

MINUTES

Wollondilly Local Recovery and Resilience Committee

Date: 24 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 Liouthakis, Acting Superintendent, Camden Police		✓
Vanesa Nievas, Regional Emergency Management Officer		✓
Geoff O'Brien, Picton Chamber	✓	
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.	
2. Present & Apologies	Attendees introduced themselves, apologies noted.	
3. Previous Minutes & Actions Arising	<p>4. Storm Event – 9 February 2020 (Debrief and Impact)</p> <p><i>Council to upload some social media alerts – slow down due to road conditions. Orangeville to Wallacia is particularly bad.</i></p> <p>Completed.</p> <p><i>Encourage residents to report pot holes and other safety issues through Council's crm system.</i></p> <p>Completed.</p> <p><i>Sharon Robertson asked if Council could please put a media post out with a link advising residents how they can report issues.</i></p> <p>Completed.</p> <p><i>Sandra Harlor asked if we can have some clarification in regard to the status of Blaxland Crossing Bridge, Wallacia – the facts.</i></p> <p>Completed.</p> <p><i>Michael Malone and his team to advise what is the modelling and areas that are creating more run off.</i></p> <p>Completed????? Michael Malone advised that the Stonequarry Creek Flood Study is currently on exhibition. This is a great opportunity for residents to provide comments to us and we encourage residents to do this.</p> <p><i>Barry McConville to provide further information regarding soil material being dumped in the creek</i></p> <p>Completed. Wollondilly Shire Council's Compliance team are dealing with this.</p> <p><i>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</i></p> <p>Completed. This is a policing issue and needs to be referred to police. There have been requests for line marking and signage on roads, Michael Malone advised the linemarking company will be at Russell Lane and Binalong Road today to mark a line down the middle of road.</p>	

	<p>Council would like people to drive to the conditions, that is the primary concern to Council, while we concentrate on getting Burragorang Road back to its original status.</p> <p>5. Wollondilly Council Updates</p> <p><i>If the Committee hear of anyone needing welfare services please get in touch with Council</i></p> <p>Completed.</p> <p>6. Community agency updates as required</p> <p><i>Media to be sent out that storm affected properties can also go to the Community Recovery Hub at Balmoral</i></p> <p>Completed. Information has been put on Council’s website and other places and the Mayor has been highlighting awareness in regard to this online.</p> <p><i>Ally Dench advised Vanesa Nievas that copies of the minutes will be resent to her which will assist with the completion of the form</i></p> <p>Completed.</p> <p>7. General Business</p> <p><i>Can the Committee let residents know that sandbags are the responsibility of the SES and Council are there to support them</i></p> <p>Completed. It was noted that there are still sandbags at the Tattoo shop and Walton Lane and there is concern of contamination. Michael Malone advised that the Walton Lane ones could be there as part of Council works. Geoff O’Brien noted that sandbags aren’t the answer – shops need to be protected with rubbers around the doors and barriers. The Chamber is looking into this.</p> <p>ACTION: Council to speak to the Tattoo shop in regard to removing these sandbags.</p> <p><i>Kerry Whitehead asked that this community group put out a positive message to the community about Council’s assistance with this storm event.</i></p> <p>Completed.</p> <p><i>Kerry Whitehead asked if we could get a review from staff as there would be some good information from the staff we can feed into the plan</i></p> <p>Completed. Staff will be participating in upcoming workshops.</p> <p><i>Kerrie O’Grady to send Ben Brungs an email with the details regarding assistance on a Sunday at the Balmoral Hub.</i></p> <p>ACTION: Kerrie O’Grady has not heard back from Ben Brungs regarding linkage with the CWA at the Balmoral Hub.</p>	<p>Michael Malone</p> <p>Ben Brungs</p>
<p>4. Storm Event – 9 February 2020</p>	<p>Michael Malone advised that there are still a lot of pot holes and missing bits of road. Some debris in a few spots in trees. The waterways are clear, there is nothing blocking the waterways.</p>	

Rob Moran advised that there is currently one business working from home - the Lighting business. Guilty or Not is still closed, opening has been delayed due to their insurance assessors. They have commenced cleaning and unfortunately they may be waiting 12 weeks for the specialist machinery to arrive.

Jessie Huard advised that the Red Cross has walked the streets in Picton – most businesses think there is a distinct down turn in business due to fires and floods. They expressed their thanks to the SES for their help. Due to the impact from the fires and storm event, stress was having an impact on their health. Could an event be held enticing people to come back into the area for business. Ally Dench advised that Council's Economic Development team are running a shop local campaign and this will be rolled out in the coming weeks. There will be other events over time, shops may be willing to look at late night opening.

Kersti Martin advised that she attended a conference at the South Coast with the Office of Small Business. There was concern regarding financial assistance for businesses over the disaster period, people were not going out to shops due to the smoke and weather. Eight Councils attended this conference and they will be following this up.

Ally Dench advised that Council implemented the Activate Wollondilly Program after the last storm event. Council in conjunction with the Chamber held Winterfest and we will be looking at similar events, the shop local business campaign may assist. Kersti Martin advised that a business survey is going out online to get more feedback from businesses in regard to this.

