

**MINUTES**
**Present**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Matthew Hyde	Snowy Valleys Council CEO, Chair	
James Hayes	Snowy Valleys Council Mayor	
Steph Cooke MP	State Member for Cootamundra	
Dr Joe McGirr MP	State Member for Wagga Wagga	
Mike Kelly MP	Federal Member for Eden-Monaro	
Justin Clancy MP	State Member for Albury	
Katie Fowden	Hyne	Industry
Alison Thorne	Murrumbidgee Health	Health & Wellbeing
Ken Dale	Tumbarumba Chamber of Commerce	Business & Tourism
Phil Clements	Forestry	Softwoods Working Group
John Stanfield	Manager VALMAR Disability Enterprises	Business & Tourism
Richard Cottam	Mount Tumbarumba Vineyard	Industry
Samuel Beattie	Office of Emergency Management	Recovery/Disaster Relief
Stan Wall	LEOCON	Recovery/Disaster Relief

**Apologies**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Matt Lucas	Thrive Riverina	Business & Tourism
Dave Eisenhauer	Sounds of the Mountains	Communications & Community Engagement
Natalie Randall	Tumut Regional Chamber of Commerce	Industry

**In Attendance**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Andrew Rae	Snowy Valleys Council	Recovery
Fiona Scott	Snowy Valleys Council	Recovery
Shelley Jones	Snowy Valleys Council	Executive Chief of Staff

**Actions**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Completed</b>
08APR2020	<i>Signs are still up at Adelong/Wondalga Road, to be followed up</i>	Ranger	
08APR2020	<i>Update for next meeting on funding for orchard clean ups.</i>	Andrew Rae	
08APR2020	<i>Update on trees overhanging fence line to be provided for Mayor; Mayor will provide to Dr Joe McGirr MP.</i>	SVC CEO	

08APR2020	<i>Provide press release re Batlow accommodation to Dr Joe McGirr MP.</i>	Shelley Jones	COMPLETED
08APR2020	<i>Add access to computers/technology item to Advocacy Combined Actions</i>	Shelley Jones	
08APR2020	<i>Look into any way to fast track advocacy/funding and advise committee.</i>	Sam Beattie	
08APR2020	<i>Include COVID-19 as standard agenda item and separate Action Sheet.</i>	SVC CEO	
11MAR2020	<i>Pam to share the Updated State Recovery flowchart with committee members.</i>	Pam Sitko Sam Beattie	
11MAR2020	<i>Ranger to take further action re signage/cattle grazing on roadsides</i>	SVC CEO	COMPLETED
11MAR2020	<i>Ensure link on SVC website to Red Cross diagram.</i>	CEO EA	COMPLETED
11MAR2020	<i>Chair to speak with Department of Premier &amp; Cabinet regarding assistance from universities.</i>	SVC CEO	COMPLETED

## 1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting, provided apologies received, outlined remote meeting protocol and advised that the meeting would be recorded.

## 2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the half day workshop held 11 March 2020 were confirmed as being a true and accurate record.

Mike Kelly/Phil Clements

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## 3. Actions from Previous Meetings

Matters relating to Action items were discussed as follows:

- Signs are still up at Adelong/Wondalga Road, to be followed up.
- There has been some direct discussion with University Canberra; industry groups making direct contact with universities.
- Sam Beattie to provide updated State Recovery Flowchart to Matt or Jeannie to circulate with minutes from this meeting.
- Mike Kelly advised that in regard to a request to organise a shadow cabinet meeting in SW slopes area, this was going ahead, however with COVID-19 this has not occurred.

**ACTION:** *Follow up signage at Adelong/Wondalga Road  
Updated State Recovery Flowchart to members with distribution of minutes*

#### 4. Combined Action Plans

Sub-committee action plans were prioritised at the half day workshop held on 11 March 2020 resulting in three separate documents: for action; for advocacy; for referral.

##### 'For Action' Combined Actions

Actions are progressing through the relevant sub-committees. Progress to be fed back to Recovery Committee in order to update the combined Action tables.

It is worthwhile noting that the impact of COVID-19 has impacted progress of actions; sub-committees and Council officers looking at different ways to deliver support to those impacted.

Arborists currently undertaking tree assessments; still being prioritised on a risk based approach with an anticipated 8 to 12 months work, unless additional arborists become available. An arborist has gone through; now in the second phase; feedback received on the top end of the Old Tumberumba Road has been attended to. Issues raised by residents around Old Tumberumba Road will be responded to shortly.

Council has been working directly with DPI with regard to orchard clean ups, working directly with DPI – will bring data to the committee.

With regard to trees overhanging fence line on property that backs highway– if a State Road, then State pays. State decision re what assistance will be provided.

**ACTION:** *Update for next meeting on funding for orchard clean ups.  
Update on trees overhanging fence line to be provided for Mayor; Mayor will provide to Joe McGirr.*

##### 'Advocacy' Combined Actions

LEOCON Stan Wall advised that a briefing for emergency management officers was held on 10<sup>th</sup> March and RFS briefing was held yesterday. Still in a good position with emergency procedures, also for COVID 19; will enter this into actions.

Mike Kelly MP advised that he will raise the issue of council workers not being included in job package. Support from MPs appreciated in this regard. Mayor has submitted a Mayoral Minute to this month's Council meeting which includes same.

