

## MINUTES

### Wollondilly Local Recovery and Resilience Committee

**Date:** 3 February 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	✓	
Brodie Pitt-Owen	✓	
Kerrie O'Grady, Picton CWA	✓	
Stephen Swanepoel, St Stephens Thirlmere		✓
Christine Wilesmith, Community Links Wellbeing	✓	
Greg Dobson, 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	✓	
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	✓	

Agenda Item	Discussion, Decision, Recommendation	Responsible
1. Welcome	Ally Dench welcomed attendees.	
2. Present & Apologies	Attendees introduced themselves, apologies noted.	
3. Previous Minutes & Actions Arising	<p><b>8. General Business</b></p> <p><i>Contact Christine Wilesmith, Community Links Wollondilly, regarding access for mental health support.</i></p> <p>Completed. Christine Wilesmith confirmed that Community Links Wollondilly are the approved provider for mental health services on behalf of the Primary Health Network (PHN) and are appointed by PHN.</p> <p><i>Kerrie O’Grady commented that some community members have received rude responses from State welfare agencies.</i></p> <p>It was noted that Alison Morgan is an apology for this meeting so not sure if this information has been relayed. Kerrie O’Grady advised that some agencies were quietly demanding space in the hall and asking for tables and refreshments, this was overwhelming for all the victims. Peter Wright has advised Ben Brungs that there is a need for assistance with coordination. It was also noted that welfare agencies were not willing to work on a Sunday.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Kerrie and Kim can phone Ben Brungs from the Office of Emergency Management. Peter Wright to email Ben’s contact details to the CWA and Wingecarribee Shire Council. Feedback to be provided to the Red Cross.</b></p> <p><b>5.b. Council Action Summary Document</b></p> <p><i>The document will be sent out electronically to the committee.</i></p> <p>Completed. Peter Wright uploaded the document this morning to Wollondilly Shire Council’s website under 2019/20 Fire Event – Response and Recovery (see below link):-</p> <p><a href="https://www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au/resident-services/emergency-information/201920-fire-season-support/response-and-recovery/">https://www.wollondilly.nsw.gov.au/resident-services/emergency-information/201920-fire-season-support/response-and-recovery/</a></p> <p><b>5.d. Distribution of donated food/gifts, etc.</b></p> <p><i>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.</i></p>	<p>Kerrie O’Grady Peter Wright</p>

	<p>Completed. Sandra Harlor has contacted the Batemans Bay Community Noticeboard and they have been overwhelmed with donations.</p> <p><b>5.f. Waste / Clean Up Issues and Updates</b>  <i>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.</i></p> <p>Completed. Rob Moran advised that this has been done.</p> <p><i>Rob Moran is to email information about assistance from Public Works and the three stat decs required to Alison Morgan who will look into this process to see if it can be simplified.</i></p> <p>Completed. Information is on the website</p> <p><b>5.g. Economic Issues and responses</b>  <i>Council Ec Dev staff will be promoting the survey put out by the Small Business Commissioner.</i></p> <p>Completed. The Economic Development team are promoting the survey. Surveys were provided at the community meeting.</p> <p><b>5.h. Federal Grant Funding announcement</b>  <i>It was requested that copies of the forms for funding be made available at the meeting tonight.</i></p> <p>Completed. This has been done.</p> <p><b>6.c. Community Links Wellbeing</b>  <i>Council to assist in promoting counselling services.</i></p> <p>Completed. Council are promoting counselling services on our website.</p> <p><b>7.c. Mental Health Outreach and Relief</b>  <i>Alison Morgan said that she will take that question on notice so as to check the details.</i></p> <p><b>ACTION: The Mayor has not been advised and Alison Morgan is an apology for this meeting – carry forward.</b></p> <p><b>7.e. Wildlife</b>  <i>Additional information will go up on Council's website regarding helping wildlife.</i></p> <p>Completed. This has been done and Wires and Men's Sheds are assisting.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Sandra Harlor to pass Warradale Men's Shed details onto Alex Stengl.</b></p>	<p>Alison Morgan</p> <p>Sandra Harlor</p>
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	<p><b>7.f. RFS \$6,000 Maximum Reimbursement</b></p> <p><i>Alison Morgan stated that she will talk to the RFS as they might want to lobby around that.</i></p> <p>Completed. Rob Moran advised that there is a link on Council's website. People can go straight to the website.</p>	
<p><b>4. OEM Updates / LGA Impact Report Updates</b></p>	<p>Rob Moran advised that there was a slight update on figures for damage. The OEM and RFS conduct an analysis on the number of properties damaged.</p> <p>(Update as at 15 January 2020)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 homes destroyed in Wollondilly</li> <li>• 17 homes damaged</li> <li>• 66 outbuildings destroyed</li> <li>• 45 outbuildings damaged</li> <li>• 350 rural land holders affected</li> <li>• 8 Facilities destroyed</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5. Greater Sydney Regional Recovery Committee (and Subcommittees) updates</b></p>	<p>Ally Dench advised that four Sub-committees are being established and Council will have representation on all Committees. There is currently one Sub-committee Meeting - Agriculture and Animals Recovery Sub-committee (livestock not wildlife). The Sub-committee will have involvement from Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury, Lithgow and Wollondilly (Wingecarribee will be in a different Sub-committee group). The Sub-committee will look at what are the impacts on rural and primary producers in the area, are there any gaps (fencing is one big gap), rural residential issues. If you hear of any issues please send Ally Dench an email and she can raise at the next Sub-committee. This Sub-committee will meet weekly for the next six weeks.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Ally Dench to advise when the other Sub-committees are announced.</b></p> <p>There was a recent announcement by the State and Federal Government that they will pay for the clean-up of residential and commercial properties destroyed by the recent NSW bushfires (insured and uninsured properties). Residents need to contact Service NSW directly. Council have coordinated a media release and put a reminder on Council's Facebook page.</p> <p>Council's website's focus is on the 2019/20 fire event and people rebuilding their homes. For assistance there is a link on Council's recovery page.</p> <p>It was noted that the Red Cross are increasing relief.</p>	<p><b>Ally Dench</b></p>

