

MINUTES
Wollondilly Local Recovery and Resilience Committee
Date: 13 January 2020

Time: 3.00pm till 4.30pm

Venue: Wollondilly Shire Council, 62-64 Menangle Street, Picton

Present and Apologies

Attendance	Present	Apology
Sharon Robertson, Community Member	✓	
Sandra Harlor, Community Member	✓	
Catherine Stuart, Wollondilly Resilience Network	✓	
Sara Field, Community Member		✓
Brodie Pitt-Owen	✓	
Kerrie O'Grady, Picton CWA	✓	
Stephen Swanepoel, St Stephens Thirlmere	✓	
Christine Wilesmith, Community Links Wellbeing	✓	
Greg Binskin, Greater Sydney South Surrounds	✓	
Greg Dobson, Rotary		✓
Karl Klein, Rotary	✓	
Kelli Bennett-Smith, Angus Taylor's Office	✓	
Peter McLaughlin, Nathaniel Smith's Office	✓	
Ben Brungs, OEM	✓	
Alison Morgan, OEM / GSC	✓	
Matt McFarlane, OEM		✓
Natasha Lowe, OEM		✓
Mark McMullen, Red Cross		✓
Jessie Huard, Red Cross	✓	
Mark Pepping, Wingecarribee Shire Council	✓	
Mayor Cr Matthew Deeth, Wollondilly Shire Council	✓	
Cr Judith Hannan, Wollondilly Shire Council	✓	
Ben Taylor, Wollondilly Shire Council		✓
Toni Averay, Wollondilly Shire Council	✓	
Michael Malone, Wollondilly Shire Council		✓
Kerry Whitehead, Wollondilly Shire Council	✓	
Peter Wright, Wollondilly Shire Council	✓	
Ally Dench, Wollondilly Shire Council		✓
Clair Hardy, Wollondilly Shire Council		✓
Rob Moran, Wollondilly Shire Council	✓	
Alex Stengl, Wollondilly Shire Council	✓	
Chad Neilson, Wollondilly Shire Council		✓
Mandy Marino, Wollondilly Shire Council	✓	
Kevin Abey, Wollondilly Shire Council	✓	
Kersti Martin, Wollondilly Shire Council	✓	
Kim McGuinness, Wollondilly Shire Council	✓	
Joanna Kraatz, Wollondilly Shire Council	✓	
Kerrie Shelton, Wollondilly Shire Council	✓	
Corrie Swanepoel, Wollondilly Shire Council	✓	

	<p><i>Contact Anglicare regarding set up of Bush Fire Survival Group.</i></p> <p>Completed.</p> <p><i>Council to disseminate document tabled by Kerrie O’Grady regarding questions on recovery and clean-up to appropriate sections of Council for response.</i></p> <p>Completed.</p> <p>Kerrie O’Grady commented that some community members have received rude responses from State welfare agencies.</p> <p>ACTION: Alison Morgan stated that they will relay this message back to appropriate agencies.</p> <p><i>Responses from above document to be tabled at next meeting or sent out earlier, if possible.</i></p> <p>Completed.</p>	<p>Alison Morgan,</p>
<p>4. OEM Updates</p>	<p>a. LGA Impact Report Update (As at 8 January 2020 – 100% complete)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 homes destroyed in Wollondilly • 16 homes damaged • 66 outbuildings destroyed • 45 outbuildings damaged • 276 rural land holders affected <p>(As at 8 January 2020 – 75% complete)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 55 homes destroyed in Wingecarribee • 18 homes damaged • 2 facilities damaged • 185 outbuildings destroyed • 64 outbuilding damaged • 252 rural land holders affected <p>b. Appointment of Regional Recovery Coordinator</p> <p>Alison Morgan advised that Dick Adams has been appointed as Regional Recovery Coordinator only for the Southern Region. At the current time, for the Greater Sydney Region, there isn’t anyone appointed. Euan Ferguson (Northern NSW Recovery Coordinator) will provide support and Alison Morgan is the Chair for the Greater Sydney Regional Recovery Committee.</p> <p>c. Formation of Greater Sydney Regional Recovery Committee</p> <p>Alison Morgan advised that this committee was stood up as at late last week. The Committee will include Wollondilly, Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury and Lithgow.</p> <p>The committee is currently working on how to handle the overlap of LGA boundaries between Wollondilly and Wingecarribee. The support to the community of each LGA should be no different on the ground and there</p>	

