

## MINUTES

### Wollondilly Local Recovery and Resilience Committee

**Date:** 11 February 2020

**Time:** 3.00pm till 4.30pm

**Venue:** Picton Library, Library View Room, Menangle Street, Picton

#### 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		✓
Matt McFarlane, OEM		✓
Natasha Lowe, OEM		✓
Mark McMullen, Red Cross		✓
Jessie Huard, Red Cross	✓	
Mark Pepping, Wingecarribee Shire Council		✓
Charmaine Cooper, Wingecarribee Shire Council		✓
Danielle Lidgard, Wingecarribee Shire Council		✓
Jason Mitchell, Tharawal Land Council		✓
Alex, Police	✓	
Vanesa Nievas, Regional Emergency Management Officer	✓	
Peter Baker – local resident plumber drainer	✓	
Mayor Cr Matthew Deeth, Wollondilly Shire Council		✓
Cr Judith Hannan, 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
<b>1. Welcome</b>	Ally Dench welcomed attendees.	
<b>2. Present &amp; Apologies</b>	Attendees introduced themselves, apologies noted.	
<b>3. Previous Minutes &amp; Actions Arising</b>	<p>It was agreed to hold over the previous Minutes and Actions Arising until the next meeting.</p> <p>This meeting was focusing on 9 February 2020 storm event.</p>	
<b>4. Storm Event – 9 February 2020 (Debrief and Impact)</b>	<p>Ally Dench provided an update and advised that there was 22 businesses in Wollondilly and St Marks Anglican Church affected in Picton. Most businesses intend to be re-opened by Wednesday. Council staff are assisting with the clean-up.</p> <p>Significant failure of road in the Oakdale area at Back Creek where the road was washed away. A section of the road is still breaking away, reconstruction works were being assessed and may take some time to be repaired. Council is very aware how important the repair is to get done quickly.</p> <p>It was noted that farm and domestic dams are full.</p> <p>We received approximately 300mm of rain in this area. Oakdale received approximately 457mm. There were power outages in the area, but power appears to be all back on now. Council's response was brilliant, we are becoming more prepared. Assistance was given in the main street by Council staff, debris removed and extra bins to be placed in the main street. Insurers have been contacted.</p> <p>Update in regard to Picton businesses:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Guilty or Not currently closed until further notice.</li> <li>▪ Pumps working overtime at George IV. They have been flood affected.</li> <li>▪ Council have provided assistance at Picton Hotel as their cellar underground was flooded.</li> <li>▪ All sandbags have been removed due to health reasons.</li> <li>▪ We are still on alert. Council is prepared just in case.</li> <li>▪ 22 businesses affected, 5 residents were evacuated.</li> <li>▪ Parts of The Oaks do not have water.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Peter McLaughlin advised that there is significant water problems in Oakdale, Thirlmere and Buxton. Sydney Water have been advised that these areas require urgent attention. This has been fast tracked right now.</li> <li>▪ Water Tanks in main street of The Oaks assisting.</li> <li>▪ Issues with water supply in some areas and issues with sewerage in parts of the Buxton and Bargo areas.</li> <li>▪ Everyone has been accounted for - 5 people were evacuated and displaced and were either put up at Rydges at Campbelltown or accommodation in Revesby.</li> <li>▪ One resident required accommodation at Oakdale. There was welfare support provided for this particular person.</li> <li>▪ No issues in regard to displacement of animals.</li> <li>▪ Council are awaiting on a report from the SES in regard to impacts.</li> <li>▪ Roads are not in good condition and there are a lot of potholes.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION: Council to upload some social media alerts – slow down due to road conditions. Orangeville to Wallacia is particularly bad.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Council's Squirt truck is out and about filling up potholes.</li> <li>▪ Ally Dench advised the Committee that it's about safety and could residents report what they see.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION: Encourage residents to report pot holes and other safety issues through Council's crm system.</b></p> <p><b>ACTION: Sharon Robertson asked if Council could please put a media post out with a link advising residents how they can report issues.</b></p> <p>Rob Moran provided an update:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Residents reporting significant water damage – some ceilings have collapsed through water damage.</li> <li>▪ Road closures – posted on Wollondilly Council's website.</li> <li>▪ Menangle Bridge is now open.</li> <li>▪ Douglas Park causeway still closed.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION: Sandra Harlor asked if we can have some clarification in regard to the status of Blaxland Crossing Bridge, Wallacia – the facts.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ There were 5 or 6 businesses who experienced the 2016 storm event that had been impacted again. Concerns in regard to mental health issues arising or PTSD issues.</li> <li>▪ Barry McConville asked what has Council learned from the 2016 storm event that has been put into operation for this flood? Ally Dench advised that the businesses in Picton were a lot more prepared. Sandbags were put in place and things put up high in their shops. Road closures were put in place, Council were a lot more prepared in that regard.</li> </ul>	<p>Peter Wright</p> <p>Local Recovery &amp; Resilience Committee</p> <p>Peter Wright</p> <p>Kerry Whitehead</p>
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- Barry McConville asked how much warning were they given? Rob Moran advised that local businesses were advised by Council staff by door knocking on the Saturday.
- Ally advised that there were a lot of alerts, generally that there was a large amount of rain coming. Also a significant amount of creek work has been done by Council. There has been a lot of work done in regards to flood mitigation.