#### 5. Recovery Report

Andrew Rae advised that mobile outreach has operated from February to now. Currently in gradual wind down due to COVID-19. Charlie truck out to about 6 locations over 3 days before COVID-19 social distancing requirements; wound up week before last. National Bushfire Recovery Agency have committed ongoing support to communities. Recovery team working hard on alternative means of contact via radio segments; Recovery Bulletin hard copies throughout LGA. Soft case management commencing next week. Starting with those that have lost homes/impacted. Referrals to agencies. Will provide weekly reports and will be able to report to Recovery Committee. Laing O'Rourke (LOR) have been in contact with property owners in and around Batlow. 12 meetings held in Batlow; work scheduled to commence after Easter. Seeking confirmed timelines. CEO and Andrew participated in webinar with LOR last night. Good turnout from local contractors (80) who were encouraged

to sign up and be part of the tender process. LOR intend to have about 8 crews over the LGA. 8 crews will be able to clean up 20 properties per week.

Sam Beattie advised that there has been big changes internally for OEM. Government announced Resilience NSW; will merge OEM and other business units into one. OEM tied to bushfire and COVID-19 work. 23 hotels set up for self isolations. Providing care packages/medications. Bushfire recovery continues across the state however face to face/recovery centres closed. Looking to increase communication capacity. Office has grown from 2 to 11 permanent staff. As well as managing current matters, OEM are forward planning for a possible third disaster.

Mike Kelly MP advised that emergency accommodation is progressing with 100 Minderoo crew now producing up to 20 pods a week. Priority for those who are living in caravans/tents. NSW Government has classified LOR as an essential service, so no interruption to their service. Thank you to all for continuing to get on with the job.

There are now 6 units at Batlow caravan park. Will be managed by local Real Estate Agent. Press release yesterday with contact details. Rent is \$165 per week inclusive of all facilities. Submission made for units, plus fruit picker accommodation at Batlow and Tumba. Dick Adams working hard to get some assistance on this matter.

Alison Thorne advised that drop in centres at Batlow and Tumba closed week before last due to COVID-19. 3 bushfire clinicians working from home providing support via video conferencing. Many people with no access to internet/computers. 'Got it' program for young children will run out of Rosewood school however more people than not have access to computer. Challenging for such people when everyone is moving to an online space. How to address this? How do we reach these families? Trying hard to connect, however is challenging.

Joe McGirr MP agreed and advised that this issue is also found with COVID-19. Perhaps phone calls best? Utilise list of those who have lost houses and stock.

Agreed COVID-19 will make this issue worse. No time to get computers and NBN up and running. Open to suggestions. This is a pretty big issue.

Some town centres have access to free wifi. Promoting 'Help your neighbour' program. Paper copies of Recovery Bulletins. TAFE running free computer skills courses however, if no computer, may be an issue.

Mike Kelly MP: Minderoo may be able to provide some funding to assist residents with access to computer/technology.

**ACTION:** *Provide press release re Batlow accommodation to Dr Joe McGirr MP.  
Add access to computers/technology item to Advocacy Combined Actions  
Sam Beattie to look into any way to fast track advocacy/funding and advise.*

## 6. General Business

Ken Dale suggested approaching Rotary for funding re access to devices. The Chamber has moved to holding meetings via Zoom. BEC have distributed a lot of information. TAFE offering courses. Snowy 2.0 – white card/forklift courses free of charge. Hospitality difficult – promoting ‘Live from the bush’ although trying to discourage tourism in line with Governments direction. A lot of funding for events, either postponed/ deferred. Danger of overloading in future, need to be mindful of events spaced out/not clashing. Coordination of re-scheduled events will be important. Direct conversations with John Barilaro re Elliot Way.

Alison Thorne: Following up people via phone. Recruitments ongoing. One position filled, others have secondments.

Katie Fowden: Race against time to process maximum burnt logs and yet facing downward trends from COVID-19. Stock not shifting. Significant downturn for next 6 months. Pleased with new Dept. for Regional NSW. Gary Barnes, great contact for our industry. That department will oversee some business support packages. Hyne Community Trust meeting on Tuesday – will potentially defer (usually set for June). However, perhaps may be able to provide support as/where needed. Will raise with Committee on Tuesday.

Phil Clements: The industry generally focused on salvage operations. Important that the forestry/timber industry continues to be regarded as an essential service. Do not want to see what happened in new Zealand. Pleased to see Forestry Corp NSW provided \$46M for recovery work. New Dept. for Regional NSW very important.

Dr Joe McGirr MP: Support for apple/pear industry? Submission has gone in for assistance to apple and pear industry/discussions held with DPI as to how to enact. Looking at working with orchardists with DPI to get done. Dr McGirr MP will follow up.

Sam Beattie: Those seriously struggling can call Service NSW and OEM can organize/deliver groceries/medical supplies; a very discreet service. Housing is assessed by a panel on a case by case basis.

Mike Kelly MP advised that Snowy Hydro is progressing well despite COVID-19. Taking up what would have been holiday accommodation, Talbingo. Been great to have them spreading people around the region, accessing local takeaways etc. Some misinformation in media lately.

Justin Clancy MP: recent briefing from Snowy Hydro was pleasing. Good meeting held with LLS, Council, local land holders Upper Murray. Also productive meeting with Gary Barnes.

LEOCON Stan Wall: – suggestion to include an agenda item and a separate Action Sheet for COVID-19.

**ACTION:**        *Include COVID-19 as standard agenda item and separate Action Sheet.*

Richard Cottam – update announcement by NSW Wine industry that smoke tainted grapes affected by bushfires are now eligible for fire damage relief packages. Thank you to Joe/Mike if involved in lobbying for that. Refund for mechanical harvester – dropped fruit on the ground. Most have had birds through already though.

Next Meeting: 3pm, Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

Meeting closed: 1.10pm.