

**MINUTES**
**Present**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Denise Garner	Murrumbidgee Health	Health & Wellbeing
Ken Dale	Tumbarumba Chamber of Commerce	Business & Tourism
Natalie Randall	Tumut Chamber of Commerce	Business & Tourism
Dave Eisenhauer	Sounds of the Mountains	Communications & Community Engagement
Katie Fowden	Hyne	Industry
Roy Humphries	Valmar	Infrastructure
John Stanfield	Valmar	Waste & Environment
Hannah Speers	Elders	Donations & Disaster Relief
Phil Clements (dial in)	Forestry	Softwoods Working Group
Guy Boardman	Snowy Hydro	Industry
Phil Stone	Recovery Coordinator	SVC
John Larter	Deputy Mayor	SVC & Ambulance
Peter McLay	Deputy LEOCON Emergency Operations Centre	EOC/Recovery
Angeline Mulder (Dial in)	Costa Berries	Industry
Bob Noble	NSW Police	EOC/Recovery
Matthew Hyde	Snowy Valleys Council	Chair
Brad Palmer	Australian Defense Force	Disaster Relief
Matt O'Donovan	Visy	Industry
Matt Lucas	Thrive Riverina	Tourism
Nadine Crowley	Snowy Valleys Council	
Justin Clancy MP (dial in)		
Dr Joe McGirr MP (dial in)		
Mike Kelly MP (dial in)		
Steph Cooke MP (dial in)		

**Apologies**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Cr James Hayes	Mayor, Snowy Valleys Council	
Pernell Hartley	Batlow Fruit Company	Industry

**Actions**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
16 January 2020	Southern NSW Recovery Committee and State Recovery Committee to be added to the flowchart.	SVC Administration Officer

## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

## **2. Agency Updates**

Agency Representatives provided a brief update specific to recovery and their role as follows:

### **Phil Stone, Recovery Coordinator**

- Working within the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) to enable immediate help and services to those impacted.
- First week about food/supplies; this week about trees cleared; potable water etc.
- Volunteers have helped with over 300 tonnes of donations through the Boys Club, Tumut. Most delivered to Batlow and Tumbarumba. Now managed by St Vincent de Paul.
- SVC will be managing calls for assistance from now.

### **Natalie Randall, Tumut Regional Chamber of Commerce**

- Matthew Lucas attended Parliament House for a small business round table. Peak bodies met with MPs. Expecting an announcement soon for small business funding. Advice was provided regarding long term assistance required, as well as short term.
- Ensuring gift cards are used effectively
- Currently working on a road show – agencies going to various towns in order to help people fill out forms and provide information.

### **Dave Eisenhauer, Sounds of the Mountains**

- Information to the community
- Town meetings along with Police where it has been noticed that there are some errors with information.
- Over 500 people without electricity and social media therefore not getting information. Working with agencies towards cost effective solutions and to ensure communication links better served, particularly for those who don't have social media access.

### **Hyne Timber**

- Moved out of emergency response.
- Commencing a staged mill start up on Sunday.
- Need to work on logistics with other services.
- Considering our employees welfare.
- Planning a coordinated salvage operation which could take 6 to 12 months depending on the condition of logs. Longer term recovery could take up to 20 years.
- A lot of discussion within the industry regarding support.

### **Peter McLay, Deputy LEOCON EOC**

- The EOC as of this evening will revert to Active status.
- Responsible officers will be on stand by and if necessary the EOC can re-group.
- Stan Wall will be back on deck as of this Sunday.

### **Hannah Speers, Elders**

- Currently \$40,000 in donations.

- In the next 6 – 8 weeks there will be more fundraising, anticipate reaching in excess of \$100k by the time fundraising through the Community Foundation for Tumut Region concludes in 2-3months.
- Currently planning a meeting regarding funds.
- The Chamber has assisted already with /creation of the delivery system via Eftpos cards, and increasing the number of participating businesses in the Council area.
- Blazeaid arrived in Adelong yesterday.
- 100 attended a farmers meeting yesterday.
- People seem to be ready to move forward. It is a bit more positive in Adelong and surrounds.