Alex Stengl provided an update:-

- In the last 12 months 180 hours of vegetation management and contractor work has been carried out in the creek. Council have been maintaining vegetation. It was noted that works that have been done with erosion post 2016 was maintained and the banks held during this flood event.
- Sharon Robertson asked if the residents were responsible for cleaning part of the creek and are they doing this? Alex advised that Council have raised awareness with residents but it is very difficult to do.
- Greg Dobson advised that some residents have wanted to and have been knocked back.
- Alex advised that it is State Legislation not Local and there is controlled activities through the DPI.
- Greg Dobson asked with the debris coming down the creek is this the main problem?
- Alex advised that people are making an assumption that the storm event was due to debris in the creek and it wasn't, it was the amount of rain. There is a report highlighting this. A lot of people are saying this and it is not factual, you cannot dig the creek out further the walls of the bank will collapse. You need natural vegetation in a creek line to stabilise the creek. Council have always maintained the creek. The new document was quite positive and in fact said we can put a bit more vegetation back in the creek. We need to promote that we are in a flood way. We didn't see the same amount of volume of debris come through compared to the 2016 storm event. There was still a lot of water with this event, but not as much as last time.
- Greg Dobson advised that the studies said we have had this flood and the question is looking at the creek and the amount of water flowing into it. There is a lot of development in the shire and there is a lot of stormwaters going into the creek. The creek is not big enough to take the amount of water that is hitting that little creek all at once.

**ACTION: Michael Malone and his team to advise what is the modelling and areas that are creating more run off.**

Barry McConville advised that there is a lot of debris on some land and will they get assistance to clean this up.

**Michael Malone**



- St Marks Church mentioned that sand bags haven't been removed yet. Chad Neilson advised that they will be picked up tomorrow.
- Kerry Whitehead advised that the tattoo parlour asked to keep their sandbags there and they will remove them. Ally Dench advised that there is concern regarding health issues with sand bags. They need fresh ones and we can help replace them.

Ally Dench asked Kerry Whitehead to provide an update and advised that Kerry has done an amazing job and has gone from fire to flood. Thank you Kerry.

Kerry Whitehead provided an update on roads:-

- Cobbitty Bridge is still closed but everything else is open.
- Burragorang Road (Back Creek) – the failure of this road will be a long term recovery project, it could take 3 months or it could be a year, we do not know until it is assessed. It may require a bridge or road depending upon funding and where we are able to source that funding from. Sydney Water have to connect water and sewerage and have indicated this may take some time as well (Peter McLaughlin stated the Local Member has contacted the Water Minister and he has stated this issue will be a priority for Sydney Water). Council need to get a Geotech in as well. Council have discussed detours with light traffic to use Binalong Road with reduced speed, signs will be installed, buses and trucks will use Montpelier Drive. Council will liaise with police about reduction in speed.
- Silverdale Road, Werombi – currently shoulder issues and will need a reduction in speed and signage.
- Blaxland Crossing- bridge is open and have cleared with Penrith Council as well, no damage to the bridge.
- Macarthur Drive between Wilton and Picton Road – tree issues, our Environment Team is onto it.
- Menangle Bridge – opened today, issues with bracing but think it is all okay.
- All the rest are minor maintenance issues – pot holes. The strategy is to do one road top to bottom and then move to the next. Roads are prioritised. There is surveillance out and that is what we are trying to collate.
- Yerranderie – 1 resident is stranded. This has been escalated to the Reocon, Michael Malone. This resident is low on food and medication. We have been trying to make contact.
- Vanesa Nievas – asked has anyone got supplies out? Kerry advised not as yet as we have had no contact with him, but we really need to get his medication to him.
- Charlies Point Road at Bargo is still closed.
- Big Hill Road – major landslide.

