rob Moran, Wollondilly Shire Council

Rob advised that Givit have been successful in gaining generators for fire impacted areas. 8 generators have been distributed in the Wollondilly Area. The website contact for Givit is <https://www.givit.org.au/>

Vanessa Nieuwenhuis, OEM

Vanessa advised that they are looking at a few case studies for people who are presenting and we can tap into grants that they didn't know was there. If anyone has found someone with success, feedback to Vanessa so we can do feel good stories. That way we can have an opportunity to present back into the community so that people know that if they didn't come to the services previously, that they can still come back now.

Peter Wright, Wollondilly Shire Council

Peter advised that there is an outreach survey project and Resilience NSW are running the project in partnership with Service NSW. It uses the database of people affected by the bushfires. People that were affected in some way get an email asking them to complete the survey, with the hope that people do respond and then after that they follow-up with a phone call. The survey is rolled out in different Local Government areas including the Southern Region and Wingecarribee. Although the response rate hasn't been big, it has enabled those cases to be identified and has benefits and is proposed to be rolled out in the Greater Sydney Region very soon. Peter noted that the email comes from Service NSW and will have the Wollondilly Logo targeting those affected in Wollondilly. Red Cross have also assisted.

Karen Akehurst noted that it is volunteers making a lot of those telephone calls and in most cases volunteers are from out of the area for confidentiality reasons.

Kelli Bennett-Smith, Angus Taylor's Office

Kelli noted that enquiries are very minimal and things have settled down.

<p>12. General Business</p>	<p><u>Community Recovery Officer</u></p> <p>Ally Dench advised that we have received funding to employ a Community Recovery Officer for 12 months to assist with the development of the Local Recovery Plan and coordinate the rollout of debriefing sessions. The position was advertised two weeks ago and we received quite a few applications. The applications have been culled and we have moved to the interview process which will be occurring this Friday. We hope to have someone in the next few weeks.</p>	
<p>13. Next Meeting</p>	<p>Meeting Closed 4.22pm</p> <p>The Committee agreed that meetings are to be held every 4 weeks and the next Meeting will be Monday 20 July 2020, 3.00pm via Microsoft Teams.</p>	