Sandra Harlor suggested small incentives, spending local and you may get a voucher to go in a draw, etc.

Geoff O'Brien advised that the Chamber's Executive will be meeting on Wednesday to discuss the storm event. They will try and formalise their role in communications with the SES. The Chamber walked the street with the SES the day after and were advised that the message still did not get through to all shop owners. We need to educate and communicate.

It was noted that the message went out to Picton Chamber and was posted on their social media site. We all need to formalise how we communicate.

Brodie Pitt-Owen enquired that the upgrade currently happening at Telopea Park looks like it may be nearly completed.

Michael Malone advised that we have an Adopted Master Plan for Telopea Park with a proposed youth facility and pathways. The memorial process requires a plan and there is a lot more happening and supporting infrastructure at Telopea Park.

- A small scale BMX track in Bargo, in a suitable location.
- A small scale BMX track in Oakdale, in a suitable location.
- Shop Local / Visit Local Project.

ACTION: Geoff O'Brien asked if the shop local strategy could be an integrated campaign across the whole of Wollondilly.

- Wollondilly Visitor Guide.
- Wollondilly Markets Program.
- Telopea Park Buxton – Family/Community Event
- Children's Festival Willis Park Oakdale or The Oaks
- Outdoor Movie Night at Warragamba
- Community and Stakeholder Debrief workshops and forums – we need a few different days and times for certain communities. We may need to do something with the businesses soon. Rob Moran and Ally Dench are meeting this week to discuss when forums will be happening.
- Regional tourism events initiative – \$10 million in funding will be provided for bespoke events, concerts, festivals and/or other permanent visitor attractions (such as art installations and tourists walks etc.) in fire affected regions to assist the recovery effort. It will provide grants of up to \$1 million per project, with the aim of supporting around 10 projects across the worst affected areas.
- Illuminate Wollondilly Festival 2020 - sponsorship is going into bushfire recovery. This event is in jeopardy of not going ahead in May.
- Wollondilly Markets Program.
- Activating Smart Working Hub initiative – GPO Lite.
- Shop Local / Visit Local Project.

Kerrie O'Grady advised that the CWA were putting a stall at Illuminate and even though they are a not for profit organisation they still have to pay a fee. Ally Dench advised that if we are successful in gaining a grant that will assist with these types of payments.

ACTION: Kerrie O'Grady to contact Rob Moran in regard to possibly waiving the fee.

Kevin Abey

Kerrie O'Grady
Rob Moran

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regional Tourism Bushfire Recovery Grants – Stream 1 and Stream 2 – this funding would be to recoup some of the Economic Development projects and free up funding from other grants that can go into other initiatives/events. The Thirlmere Festival of Steam was postponed to September due to the fires. A lot of sponsors have already committed their funds to the bushfires. Thirlmere Festival of Steam may not get sponsorship due to this so we are applying for funding to assist with this event. ▪ ‘Potholes to Mermaids Pool’ and ‘Tahmoor Canyon’ – Wollondilly Short Walks - upgrading of walking tracks, interpreting and way-finding signage, boardwalks, viewing platforms, digital maps and promotions. ▪ Local Government Bushfire Recovery Support Group and coordination:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Campbelltown City Council - providing in-kind support to Wollondilly for Governance and administrative support for the Community Recovery Hub located at Balmoral. ○ Blacktown City Council - providing in-kind support to Wollondilly Shire Council for communications and event support. <p>ACTION: Ally Dench and Kerrie O’Grady to meet to discuss support from Campbelltown City Council.</p> <p>It was noted that Ally Dench and Rob Moran are meeting with Blacktown Council this Thursday.</p>	<p>Ally Dench Kerrie O’Grady</p>
<p>6. Update –Greater Sydney Region Recovery Committee</p>	<p>Ally Dench advised that residents need to register through Service NSW for the public clean-up program. Laing O’Rourke are coordinating the public clean-up. We are asking local businesses to go on their website and register on the portal. Their preference is local contractors.</p> <p>Brodie Pitt-Owen highlighted that this is a difficult process. ACTION: Rob Moran to circulate the webpage, contact name and phone number.</p> <p>Kerrie O’Grady advised that she attended a meeting at Wingello and residents were concerned that they will only clean-up 3 meters out from the house slab and that is it. There is concern with the amount of residents on rural properties that have their outbuildings far away from the house.</p> <p>Ally advised that outhouses within the vicinity of a house are included in the clean-up. The fact sheets are being developed and are on the Service NSW website. The information is being updated as issues arise. Fact sheets are being distributed through the Sub-committee and Ally can distribute.</p>	<p>Rob Moran</p>

