

MINUTES
Present

Name	Organisation	Representing
Matthew Hyde	Snowy Valleys Council CEO, Chair	
Justin Clancy MP	State Member for Albury	
Alison Thorne	Murrumbidgee Health	Health & Wellbeing
Barney Hyams	Chair, Riverina Local Land Services	Agriculture & Livestock
Katie Fowden	Hyne	Industry
Ken Dale	Tumbarumba Chamber of Commerce	Business & Tourism
Phil Clements	Forestry	Softwoods Working Group
Richard Cottam	Mount Tumbarumba Vineyard	Industry
Paul Lloyd	Regional Emergency Management Officer (REMO)	Recovery
Dick Adams	Recovery Coordinator Southern NSW	Recovery
Natalie Randall	Tumut Region Chamber of Commerce	Business and Tourism

Apologies

Name	Organisation	Representing
Steph Cooke MP	State Member for Cootamundra	
Shelley Jones	Snowy Valleys Council	
Dave Eisenhauer	Sounds of the Mountains	Communication

In Attendance

Name	Organisation	Representing
Andrew Rae	Snowy Valleys Council	Recovery
Fiona Scott	Snowy Valleys Council	Recovery
Kylie Bradley	Snowy Valleys Council	Coordinator Place Activation
Edwina Hayes	RDA Riverina Murray	Guest Presenter

Actions

Date	Action	Responsible	Status
22MAY2020	<i>Liaise with Edwina Hayes to clarify scope and expected outcomes of proposal</i>	Kylie Bradley, SVC	
22MAY2020	<i>Spread the Riverina RDA Survey around as much as possible</i>	ALL	
22MAY2020	<i>Make amendments to TOR based on discussion and provide to Recovery Committee members before next meeting.</i>	Chair, SVC CEO	
22MAY2020	<i>Circulate Margaret O'Dwyer's contact details.</i>	Kylie Bradley, SVC	
22MAY2020	<i>Add Catherine Marriott to list for Recovery</i>	SVC	COMPLETED

	<i>Committee meetings and to provide presentation to Advisory Group.</i>		
22MAY2020	<i>Ascertain ownership of hill behind the township of Batlow. Timber really needs to be thinned out to create safety for that community. Reduce fuel, make open woodland. Follow up, ready for next meeting.</i>	Chair, SVC CEO	
22MAY2020	<i>Provide further information to Justin Clancy MP which will be provided to Deputy Premier's officer.</i>	Chair, SVC CEO	
22MAY2020	<i>Refer to Catherine Marriott any local industries who may benefit from support packages.</i>	ALL	

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. There were no objections to the meeting being recorded.

2. Proposal – update on Feedback and Decision

Kylie Bradley provided an overview of the proposals from RDA Riverina and RDA Murray. What we are doing with RDA Riverina is a small body of work, very different from RDA Murray. Our work with RDA Riverina is in relation to statistics/data used for advocacy; what areas we really need to focus on and already funded from our budget.

RDA Murray goes further, looking at DPA work for example and would require funding from somewhere.

Members discussed the pros/cons of each and agreed the need to look further into the RDA Murray. It was noted that loss of pasture should be included in discussions. Need data/value based on approximate hectares lost. Discussion currently underway with NSW Farmers Association re funding.

ACTION: *Kylie Bradley to speak with Edwina Hayes further to clarify the scope and expected outcomes*

Recovery Committee members to spread the Riverina RDA Survey around as much as possible.

3. Terms of Reference

Consideration of the TOR adopted 16 January 2020

Committee members expressed the need to ensure that action items in all three areas are actioned before closing down the Recovery Committee. Concern that agencies have picked up on matters referred. One actions register would be beneficial.

Membership

Given that some sub-committees have finalised matters or have gone into hibernation and some are still active, or changing how active they are, membership could now be reduced whilst keeping communication open with at least one spokesperson remaining for each sub-committee.

The Recovery Committee will continue for some time based on necessity and with meetings held based on need.

