

MINUTES

Wollondilly Local Recovery and Resilience Committee

Date: 7 December 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	✓	
Michele Lanigan, Community Links		✓
Greg Dobson, Rotary		✓
Steve Moxon, Rotary		✓
Barry McConville, Rotary		✓
Kelli Bennett-Smith, Angus Taylor'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 Nieves, Regional Emergency Management Officer		✓
Geoff O'Brien, Picton Chamber	✓	
Karen Zelinsky, St Vincent de Paul Society		✓
Donna Rogers, Southern Highlands Homeless Service		✓
Michael McKibbin, Southern Highlands Homeless Service		✓
Ryan Roumieh, Lifeline	✓	
Kim Hill		✓
Daneeka Bertolissio, South West Sydney Local Health District	✓	
Kate Johnson, South West Sydney Primary Health Network	✓	
Cr Matthew Deeth, Wollondilly Shire Council		✓
Cr Judith Hannan, Wollondilly Shire Council		✓
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	Kevin Abey 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. <i>UPDATE: Rob has not had a chance to speak to the RFS.</i></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><i>UPDATE: Vanessa advised that Resilience NSW are looking at the recovery support service with proposals, 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><i>UPDATE: There has not been a decision made yet, the recovery support system is still being looked at.</i></p>	<p>Rob Moran Peter Wright</p> <p>Vanessa Nieuwenhuis</p>

<p>4. Update – Wollondilly Recovery Support Service – Community Links Wellbeing</p>	<p>Tanya Smith provided an update:-</p> <p>There are lots and lots of referrals, November was a quieter month, we are hoping it's not the calm before the storm. There is not a lot to update, the main priorities are around clean-up and fencing.</p> <p>We will be available to residents through the Christmas and New Year period for those people that we already have connections with.</p>	
<p>5. Wollondilly Council Updates</p> <p>a. Update on Recovery Coordinator activities</p> <p>b. Grant Funding Submissions (Community Recovery Toolkit and Mobile Recovery Hub)</p>	<p>a. Update on Recovery Coordinator activities</p> <p>Natalie McMullen provided an update:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ On the 27th November, 2020 Wollondilly Shire Council received notification that our Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund (BCRRF) Stream 1 application was successful in obtaining a grant of \$250,000. <p>The \$250,000 will support our Activate Wollondilly 2020: Community Capacity Building project which focuses on strengthening the community's knowledge base, resilience and social connectedness by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Developing a Community Recovery Hub Toolkit which will support community to play an active role in recovery following a natural disaster. ○ Developing asset maps and community profiles of all villages throughout Wollondilly Shire. ○ Providing education, awareness and preparedness opportunities. ○ Creating and supporting communities of interest which will allow residents to share their knowledge and skills, learn from others and connect with other residents in the community. ○ Develop the knowledge and capacity of youth in bushfire impacted communities through the provision of training and professional development opportunities. ○ Creating a community grants program which will support residents impacted by the Green Wattle Creek bushfire regenerate the natural environment through flora and fauna projects. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Youth Voices:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Wollondilly Shire Council in partnership with the Rotary Club of Wollondilly North hosted Youth Voices Primary School event on the 7th and 14th November 2020, at Cataract Scout Park. The event was hosted over two Saturdays and attended by 24 children and young people and three parents.○ Trained mental health staff from the SWSPHN's funded mental health providers (At Full Potential and Community Links Wellbeing) supported children and young people throughout the event.○ Participants enjoyed archery, the giant swing and Challenge Valley Obstacle Course.○ The activities as well as interviews with participants were filmed and a short-film will be produced by Short Black Films. The film will be released at the beginning of 2021.○ The event was supported by staff from Wollondilly Shire Council, Resilience NSW and Cataract Scout Park.○ The family of a young man aged 17 who was trapped at his home during the fires called the CRO after the event to say her son had not smiled like that in a long time. ▪ Clean-Up of Green Waste:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ CRO and Recovery Support Service met with Habitat 4 Humanity to discuss partnering to clean-up green waste. The outcome of the meeting was that in November, 2020 Habitat 4 Humanity secured funding to run two Cross-Cut Chainsaw Operator Courses at Moss Vale TAFE. This will provide places for 18 community members. Moss Vale TAFE will propose course dates to interested members so we can confirm dates for the courses. Natalie and the RSS will forward names to Habitat 4 Humanity. Attendees will be asked to assist with community clean-up days.○ The EPA announced last week that Wollondilly Shire Council will have the opportunity to apply for a \$10,000 grant to complete a report about the extent of the Green Waste issue in Wollondilly. The Waste team feel that this funding is not sufficient to complete the report, however the CRO feels that this is essential to ensure that we are eligible for funding to assist with the Green Waste issue.	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Architect Assist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CRO met with three Architects who are part of the Architect Assist program for a tour of Wollondilly Shire and some of our high fire risk villages. The purpose of the tour was to allow the architects to plan a workshop about rebuilding after the bushfires. ○ During the tour we visited one family who have been referred for free architectural support through the Architect Assist program and the family were given tips on how to proceed with their rebuild and about materials they could purchase. ○ A workshop has now been scheduled for 10 December 2020. The workshop will be presented by 3 independent architects and a bushfire consultant and will cover the topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Introduction to Architect Assist ➤ Building Material Selection for BAL FZ and BAL 40 zones ➤ Precedent study/ example of a bushfire resilient house. ▪ Two more families obtained their additional 20 plants from the Wollondilly Shire Council Community Nursery. ▪ Kim McGuinness from the Tourism and Business Development team is contacting local nurseries to be on the voucher for the Nursery Voucher program funded by Picton Rotary. 20 total loss or significant damage residents will be able to access \$300 worth of vouchers to be used at nurseries across Wollondilly Shire. Vouchers to be released in December, 2020. ▪ Natalie McMullen and Kim Hill from the NBRA met with Ngaire and Valerie from Wollondilly SES. We discussed many avenues for partnership including supporting the SES's sandbag community day, sharing information/ key messaging, training and community education/ engagement. ▪ Natalie McMullen attended the joint Chambers of Commerce Wollondilly Tourism Association event at Thirlmere in November. Resilience NSW gave a presentation about the support they can offer businesses. This was a great event and a wonderful opportunity to connect with business owners from across the shire. ▪ Congratulations to Kim Hill, Rob Moran and all of the team involved in planning and delivering the official opening of the Telopea Park RFS Memorial Playground. This was a fantastic opportunity not only for families, but RFS volunteers from across the 	
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Southern Highlands and Cumberland areas to farewell Andrew O'Dwyer and Geoffrey Keaton. The speeches and ceremonies were beautiful and the park looked fantastic.