**6. Wollondilly Council Updates**

**a. Status of Mayor's Relief Fund**

- i. Donations received - \$359,021
- ii. As of this week \$178,000 has been distributed to 135 individuals and families.
- iii. After the close of round 3 another \$89,000 in applications. These are all carefully assessed.

It was noted that the next funding round has opened on 3 February and will close on 14 February 2020 – \$5,000 for residents.

Through the Mayor's Relief Fund, Wollondilly are supporting families with fencing (security for their boundary fencing ie. children, animals).

Blaze Aid – We have been working closely with Angus Taylor's Office in order to receive Blaze Aid. Unfortunately you need 20 primary producer properties to meet the threshold which Wollondilly, Wingecarribee and Shoalhaven couldn't meet.

Turbins for Australia are coming out to Wollondilly. They are only assisting farmers at the moment and there is only one that is affected in Wollondilly.

**ACTION: Sharon Robertson to provide Wingecarribee Shire Council with details.**

**Sharon Robertson**

**b. Waste / clean up issues and updates**

As discussed previously there was an announcement from the Government to assist with clean up, we are in the process of sending affected properties notification that this is extended to the end of February. We will advise residents not to bring in bulk demolition materials as we are worried about asbestos.

The Oakdale site was well received by residents. It was noted that Alex Stengl and Mandy Marino are Wollondilly's waste contact officers (PH: 0246779560).

**c. DA Fee waiving proposal**

**d. Federal Grant Funding proposal - Rates Assistance Scheme; Recovery cost gap recoup; Telopea Park upgrade and memorial; Economic recovery**

Peter Wright noted that all of the above matters are subject to an Extraordinary Council Meeting on 11 February 2020 and the Agenda will be made available at the end of the week.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The report is recommending to waiver the DA fees and CC fees for people who have had their properties destroyed. It currently does not make a distinction for insured or uninsured.</li> <li>▪ The Federal grant of \$1 million – the report is recommending how can Council potentially allocate that funding as follows:-             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Setting up a rates assistance scheme package. Those who have lost their homes will be eligible for 2 years, those who have damaged homes will be eligible for 1 year.</li> <li>2. \$250,000 to pay for recovery costs that cannot be recouped. Not all costs can be recovered and that could be around \$250,000. To date we have spent \$1.7million and will spend more around \$5 million on the emergency. We need money to pay for recovery costs that cannot be recouped. This is just Wollondilly and this is coming from the federal grant that we have received.</li> <li>3. Upgrade of Telopea Park – great location – the proposal is to further embellish the upgrade and some sort of memorial for the loss of life of the 2 fire fighters. This will be a place of remembrance and a symbolic place for the community. Wingecarribee have endorsed funds to be set aside as this will be a joint project. Working with Tharawal Lands Council as well.</li> <li>4. \$150,000 for a range of economic development. Projects will focus on Economic development and tourism projects, spend local like the Great Walk project. There is information being put together to look at leveraging that program, Visitor Program, etc.</li> </ol> <p><b>ACTION: Sharon Robertson asked if a memorial plaque could be located in the Oakdale/Werombi area for remembrance of the plane that went down with the firefighters as they assisted with firefighting in that area.</b></p> <p>Toni Averay advised that the State Government has announced as part of the State Environment Protection Act that they have now extended to demolition from the bush fire, structures, buildings, fences. Demolition works and replacement of fences within the bush fire area will be covered through exempt and complying. It does not apply to the repair of the structure, they will still need to lodge a DA. Two state fees - Councils have collectively approached the state for a waiver of the long service levy, planning reform fee. There is an expectation that the government will announce that they will be officially waived, Council are awaiting official confirmation.</p> </li> </ul>	<p>Peter Wright</p>
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	<p>Sharon Robertson asked when the Nattai/Burraborang Lookout will be opened as local businesses are concerned because they are not getting tourism. Wollondilly is not aware of when it will be re-opened. This is a NPWS issue and will be followed up.</p> <p><b>e. Future recovery workshops / recovery plan</b></p> <p>Council are proposing to hold forum/workshops again, like the ones they ran after the storm event. It is still being discussed if one or multiple forums are to be held. Council are engaging with Ken Moroney again and we need to seek funding through the CRIP Program. This forum will help us develop a long term recovery plan for Wollondilly.</p> <p>Council will look at having counsellors available at the forums as well. There will be many community members who would like to take part in the forum and having some discussion about what happened and what we can do in the future. The timing of these conversations is important. Council will rely on community groups to help advise when we should have these workshops and look at going out to community areas.</p> <p><b>ACTION: Ally Dench to ask Alison Morgan to advise welfare agencies to visit communities again. We need community led discussions as well.</b></p> <p>Catherine Stuart asked if the process will look at structures for supporting the community. Ally Dench advised that the storm event helped Wollondilly develop our local recovery plan, we need to know what went well and what we can do better. We want to get expertise from Ken Moroney to help with this. We need to be guided by the people on this committee of when we should hold these forums. We are starting to prepare an application for funding for these forums.</p>	<p><b>Peter Wright Rob Moran</b></p> <p><b>Ally Dench</b></p>
<p><b>7. Community agency updates as required – Red Cross, CWA, Community Links Wellbeing, Rotary, St Stephens, Tharawal, etc.</b></p>	<p>Red Cross - increasing their emergency relief and are extending funding to people who are hospitalised.</p> <p>CWA –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Kerrie O’Grady advised that they have been given three more shipping containers. Two of those came via the Hon. Warrick Smith who organised through WesTrac and Cootes Hire, they came with tools in them and we can loan them out for free.</li> <li>▪ \$1,500 cash dropped off to the CWA. Cash is being put into the CWA Picton branch account and we are starting to slowly draw some out. After meeting with</li> </ul>	