Any issues regarding specific geographical areas such as the northern end of the impacted area is the role of the Advisory group, therefore any issues should be referred to that group.

ACTION: *The Chair to make amendments to TOR based on discussion and provide to Recovery Committee members before next meeting.*

4. Recovery Team Update

Fiona Scott – Case Management

95 calls made in past 2 weeks; 7 left messages; 3 don't have phone numbers that work. 44 referrals made to various support agencies for bushfire recovery – assisting xx with complex matters. At least 85 residents no longer require assistance.

Andrew Rae – Outreach/Community Engagement

Over 2,300 views of videos; radio talks each Thursday, uploaded to websites; news bulletins distributed; fencing debris in Jingellic completed - early discussions with EPA about the issue. They are seeking funding for all LGAs, so our idea has been picked up State Wide.

Grant \$75,000. Applicants now being considered.

Outreach stepping up with focus around health and wellbeing; in discussion with Health re free health checks, flu vacs and mental health counselling, as well as Rural counselling for primary producers.

Laing O'Rourke (LOR) has 595 registered properties. 353 currently in scope; 242 site visits to be completed; 252 deeds of release. Clean up is in line with State Average. Estimated completion date now mid-July, as a result of COVID -19. This is only a 2 week delay.

Questions/Discussion

Committee member expressed concern that funding will be exhausted before all completed. Justin Clancy MP to follow up.

The Chair advised of discussions with LOR and that Council has lodged an application with Regional NSW for funds to cover additional costs associated with the Batlow Cannery. In comparison to the rest of the State, we are progressing quite well. Will keep pushing to progress. Federal government announced today approximately \$800,000. No further details at this stage.

Dick Adams advised of the announcement by Commonwealth re provision of Recovery Officers and email from Recovery NSW announcing appointments.

Prioritised Action lists

1. Recovery for Action: SVC; a lot done; four remaining
2. Recovery for Advocacy: Only one actioned; the rest remain outstanding; some may have been done, but no feedback provided in order to update; relying on sub-committees to escalate to relevant government departments. Difficult to progress due to COVID-19.
3. Recovery for Referral: a fair proportion completed; a lot of facilitation; more progress on these items.

If a referral has been accepted by the agency, it will be marked as complete.

If any action is for SVC, it will be marked complete when completed.

Actions are updated as information is provided.

Members requested to ensure communication with Margaret O'Dwyer, Deputy Director, Riverina Murray, so all know what's available.

ACTION: Kylie Bradley to circulate Margaret O'Dwyer's contact details.

6. General Business

Presentation by Liane Corocher, Coordinator, Rural Resilience Program, Business Resilience Program/Department of Planning, Industry and Environment 'NSW Rural Recovery Support Service – Empowering bushfire survivors to recover and thrive'.

Contact for the Rural Recovery Support Service: Email: rural.recovery@dpi.nsw.gov.au
Phone: 0437 497 555

The Chair advised that how we work together and transition of service will be very important.

Following the presentation Liane provided feedback to members regarding status of areas north of and in Mudgee. As a result of continued environmental issues some of the farming network groups are probably more connected than before and able to support each other, with no need for extra assistance. Some good opportunities to strengthen communities.

New funding will be coming in for a different sort of role and that the Rural Recovery Service will work with SVC.

It is important to work together re transition e.g. hot desk for an external Recovery worker at Council; assistance from Council to distribute newsletters.

It was noted that it will be important to have a clear idea of responsibility/role of SVC recovery and rural recovery - SVC working on a matrix to make this very clear.

The Rural Recovery Service (RRS) will provide support to the farmers while SVC recovery assists the in-towners. If a relationship has already been established with a farmer (with Andrew or Fiona) then this needs to be considered in terms of introducing a new recovery officer from RRS. Will need to ensure clear communication about who is doing what, otherwise the community could be confused.