	<p>should be consistency with the same advice given to each LGA.</p> <p>Sub-committees will be formed to deal specifically with the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health & Wellbeing • Infrastructure, Waste & Environment • Animals and Agricultural • Economy, Jobs & Tourism. <p>Council staff will be involved in all sub-committees as well as State and community organisations who are acting on the ground. The first meeting for the Regional Recovery Committee has been held and most will attend by teleconference. The next meeting will be next Thursday in Wollondilly. Dial in facilities will be available for anyone who wants to dial in.</p> <p>Alison Morgan advised that they have been in Lithgow in Blue Mountains today and have spoken to Toni Averay during the last week on a variety of issues. A lot of Wollondilly's problems are consistent across northern and southern NSW and they are keen for all LGAs to be consistent and to learn from each other.</p> <p>The State Recovery Meeting was held last Friday and the chair on sub-committees have been stepped up, so senior people are working on these issues and getting the best people on the ground as quickly as we can. A lot of energy and focus is going on recovery and they have a clear understanding that this is a long term commitment to helping communities recover and that we have a key role to play in all of that.</p> <p>d. Status of State/Federal Relief Grants</p> <p>Peter Wright enquired as to what the new Federal agency will be doing? Alison Morgan advised that State are meeting with Federal now and mapping out how it will look. The fires have gone across State boundaries so they are taking the same attitude as with the LGAs being that it does not matter to people on the ground which State they are in and the advice and support should be consistent in all States. The Federal agency should enhance the current system rather than replace it.</p>	
<p>5. Wollondilly Council Updates</p>	<p>a. Community Recovery Meeting (to be held Monday 13 Bargo)</p> <p>Peter Wright advised that the meeting should be no longer than two hours and there will be three parts to the meeting.</p> <p>The first part will be approximately 40 minutes and will be a formal presentation from the Mayor who will be chairing and opening the meeting. It will also include the Welcome to Country by Aunty Karen.</p>	

	<p>The second part will be approximately 40 minutes of questions from the floor with a roving microphone. There will be a number of representatives around the room and the Mayor will defer each questions to the relevant people who can answer each question.</p> <p>The last part will be more informal in which people can walk around the room and speak in a more candid way to each of the representatives.</p> <p>b. Council Action Summary Document – to be tabled Peter Wright advised that he has been working on this document with assistance from Toni Averay. This document describes everything that Council has been doing in preparation and in response to the recent bushfires. The document summarises all that was done in the heat of the crisis and contains a significant amount of information on everything that we have done and what we intend to do.</p> <p>ACTION: The document will be sent out electronically to the committee.</p> <p>c. Status of Mayoral Relief Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately \$350,000 donations received / pledged to date. • Over \$90,000 has been approved for distribution to date. • Over 90 families and individuals supported to date. • Round 2 opens soon and will be open for a two week period. • Community welfare organisations can also apply. • Brodie Pitt-Owens enquired, as a supplier, if he has quoted on something, will it exclude him to which he was advised, no it wouldn't. <p>d. Distribution of donated food/gifts, etc Rob Moran advised that all of our donations have now left the premises except for toys. The CWA and RFS took the last of the non-perishable and perishable food, sanitary items and sundry items, however, there are 250 toys still remaining.</p> <p>Kerrie O'Grady advised that CWA still has seven shipping containers and a hall full of groceries.</p> <p>Sandra Harlor advised that there are still communities on Batemans Bay Facebook community noticeboard which are still in need of personal items. ACTION: Kerrie O'Grady advised that if any committee member could let the CWA know who is in need, then they will do whatever they can to get the items down to Batemans Bay.</p>	<p>Peter Wright</p> <p>All</p>
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ACTION: Sandra Harlor is to find out more information and provide the details to Kerrie O’Grady. Brodie Pitt-Owens offered his truck to transport items, if required.

**Sandra Harlor
Brodie Pitt-
Owens**

e. Planning and Building Fast Track Options

Peter Wright stated that Council has announced some initiatives to make the planning and approval process a bit easier. Toni Averay stated that anyone who needs further advice to contact Council’s Development & Certification Team and we will do everything that we can to move the resident through this process as quickly as we can. All information is being put on Council’s website as it comes to hand and the team are available to assist with any questions and to make sure the residents have all the right information.

f. Waste / Clean Up Issues and Updates

Mandy Marino advised that the Oakdale bushfire waste collection point opened on 4 January 2020 and closed yesterday. Most of the affected community used it every day and sometimes multiple times in the one day. A lot of gas bottles were received as the community was worried these were now not safe as well as lots of tyres and organic waste. A thank you was received today from one of the residents saying they appreciated the support. There was only one lady who brought non-bushfire household waste.