	<p><b>ACTION: Sharon Robertson requested temporary signage (slow down, children about) on the corner of Russell Lane and Barkers Lodge Road – school children are having to be driven there and there are at least 20 children from Wollondilly Anglican College.</b></p> <p>Brianna Murray provided an update in regard to waste:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Small businesses have been provided with 2 skip bins put out in central locations in Picton. These bins will remain on site until 3pm tomorrow.</li> <li>▪ Sharon O’Regan advised that Guilty or Not may require a bin once the insurance company have assessed their shop.</li> <li>▪ Brianna advised that a security guard is at the bins and you need a letter to use them.</li> <li>▪ Greg Dobson asked if there are bins for debris. Alex Stengl advised no not at this stage, we haven’t been declared an emergency. Ally Dench advised that the bushfires were declared an emergency, not this storm event at this stage.</li> <li>▪ Sharon Robertson advised that people couldn’t put rubbish out for the Council clean-up at The Oaks over the weekend. Brianna advised that they are now picking it up and if residents missed out they can phone and they will go out and pick it up. There is a social media post about this.</li> <li>▪ Barry McConville advised that after the last storm event Rotary was asked to go into houses and help, have there been requests for help at this stage? Ally Dench advised no but will let Rotary know if this changes.</li> </ul>	Michael Malone
<p><b>5. Wollondilly Council Updates</b></p> <p><b>a. Mayor’s Relief Fund</b></p> <p><b>b. Waste/ clean up issues &amp; updates</b></p> <p><b>c. Future recovery workshops / recovery plan</b></p>	<p>Ally Dench advised the Mayor’s Relief Fund has been activated for this storm event, there is a small amount of money available. Forms are available online, please encourage residents to go online.</p> <p>Sandra Harlor asked if any of the bushfire money can go over into the fund?</p> <p>Ally advised no, any money from the bushfire fund will not go into the storm event fund. Council have put in a small amount of money for the storm. We will assess the situation.</p> <p><b>ACTION: If the Committee hear of anyone needing welfare services please get in touch with Council.</b></p>	Local Recovery & Resilience Committee
<p><b>6. Community agency updates as required</b></p>	<p>Kerrie O’Grady advised that a community support service visit is booked in for tomorrow at the Community Recovery Hub at Balmoral. Service NSW’s bus will be there along with Red Cross, Anglicare, Vinnies. These agencies are all available for the community to access every Wednesday and a few on Sunday.</p>	





	<p><b>ACTION: Can the Committee let residents know that sandbags are the responsibility of the SES and Council are there to support them.</b></p> <p><b>ACTION: Kerry Whitehead asked that this community group put out a positive message to the community about Council's assistance with this storm event.</b></p> <p>Greg Dobson asked if Council could do an emergency run down the creek to see if there are any blockages in the creek. Alex Stengl advised that our staff have done that and we will also wait until the water goes down and reinspect.</p> <p>Peter Baker advised that a lot of the riparian zone is the State Government's responsibility. How can there be the best outcome, what is the format? There are issues including residents changing the corridor for their gardens. Alex Stengl advised that she will take this information on notice, this is for discussion with DPI and National Parks.</p> <p>Peter Baker asked what methods can be done up town to assist with the flow of water. Alex Stengl advised that this issue will be discussed.</p> <p>Brodie Pitt-Owen asked if it is possible to get Community Links to door knock in the main street with businesses and have the discussion about potential mental health issues. Ally Dench advised that there were 2 Chaplin's who were in town yesterday. Community Links Wollondilly have been contacted in regard to Mental Health Services. Kerrie O'Grady advised that they know but they just can't knock on doors. Brodie agreed but advised that they could walk into shops and check. Some people don't want to discuss this but sometimes when they are pressured they will open up. That is what we learned last time, they won't come to you and do appreciate a Council face.</p> <p>Kerry Whitehead thanked the internal Council staff for assisting with the clean-up which enabled Kerry to get the outdoor staff to assist with heavy duties ie. roads.</p> <p>Barry McConville asked where the designated evacuation point was? Kerry Whitehead advised that they opened the Council Administration Building on the night and 3 gentleman used the facilities. Ally Dench advised that you cannot always have the same evacuation centre, it depends where the crisis is located.</p> <p>Ally Dench advised that there is a Bush Fire Community Recovery Forum next Monday 17 February 2020 at Buxton Public School. There will also be a series of debriefing sessions like we did after the last storm event. This information will feed into a long term recovery plan (bush</p>	<p><b>Local Recovery &amp; Resilience Committee</b></p>
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	<p>Jessie Huard advised that this Council is very well organised, you jump in boots and all and you should be proud of yourselves. We have a small offering, psychological training, we are here to assist.</p> <p>Sharon Robertson advised that this is the only Council that has a Farm Liaison Officer most Councils don't know who their farmers are.</p>	
<b>8. Next meeting – 24 February 2020</b>	<p>Meeting Closed 4.23pm</p> <p>Next Meeting Monday 24 February 2020, 3.00pm in the Library View Room, Picton Library</p>	