State recovery plans are all based on recovery starting at the local level, hence local recovery officers. All have to feed through the local to regional and state. A lot of government agencies are moving in, and this is creating confusion. All of the focus must come through Snowy Valleys Council. Industry will receive support through Commonwealth/State

(Resilience NSW) – all coordinated back through local Councils/local coordinators. Industry is not tied by the same rules as government agencies.

ACTION: Add Catherine Marriott to list for Recovery Committee meetings and to provide presentation to Advisory Group.

Committee/Agencies/Industry Update:

Ken Dale: LOR contractors have been excellent. Difficulties arising from Public Works. Cross over concern. Some contractors local, Batlow cross over. No coordination with locals doing local work.

Future Gen in Tumbarumba on Wednesday, met with recruiters. An excellent role out. Approx 65 people registered with Future Gen. about 50% will start. Thank you for advocacy re Elliott Way. Confirmation Council likely to get more work from that.

Working closely with Tumut Chamber. Dunns Road Fire – businesses on board with gift cards. A lot of Zoom meetings, matters progressing.

Natalie Randall: Following on Future Gen sessions – about 140 attendees looking for employment with Snowy. Impressed with extent for potential local employment. About 60% will be able to gain employment. Contracts under \$300,000 – will have a certain amount of local content/good for local businesses. Green light announcement this week. Fortunate to have this project. Need to get Elliott Way open asap.

As government funding finishes with COVID – 19 really need to continue providing support going to the end of the year.

\$500 vouchers for accounting/legal/website design: businesses now using and engaging local businesses through this.

Alison Thorne: Mental Health; 3 bushfire clinicians seconded and will be based at Adelong. Ramping up promotion of the service via FB tiles; radio interviews with ABC Riverina. Fridge magnet developed to be distributed; mail outs.

The bushfire clinicians received a call in relation to the Batlow tragedy. That was a good thing meaning that the support was remembered and utilised. Affirming for clinicians, time taken to develop relationships recognised.

When LOR are out doing their business, we will be out with them.

3 secondments from existing positions, interviews will be held. Third time advertised. Great applicants this time, some already experienced in this area in January.

Phil Clements: 60% harvesting currently working in the area. Pro-rata twice what it would normally be. Very high communications between growers, contractors and processors.

Federal and State funding – State guidelines received; will apply.

Katie Fowden: Anthony Albanese visited Tumbarumba mill. More media coverage on ABC today also.

Barney Hyams: Landline program will be in this area next week re impact of bushfires. Truck movements are enormous. A lot of additional vehicles from other areas at the moment. Fatigue a concern and rubbernecking drivers causing some issues for trucks. Need to address.

Erosion remains a concern. A working group formed. Still needs a lot more involvement from all sectors.

Planting/re-planting of forests, input from private landholders and others; better planning required in regard to any future fires.

Work out economic planning for Batlow – orchardists etc.

ACTION: Ascertain ownership of hill behind the township of Batlow. Timber really needs to be thinned out to create safety for that community. Reduce fuel, make open woodland. Follow up, ready for next meeting.

Justin Clancy MP: Agree with sentiments re forward planning for plantings. Thoughts to Batlow tragedy.

LOR funding – Deputy Premier’s office advises that every person registered via Service NSW will be assisted.

Spoke with Deputy Premier’s office about the Batlow Cannery also. Please provide further information which will be provided to Deputy Premier’s officer.

Funding re industry support – there is a short time frame for applications. Important message to get out.

Announcement this week of a number of farm support packages. A strong response to this, so message out there.

ACTION: CEO to provide information to Justin re Batlow Cannery.

Refer to Catherine Marriott any local industries who may benefit from support packages.

Dick Adams: It’s been 5 months since fires. Snowy Valleys was in drought; and since fires, 3 flooding incidents, then COVID – 19. Need to appreciate how far we have come. The fires in the south of the state were the most intense on record. 70% of NSW has been in the south. We have come an enormous way in terms of recovery.

Meeting Close: 2.12pm

Action list from this meeting will be included with Meeting Request for next Recovery Committee meeting.