- **Total Primary Dwellings Destroyed: 10**
 - 2 rebuilds commenced.
 - 1 DA Approved.
 - 2 DA Pending.
 - 3 Planning to commence rebuild in 2020/2021 but have not yet submitted their DA. (All three now have BAL certificates).
 - 1 has decide not to rebuild and has purchased a new home elsewhere in Wollondilly Shire.
 - 1 Undecided due to BAL Flame Zone Rating-working with RFS Rebuild Team to support resident.
 - One new DA lodged in December, 2020. One resident has also had insurance money released to allow commencement of repairs.

Sharon Robertson asked Natalie if there was any media coming out yet for Picton with the predicted storm event maybe hitting in December?

Natalie advised that she is having a meeting with the SES regarding this.

Geoff O'Brien enquired as to how the progress on the investigation on the use of better flood barriers in the main street of Picton is going?

Natalie advised that they are looking into the flood mitigation study.

Geoff noted and acknowledged the great job Rob Moran and other Council officers have done in relation to getting Mayoral Relief funding out to the community.

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

Natalie McMullen provided an update:-

- Stream 1 application submitted in November, 2020. This application was successful and \$250,000 was approved for a number of community capacity building projects and a community grants program. Funded projects included:
 - Development of a Community Recovery Hub Toolkit.
 - Asset mapping and community profiles.
 - Youth training and professional development.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Communities of practice/ preparedness programs. ○ Community grants program for impacted residents focusing on regeneration. ○ Stream 2 grant application to be submitted 11/12/2020. This submission will focus on a mobile Recovery and Resilience Hub. <p>Sharon Robertson enquired if Factsheets could be organised for Wollondilly residents, that are unique to Wollondilly and delivered to all Wollondilly residents, so they can be prepared if there is an event. Could this be put on Council's website.</p> <p>Rob Moran advised that we already have this information on the website, it is just a matter of adding updated ones.</p> <p>Natalie advised that we will have the opportunity to look at community engagement but we need to look at costs as this is quite costly, we would need to apply for a grant to cover the costs. Natalie noted that we already have a lot of great tools.</p> <p>ACTION: Rob Moran advised that we can include a resource library on the mobile van.</p> <p>We have welcome packs for new residents which we can use. There is a working group between Council and the RFS and we will look at this.</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>Rob Moran advised that it is not initiated by the DPI in the first instance, they are available they just don't initiate.</p> <p>ACTION: Investigate who people should go to first if they need assistance with moving their animals.</p>	<p>Rob Moran</p> <p>Natalie McMullen</p>
<p>6. Community Agency Updates as required</p>	<p><u>Catherine Stuart, WREN</u></p> <p>Catherine Stuart noted that the invitation from The Listening Post was emailed to the Committee with the Agenda.</p> <p>WREN along with other organisations and Sydney Alliance are looking for stories where locals can upload their stories of their experience with the bushfires in summer and recently Covid, for when they first launch the website late January. They are looking for people who have a community leadership role. This committee came to mind</p>	

and you can contact either myself or Bryan Tran whose details are on the flyer.