#### **Ken Dale, Tumbarumba Chamber of Commerce**

- Have started forming small committees in Tumbarumba, joining in with other local committees.
- We feel that recovery will be through tourism/visits to Tumbarumba. Tumbarumba Rodeo this Friday. Also an event on Monday and other events to attract more tourism/visits to Tumbarumba.
- There are a lot of positive things happening in the community.

#### **Deputy Mayor, John Larter**

- Council is working on recovery through various means, including the recovery sub committees.
- Have met with politicians whilst trying to achieve business as usual.
- Council staff are doing a great job to ensure provision of services.

#### **Bob Noble, NSW Police**

- Business as usual, although extra police will be in SVC until the end of the month.
- Mental health focus.
- Local police investigating cause of fire with the coroner.

#### **Denise Garner, Murrumbidgee Health**

- Need for support with regard to mental health for the whole community including emergency responders.
- Mobile health teams in fire affected areas have been available since the weekend.
- A Jingellic barbeque event has been planned with Greater Hume Shire Council for next Wednesday.
- Approximately 200 health staff have been affected by the fires. Support is in place for these staff.
- A Doctor from Geelong will provide support from Roths Corner Medical Centre until GP starts there.
- There is a South East regional health and wellbeing sub-committee which we will get ideas from.

#### **Guy Boardman, Snowy Hydro**

- In recovery mode with a number of assets still under threat. Particularly remote sites in Khancoban.
- Transmission lines damaged. Working to restore to ensure security of power stations, back onto the network. Working on backup supplies. Essential Energy should have solution today or tomorrow.

- Snowy 2.0 site – access returned. That project will power ahead.
- The business is also committed to goods/services still being obtained locally.
- Cabramurra – rebuilding township; working with various services; RFS to do an impact statement; EPA also.
- One side of the hill is in heavy recovery; the other side in protection mode.

#### **Matt Hyde, Snowy Valleys Council**

- Council has been focused on four areas: Support to RFS; support and representation to EOC; Council operations; community recovery.
- EOC is now stepping back.
- New executive team as of Monday this week. A lot of staff returning back from leave. Trying to get our operations back up and going.
- In negotiations re recovery. In discussion re state and federal government funding packages. Will be able to share more when known.

#### **Brad Palmer, Australian Defence Force**

- ADF remain in Tumut and looking forward to assisting in the recovery process.
- Approximately 90 personnel throughout region.
- Have been assisting with distribution of large amounts of fodder, route clearances, defense of Bondo Forest.

#### **Matt O'Donovan, Vizzy**

- Main focus is salvaging. Currently running at 70%. Just started taking burnt wood this week. May have impacts on paper quality.
- Our global CEO on site today; drove through forests for first-hand view of what's happened.

#### **Matt Lucas, Thrive Riverina**

- There has been poor trading. No tourists. Not all Tumut businesses are open. Tumberumba just started opening in last day or so with some trading through locals.
- Some marginal businesses will fall over in next few months or sooner.
- \$15,000 grant from government will not be available to those businesses not directly affected.
- Destination NSW and Destination Murray keen to promote events coming up.

#### **John Stanford, Valmar**

- In preparation stage. Identifying what are the possible hazardous waste issues i.e. asbestos; food; liquid; green waste – looking at best/safest way to handle this.

#### **Angeline Mulder, Costa Berries**

- Main horticulturalist on site today doing an assessment. Will give us a good idea of our situation - recovery/replanting.
- Looking at irrigation. Support staff arriving to get irrigation going.
- Harvest is officially over.
- Only running with maintenance crew.

#### **Phil Clements, Softwoods Working Group**

- Salvage programs absolutely key; full swing shortly.