The drop-off for bushfire waste at Bargo has been extended to 28 February 2020 and, as of last Friday, it has been arranged with Wingecarribee Shire Council for Buxton and Balmoral residents to also come to the Bargo waste drop off. A letter has been sent to Wingecarribee to send to their residents. Wingecarribee plan to hand some letters out at the meeting tonight and then the rest will be delivered. Everything is in place at the Bargo waste centre and all staff are aware of how to assist residents.

Toni Averay stated that communicating with bushfire affected residents is a challenge and Wingecarribee has had more affected residents than us and we welcome any assistance from any community groups in getting the word out about the Bargo bushfire waste collection. Council is putting the message on a media release and also on Council’s Facebook page.

Peter Wright would like to have a triage system at the meeting tonight where bushfire affected residents can provide contact details and how they were affected and hopefully through this process we will capture further information of people who have been affected.

Toni Averay stated that this is a good example of a collaborative process in recovery through us assisting Wingecarribee and this assistance has been most welcome. Toni Averay would like to thank Mandy Marino

	<p>and her team and Kerry Whitehead with the prompt way they responded to this proposal.</p> <p>ACTION: Sharon Robertson asked if this message can go on Council's Facebook page. The Mayor advised that the message is on his Facebook page and we are in the process of getting the message on Council's Facebook page.</p> <p>For an uninsured resident to get assistance from Public Works for demolition, they need to complete three stat decs. This is onerous, however, any resident in our area requiring this assistance is encouraged to come in to Council as we can supply JPs.</p> <p>ACTION: Sandra Harlor asked if it could be added to Council's Facebook page to say that Council has JPs available. As far as Council is aware, there has only been one family that has been uninsured and Wingecarribee has only one, too.</p> <p>ACTION: Rob Moran is to email information about assistance from Public Works and the three stats decs required to Alison Morgan who will look into this process to see if it can be simplified.</p> <p>g. Economic Issues and responses Kevin Abey advised of the economic impacts for Wollondilly from a tourism perspective as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kiah Ridge Christian Conference Centre - in line of the fire but undamaged. Two bookings cancelled as a result of fire impact and welcoming first group this Friday. • Thirlmere Lakes National Park – closed from 19 December 2019 until 30 December 2019. Some closed areas still in place. Avoid remote areas of park until fire conditions improve. • Bargo Dingo Sanctuary – severely fire damaged, closed since 19 December 2019 until further notice. • NSW Rail Museum – closed for 12 days (19 December 2019 to 30 December 2019 inclusive) reopened 31 December 2019. • Australian Wildlife Sanctuary – in line of fire, badly impacted by the recent fires with several buildings destroyed (8) and several acres burnt. Only recently took over management of land from National Trust, had not yet opened, however, now closed until further notice. • Australian Wildlife Sanctuary future plans and opportunities. • Greg Binskin is trying to get an audit of what has been damaged as well as visitor economy including damage to heritage buildings. So we need to know what 	<p>Rob Moran</p> <p>Rob Moran</p> <p>Rob Moran Alison Morgan</p>
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	<p>heritage items have been damaged and Greg Binskin has been in contact with the Heritage Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Wright also commented that from an Aboriginal cultural heritage impact view, the devastation to country is massive and beyond description. <p>Greg Binskin advised that the Small Business Commissioner has put out a survey and there has been a tremendous response. The survey seeks info on how businesses have been impacted by the fire.</p> <p>The survey has also been sent to Shoalhaven and the northern NSW. The South Coast still does not have power and some businesses have not received any revenue because of the impact of no tourism in the area. People with casual shifts are not getting work. There are also flow-on effects e.g. if people do not buy coffee then this affects the milk industry.</p> <p>Alison Morgan advised that decisions are being made around policy, resources and funding through this survey so possibly it is even worthwhile doorknocking to see what businesses have been affected. The survey has been distributed through a link and it will go out to the data base. This includes home based businesses, too.</p> <p>ACTION: Council Ec Dev staff will be promoting the survey</p> <p>h. Federal Grant Funding announcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Disaster Relief – Wollondilly is definitely eligible for funding. • Disaster Recovery Payment allowance will now not be taxed and provides up to 13 weeks of allowance if severely impacted by the fire. • Sandra Harlor stated that the negative feedback received is that there are too many pages. • Sharon Robertson suggested that we need to have all the links to information in one spot. Peter Wright advised that Council has tried to consolidate as much information as we can on our website and we keep updating the structure so everything easily accessible. • ACTION: It was requested that copies of the forms for funding be made available at the meeting tonight. Kevin Abey stated that he is not sure if a hard copy will be acceptable. Sandra Harlor suggested if a hard copy is available tonight then people can request assistance with filling in the form, if required. 	<p>Kevin Abey</p> <p>Rob Moran Kevin Abey</p>
<p>6. Community Agency Updates</p>	<p>a. Red Cross Nil</p> <p>b. CWA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerrie O’Grady has asked people to stop bringing goods to the community recovery centre at Balmoral 	

