

**MINUTES**
**Present**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Matthew Hyde	Snowy Valleys Council	Chair
James Hayes	SVC Mayor	
Denise Garner	Murrumbidgee Health	Health & Wellbeing
Phil Clements	Forestry	Softwoods Working Group
Richard Cottam	Mount Tumbarumba Vineyard	Industry
Natalie Randall	Tumut Regional Chamber of Commerce	Industry
Barney Hyams	Chair, Riverina Local Land Services	Agriculture & Livestock
Matt Lucas	Thrive Riverina	Business & Tourism
Stan Wall	LEOCON	Recovery
Dale McLachlan	Hyne	Industry
John Stanfield	VALMAR Disability Enterprises	Infrastructure, Waste & Environment
Phil Clements	Softwoods Working Group	Forestry
Pamela Sitko	NSW Office of Emergency Management	Recovery
Pelin Beklenoglu	Visy	Industry

**Apologies**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Dr Joe McGirr MP	Member for Wagga Wagga	
Steph Cooke MP	Member for Cootamundra	
Katie Fowden	Hyne	Business & Tourism
Dave Eisenhauer	Sounds of the Mountains	Communications & Community Engagement
Ken Dale	Tumbarumba Chamber of Commerce	Business & Tourism

**In Attendance**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Andrew Rae	Snowy Valleys Council	Recovery

**Actions**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Completed</b>
11MAR2020	<i>Ranger to take further action re signage/cattle grazing on roadsides</i>	SVC CEO	

11MAR2020	<i>Ensure link on SVC website to Red Cross diagram.</i>	CEO EA	
11MAR2020	<i>Chair to speak with Department of Premier &amp; Cabinet regarding assistance from universities.</i>	SVC CEO	
11MAR2020	<i>Pam to share the Updated State Recovery flowchart with committee members.</i>	PamSitko	

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

### 2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held 26 February 2020 were confirmed as being a true and accurate record.

Barney Hyams/Natalie Randall

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### 3. Actions from Previous Meetings

Most actions addressed; those pending remaining on Action List.

Some matters relating to Action items were discussed as follows:

- Waste plan has been finalized for our area
- Chair to talk to Ranger further re signage/cattle grazing on roadsides
- Cycle Challenge – part of \$250,000 has been provided towards this event 22 March 2020
- Phil Clements to check and advise if logging on Sunday will interfere with this event.
- Availability of wood for home heating is being investigated; depends on ownership of land/protection zones on road reserves
- Batlow clean up an issue – information to residents re timeframes etc. Timeline to be confirmed by Darren Hubscher today. Liang O'Rourke approach: all must be registered with Service NSW to then be activated by relevant agency. From 23<sup>rd</sup> will start to issue a call out to those who are registered/to organise an on-site meeting with owners to firm up scope of work. The output will be a deed of release/an agreed scope with owner as to what will or what will be addressed by L O'Rourke – clean up by 6<sup>th</sup> April.
- The Chair provided Recovery Committee members with information relating to the Recovery Manager who recently resigned.
- The Chair provided an overview of a report to 19 March 2020 Council meeting re \$1.275M Federal Government funds and how this has been expended.

- Funds are required for further accommodation for displaced residents and fruit picking workers.
- Snowy Valleys bushfire/recovery experience is shared and there is recognition of our issues via regional, state and federal.

**ACTION:** *Ranger to take further action re signage/cattle grazing on roadsides*

#### **4. Workshop – Combined Action Plans**

Members workshopped the combined action plans.

#### **5. General Business**

Barney:

- Need to determine actual loss to SVC LGA in dollar figure/s. An impact study for 1, 2, 3, 5, 10 and 15 years would stand us in a good position for advocacy. Local business from Wagga could provide.
- Pam advised that at the GM's conference call recently there was talk about Universities providing this. Agreed that the associated time frame may be an issue with this.
- People starting to recover with assistance from BlazeAid – fencing.
- Most people aware now of what they can and can't do re vegetation removal.
- People who have lost livestock seem the greatest impacted mentally, in addition to those that have lost their homes. One farmer required livestock to be euthanized for some time after the fires.
- All need to be mindful going forward of mental health issues/needs. Red Cross have a diagram of what emotions people will experience when going through emergency/recovery. Good to distribute and ensure journalists aware.

Pam advised that at a State level there will be a recovery support service run by DPI Rural Resilience Team who will provide case management for specific individuals and families. Three positions to be in SVC area.

**ACTION:** *Ensure link on SVC website to Red Cross diagram.*

*Chair to speak with Department of Premier & Cabinet regarding assistance from universities.*

Phil:

- Figures will be available soon for timber industry.
- Timber never going to run out. Damaged but not destroyed. 60/70% not burnt; industry will continue. What 'normal' looks like will change.
- Is there a one-pager that shows all organisations involved with the recovery process and how they all link together?
- The Chair shared information provided by Greg Mouat from Apple and Pear Australia Limited – 'Build Back Better: Apple Industry Bushfire Recovery Plan'.

**ACTION:** *Pam to share the Updated State Recovery flowchart with committee members.*

Matt L:

- Mountain Bike presentation at Talbingo: The highest elevation drop mountain bike trail in Australia; 85 kms of trail potentially being extended to Yarrangobilly thermal pool. \$9M. No real environmental issues/aboriginal sites affected. May see a beginning of the project later this year. A very positive project with flow-on effects to Tumut and Tumbarumba.

Denise:

- Sub-committee focus / plan to support young people in SVC; will run a youth camp at Borambola and target people who were involved in fire-fighting efforts. A tentative date for the second week of the July school holidays has been set. Will include mental health support at the camp.
- There is a similar youth camp planned for coastal people, at Jindabyne; have added to their submission for funding, for a SVC youth camp.
- Other opportunities for recovery grants such as Red Cross.
- Creative Recovery Network, look at art to provide recovery support to young people, will liaise with them.
- Also looking at how to provide assistance for service providers such as hairdressers who may be hearing the same stories over and over again; to provide them with the skills to deal with this situation/friendship referral.
- Mental health services provided by a wide range of organisations. Currently putting together a matrix and will be available within the next 2 weeks. Outreach/drop in/specialist services are offered. MPHN meet regularly and liaise with support services.

Stan:

- Suggestion to get someone from Sydney back here to go through the same process that they went through initially. Agreed great idea, however would be difficult to get the timing right.

Andrew Rae:

- Recovery team is talking about how to best deliver mental health assistance. First round could start this month, with a follow up session; in initial planning stages.

Item Referred from Community Advisory Group: Deferred to next meeting.

#### **6. Guest: Darren Hubscher/Laing O'Rourke**

Darren provided information for committee members regarding Laing O'Rourke's activities in the SVC area.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday 25 March 2020 at 1pm.