- Data collection, will deal with immediate issues.
- Need to get our head around long term implications; not sure what's been damaged.
- Important meeting with Deputy Premier tomorrow.
- Meetings with Southern NSW Recovery Coordinator Dick Adams.

#### **Justin Clancy MP**

- Constructive meeting held at Jingellic yesterday.

#### **Joe McGirr MP**

- Receiving concerns re fuel availability in Batlow.
- Major concerns regarding orchard industry. Not sure what we can do about that. Issues regarding equipment but also access to water supply.
- Good feedback re agencies and good work done, particularly Council.

#### **Steph Cooke MP**

- Meeting last week; Premier has appointed Deputy Premier John Barilaro as Minister for Recovery.
- John Marshall MP in Batlow area.
- Ideas re changes that can be made to criteria for funding to get people on their feet quickly.

#### **Mike Kelly MP**

- Communications is an issue. All need emergency packs, wind up radios. A good way of being able to stay in touch. Telstra can be approached for satellite phones also.
- Business support is definitely a big need across the region.
- Loss of power has caused damage to stock etc. and this is on the radar now. Been assured that Dick Adams is aware.
- Need to get the medium term recovery for forestry and farming through trading carbon – carbon farming initiatives.
- Co-op of farmers from an income point of view.
- Will be visiting areas from tomorrow.

### **3. Finalise and adopt the Terms of Reference**

Approved subject to the update of sub-committees.

Moved : Hannah Speers      Seconded: Natalie Randall

### **4. Finalise and adopt the Recovery Action Plan**

Approved subject to the inclusion of the Forest Industry Sub-Committee.

Moved: Bob Noble      Seconded: Katie Fowden

### **5. Sub-committees**

- The Chair provided an overview of the recovery committees flowchart.

Action: Agreed Southern NSW Recovery Committee and State Recovery Committee to be added to the flowchart.

- The formation of sub-committees was discussed; currently allocating committee chairs; a Council staff member to provide support and two councilors to each sub-

committee. These people will gather and discuss purpose. Please discuss with Matt if any problems with assignment of chairpersons.

- Actions for sub-committees can be found at the end of the Recovery Action Plan in a series of Tables. The Actions start once the sub-committees are established.
- Actions of sub-committees should be fairly high level/bigger picture and include short, medium and long term. Actions will then come back to the Recovery Committee for adoption.
- Members need to ensure consistency; no duplication.
- This will entail a lot of work and Council is seeking to recruit administrative and technical support.

### **Community Advisory Sub-Group**

The Community Advisory Sub-group is about geographical representation and will feed into each of the individual sub-committees. This will ensure full engagement from the community.

### **General Business**

- Support for clean-up from the fires can be discussed through sub-committees.
- Need to ensure sub-committee actions raised are dealt with ASAP. Please contact the relevant sub-committee Chair with any suggestions of who could a good representative. There may be as many as 200 people in total on all of these committees. Where necessary, escalate actions if/as required. Sub-committee meetings will be arranged for early next week.
- Katie Fowden will be meeting with John Barilaro MP and AKD to discuss immediate and long term issues for the timber industry.
- Hannah Speers thanked Council and Snowy Hydro for support for BlazeAid.
- Ken Dale advised of various issues experienced in Tumbarumba during the peak of the emergency such as no power/communications and suggested the need to ensure that there are at least one or two lines to Tumbarumba in the future. Possibly a grant for \$100K could be obtained for a generator to support Tumbarumba.
- Some issues may be relevant to many of the committees. How to ensure issues are captured? Suggestion for an overall/central register of issues/actions.
- People have lost their primary producers status. Need to consider what could be done to assist?
- Bob Noble advised that it is important to note that there are still fire-fighting activities occurring during the recovery process.
- Joe McGirr advised state/regional have made waste their number one priority.
- Mike Kelly advised that he will be bringing Jason Clare MP to Tumut next week with regard to timber, orchards and fruit industry.

Meeting closed: 1.29pm.