	<p>as they have no space. They have had to turn away three deliveries today. Those three deliveries were redirected to the Salvation Army.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently working with school packs. • Working with Men’s Shed who are bringing tools for local men and women. • Received support from Bunnings • Dirks Produce have donated which will be used to help with livestock feed. • Received donation for new school shoes. • Kerrie O’Grady will be meeting with three fire captions from Buxton, Balmoral and Bargo to decide how to distribute the gift vouchers to the affected residents this week. • Received a visit from the Sun Herald newspaper asking Kim and Kerrie to speak to them to which they did. • Channel 7 visited to have a look at their set up. • Will be meeting with the Governor of NSW at 10.00am tomorrow on her way down to the South Coast. • Peter Wright noted that they are definitely being recognised for all the good work that they are doing. <p>c. Community Links Wellbeing Christine Wilesmith stated that their centre has only just opened today and has been closed since before Christmas. Their focus will be now be on mental health and counselling. Christine Wilesmith will liaise with Kerrie O’Grady. ACTION: Council to assist in promoting counselling services.</p> <p>d. Rotary Nil</p> <p>e. St Stephens Church, Thirlmere Nil</p>	Rob Moran
7. General Business	<p>a. Update on New Federal Recovery Agency Item covered earlier in meeting.</p> <p>b. Obtaining Details of Affected Residents Item covered earlier in meeting.</p> <p>c. Mental Health Outreach and Relief The Mayor asked Alison Morgan that when we were declared as a disaster area, there was a press release about a pot of money for mental health issues, when will that money be released? ACTION: Alison Morgan said that she will take that question on notice so as to check the details.</p> <p>d. Blaze Aid Mark Pepping spoke about Blaze Aid. A joint meeting was held to discuss the possibilities and</p>	Alison Morgan Peter Wright

	<p>they need 20 properties and they have to be primary producers in order to receive Blaze Aid. There is one property in Balmoral that might qualify but we do look like a potential candidate. Unlikely to be 20 primary producers needed to get the Blaze Aid.</p> <p>e. Wildlife Sandra Harlor mentioned that people are feeding the wildlife along the catchment on Silverdale Road. Community need info on what can be put out and what can't. Is there any government assistance to help with this? Alex Stengl advised that there would be concerns regarding putting out food in the catchment area. Kerry Whitehead stated that there are variable message boards put out to not put food out near the road, as 15 kangaroos have been killed. Alex Stengl stated that she has been contacted by Local Land Services, however, needs to get back to them. National Parks have advised that they do not have the manpower as they are still currently fighting the fire. Alex Stengl stated that the Local Land Services want support for lost cost water for the animals.</p> <p>ACTION: Additional Information will go up on Council's website regarding helping wildlife. Alex Stengl stated that the concern is to not encourage people to go into hazardous areas. Sandra Harlor stated that if there is a resource that can be tapped into, then that is the main thing, together with advice on what we can or can't do. Rob Moran said that DPI will be attending tonight's community meeting to speak about this issue.</p> <p>f. RFS \$6,000 Maximum Reimbursement Sandra Harlor noted that the paperwork for RFS volunteers to apply for the reimbursement of the maximum \$6,000 funding is not going to be available until after January. ACTION: Alison Morgan stated that she will talk to the RFS as they might want to lobby around that.</p> <p>g. Federal funding for Council \$1,000,000. The Mayor advised that the money is in our account and asked Kellie Bennett-Smith to pass on to Angus Taylor that it is very much appreciated at this time Council has already had out-of-pocket expenses, even though most is covered by the Section 44, and is working out how to best use the funds to make sure the community is looked after.</p>	<p>Alex Stengl Rob Moran</p> <p>Alison Morgan, OEM</p>
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8. Next Meeting	Next Meeting Monday 3 February 2020, 3.00pm in the Board Room, Council offices (Note that the option of Friday 24 was discussed in the meeting, but immediately after the meeting close a number of members requested a shift to Monday 3 because of the long weekend and likely absences)	All
9. Meeting Closed	Meeting Closed 4.20pm	