	<p>the Mayor we had legal documents drawn up regarding distribution of gift cards. Ally Dench advised that she met with Bruce McCann, Council's General Counsel this morning and a separate meeting is to be setup to assist the CWA with a framework to distribute.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cootes also delivered funding for wire and fencing reels. Warrick has advised that whatever the community need he will get it for the CWA.</li> <li>▪ The CWA have been asked to put a report together so that they can pass onto Peter Cosgrove.</li> <li>▪ A lot of donations are still coming in and more gift cards. Four Men's Shed to assist.</li> <li>▪ More offers for assistance from Bowral CWA and other groups.</li> <li>▪ Rob Moran asked what is the long term vision for the centre. Kerrie advised that they are hoping to still be there around winter. Slowly more residents have come into the Balmoral Village. It will be up to Councils as to how long they can stay? We are saying 12 months. Once residents have relocated they are coming in to take more goods.</li> <li>▪ The Quilters Group are making quilts for people who have had total loss.</li> <li>▪ Sharon Robertson advised that she has heard of people who need help from northern Wollondilly. Rob Moran advised that they need to contact Council for assistance. Sharon asked how many residents were impacted in the Werombi, Orangeville, Oakdale area? Rob advised that Kim from the CWA has been provided with the numbers but not the exact details. Council have the list of the impacted areas, properties whether destroyed or damaged and we can clarify with the CWA.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION: Need to check with OEM whether details can be given. Rob Moran to liaise with Kerrie O'Grady regarding this.</b></p> <p>Community Links -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Christine Wilesmith is going out on Wednesday to the Recovery Centre in Balmoral and will continue to do so as long as need is required. Christine has been providing brief counselling on the spot and referrals as necessary. Seeing a lot of people at Community Links who may not have had property destroyed but had to stay at hotels, etc. when they were evacuated and these people have a lower economic status and are short of funds coming back into the community.</li> <li>▪ Making appropriate referrals and assisting with fresh food vouchers.</li> <li>▪ Some RFS volunteers are struggling with money after the effects of long term volunteering. They are getting food hampers and need to get nappies and gift cards for petrol.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Rob Moran Kerrie O'Grady</b></p>
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	<p><u>Silverdale RFS – Thank you day</u> Silverdale RFS are holding a thank you day this Saturday 8 February 2020 – 10.00am to 2.00pm and everyone is welcome to attend.</p> <p><u>Community Concert</u> Council are working with a community group to put on a community concert scheduled for 28 March 2020, a Country and Western theme at Club Menangle. RFS volunteers and children will be free and \$20 entry fee for everyone else. Funds will be provided to 23 organisations.</p>	
<p><b>9. Meeting frequency and scheduling / next meeting</b></p>	<p>Meeting Closed 4.20pm Next Meeting Monday 24 February 2020, 3.00pm in the Library View Room, Picton Library</p>	