	<p>People with no insurance are ineligible for clean- up. If the committee hear of anyone that does not have insurance and have not been assisted please advise Ally Dench.</p> <p>Council have a register for residents needing extra assistance, with people that would like to help. There is also the Givit website and from a Local Government perspective we have been directed to use Givit. Kerrie O’Brien advised that she was contacted 3 weeks ago and advised to register with the Joint Disaster Recovery Taskforce, could Kerrie have clarification. Rob Moran advised to register with both.</p> <p>Kerrie O’Brien noted that residents have been happy with the National Parks where they share boundary fences. Unfortunately they are having problems with Crown Lands, who have not assisted.</p> <p>ACTION: Ally Dench to feed back to the Committee.</p>	<p>Ally Dench</p>
<p>7. Wollondilly Council Updates</p> <p>a. Mayor’s Relief Fund</p> <p>b. Waste/ clean up issues & updates</p> <p>c. Future recovery workshops / recovery plan</p>	<p>a. Mayor’s Relief Fund</p> <p>The Mayor’s Relief fund has assisted 155 individuals and families to date, as detailed below:-</p> <p>Crisis funding - \$35,115 Round 1 - \$58,216 funding Round 2 - \$86,697 funding Round 3 - \$79,318 funding Round 4 - \$69,937 funding</p> <p>\$329,283 (including \$5,000 Flood Assistance)</p> <p>Rob Moran advised that we are reaching a point where we will have to close off the Mayor’s Relief Fund as we have exhausted funding and we need some in reserve for any future emergencies.</p> <p>Ally Dench advised that funding when requested has gone out straight away and a lot of this is thanks to Rob Moran.</p> <p>ACTION: Rob Moran to organise an updated Media Release in regard to the Mayor’s Relief Fund.</p> <p>b. Waste / Clean up issues & updates</p> <p>As discussed previously the Walton Lane and Tattoo Shop sandbags need to be looked at.</p> <p>Rob Moran is getting the word out that taking waste to the management centre for free, ends this Friday. After this date residents will need to register with Service NSW.</p>	<p>Rob Moran</p>

	<p>c. Future recovery Workshops /recovery plan</p> <p>Ally Dench advised that she will be meeting with Rob Moran this week to discuss the structure of the upcoming recovery workshops. A Local Recovery and Resilience Plan will be developed from this.</p> <p>Rob Moran reminded everyone that this Friday there will be a Recovery Workshop with Anne Leadbeater here at Council in the Gallery at 2.30pm. Anne is a leader in community recovery and resilience. Following the 2009 Black Saturday fires, Anne coordinated the initial recovery efforts for the Kinglake Ranges communities. She has also worked in communities recovering from drought, flood, cyclone and earthquakes across Australia and New Zealand. Anne was lead writer on the review of the national Community Recovery handbook and has authored papers on communicating in emergencies and community leadership in disaster recovery.</p> <p>It was agreed that this Workshop will be recorded.</p>	
<p>8. Community agency updates as required</p>	<p>Picton CWA:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kerrie O’Grady advised that they have packaged up most of the non-perishable items at the hub. Also in preparation for the recovery meeting being held tonight. There have been residents asking for their hall back. A lot of goods have been given to local community groups ie. Tahmoor School that do breakfast, homeless men and all groups were happy to receive the offer. ▪ Kerrie noted that some concerns were raised by other community members in regards to the shipping containers and when were they to be removed. The shipping containers are full of a lot of goods that are for residents when they return to their properties. Once these goods have been distributed they will be removed. ▪ Kerrie has been in touch with affected residents from Wollondilly and Wingecarribee areas. There was discussion with people who did not know the community hub was there. Council have put information on their websites and flyers have been distributed. ▪ The need is still there for the community but is changing from month to month. <p>St Stephens Thirlmere:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stephen Swanepoel advised that grants almost totalling \$12,000 have been distributed. ▪ 1 family that lost everything was given \$4,000 worth of vouchers. ▪ 40 hampers have been given out with another 40 hampers from Anglicare available. If anyone is in need contact Stephen. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funding was donated to Buxton School P&C to assist with the outdoor play area. Thirlmere Festival of Steam have been asked if they can organise a steam engine to come through Buxton and pick Buxton school children up and then go to Thirlmere Museum and then come back to Buxton station and teachers will pick the students up. ▪ Anglicare state wide appeal raised a lot of money for fire relief and the Community Chaplin was asked to assist Wollondilly. <p>Community Links:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Primary Health Network setup - new structure with Counselling process offering 12 appointments that do not require a GP referral. Specific Counsellors attending to the need of bush fire affected people. There will be something long term as well. ▪ Attending Community Recovery Hub at Balmoral on Wednesday's and every second Sunday. Need to speak to Kerrie O'Grady of where to from here. ▪ Investigating ways of running community based groups. ▪ Investigating other methods, maybe yoga or art to engage people. <p>ACTION: Ally Dench to link with the Library – Storytime about the bushfires.</p> <p>Stephen Swanepoel advised that Wollondilly Anglican College have Community Recovery Booths and if residents need assistance please contact Wollondilly Anglican College.</p> <p>Wollondilly Anglican College would also like to thank Council for their grant for \$10,000 through the Mayor's Relief Fun to run a Winter Wonderland event and this event will be open to all of the community in the June/July school holidays.</p>	<p>Ally Dench</p>
<p>9. General Business</p>	<p>Nil.</p>	
<p>10. Next Meeting</p>	<p>Meeting Closed 4.40pm Next Meeting Monday 16 March 2020, 3.00pm in the Boardroom, Wollondilly Shire Council</p>	