Christine Wilesmith, Community Links Wellbeing

We are continuing to see and support people who have been impacted through the fires with either total or partial loss and trauma around those events. We are being kept busy with referrals from the community recovery support service. Approaching the anniversary is triggering people.

Geoff O'Brien, Picton Chamber

- Our next focus is to determine whether or not we can put in for a grant and the purpose would be for preparedness for flooding in Picton with the concept of having flood wardens in different precincts in the village, we have spoken to Ben Taylor about this.
- A database has to be strong and we look forward to working with Natalie McMullen and Council on having good points of contact.
- We are liaising with the Picton CBD regarding preparedness and toolkits and getting them aware in groups.

Rob Moran advised that Community Resilient Grant funding will be open mid 2021.

Sharon Robertson

The Shining Stars meal drops are continuing at Picton and Bargo and the Outreach Program at Balmoral is giving out hampers and food, in a week's time they will hand out toys. They are also going out to Warragamba. The CWA at The Oaks is still working with some of the families with total loss.

Daneeka Bertolissio, South West Sydney Local Health District

Continuing to work with Wollondilly and Wingecarribee Councils and the PHN to look at services that are provided and we had a steering committee meeting a few weeks ago and discussed what is planned for next year.

Kerry O'Grady - Community Recovery Hub activities

- It has been a lot quieter this last month. I attended the carer's trauma workshop which was worthwhile attending, we are asking them to run another one with other CWA's.
- We are applying for other grants for PHN for training which Natalie McMullen has suggested to us, like an accidental Councillor.
- We had the pleasure of catering at Telopea Park for the families of the fire fighters.
- Thank you Geoff O'Brien for the invitation to the Chamber of Commerce dinner.
- On 4 November Kim and myself were interviewed for the National bush fire agenda they are putting together a short film, they were interested in our input.
- On Saturday I attended the official opening for the Memorial Park at Telopea Park. It was a lovely respectful day.
- In relation to the left over goods at Balmoral which we moved to Nowra, thank you Coates Hire, these have now been moved to Cobargo.
- Congratulation to Kim Hill for receiving the Adult Volunteer of the year and then the Overall Volunteer of the year.

Kate Johnson, South West Sydney Primary Health Network

We are sending out notifications this week for grants and a community and wellbeing consultation is up on health chat. We are encouraging people to complete the survey and provide their input.

Ryan Roumieh, Lifeline

Our calls for general Lifeline calls were a bit less than last year but they are still above what our goal is. The main calls we received were family relationships as well as Covid. Bushfire related calls have moved away a bit but we are expecting calls as we go into the anniversary period. We are thankful that suicides have not really increased at the moment.

Rob Moran, Wollondilly Shire Council

Wanted to let everyone know that we are in the final stages of planning for bush fire recovery events for the broader community.

<p>7. COVID-19</p> <p>a. Emerging Issues</p>	<p><u>Economic Development Update</u></p> <p>Kim McGuiness advised that one of the things that we have been doing is going out to the businesses ensuring they are using their QR codes. We have been communicating to make sure businesses have those codes and are registered.</p> <p>Kerrie O’Grady enquired as to when you hire a Council facility are you to provide your own QR code, for example the Tahmoor CWA hall.</p> <p>Rob Moran advised that if it is your event you are responsible for developing the QR code.</p> <p>Peter Wright advised that if you were to book the library view room that becomes part of the overall Covid safe plan that the Library use. Most Council facilities don’t have that but our Library does.</p> <p>Sharon Robertson asked if all takeaway shops should have a QR code, does this apply to takeaway shops?</p> <p>Kim McGuiness advised that it does vary and Council’s Compliance Officers have sent out letters to the shops who it does apply to.</p>	
<p>8. General Business</p>	<p>Nil.</p>	
<p>9. Next Meeting</p>	<p>Meeting Closed 4.20pm</p> <p>The next Meeting will be Monday 18 January 2021, 3.00pm via Microsoft Teams.</p>	