

DRAFT MINUTES
Present

Name	Organisation	Representing
Denise Garner	Murrumbidgee Health	Health & Wellbeing
Ken Dale	Tumbarumba Chamber of Commerce	Business & Tourism
Dave Eisenhauer	Sounds of the Mountains	Communications & Community Engagement
Phil Clements (dial in)	Forestry	Softwoods Working Group
John Larter	Deputy Mayor	SVC & Ambulance
Matthew Hyde	Snowy Valleys Council	Chair
John Larter	Snowy Valleys Council	Deputy Mayor
Richard Cottam	Mount Tumbarumba Vineyard	Industry
Natalie Randall	Tumut Regional Chamber of Commerce	Industry
Samantha Machell	Bendigo and Adelaide Bank	Donations & Disaster Relief
Guy Boardman (dial in)	Snowy Hydro	Industry
Samuel Beattie	Office of Emergency Management	
Sarah Anderson	Office of Emergency Management	
Barney Hyams	Chair, Riverina Local Land Services	Agriculture & Livestock
Matt Lucas	Thrive Riverina	Business & Tourism

Apologies

Name	Organisation	Representing
Dr Joe McGirr MP	Member for Wagga Wagga	
Steph Cooke MP	Member for Cootamundra	
Katie Fowden	Hyne	
James Hayes	SVC Mayor	

In Attendance

Name	Organisation	Representing
Andrew Rae	Snowy Valleys Council	Recovery

Actions

Date	Action	Responsible	Completed
26 FEB 2020	<i>Refer to Infrastructure sub-committee suggestion for formation of an Erosion sub-group. Membership suggested to include SVC; State Forests; RMS;</i>	CEO EA	COMPLETED

	<i>NPWS; Crown Lands/ Public Works.</i>		
12FEB2020	<i>Chair to provide information issued by the State about priorities.</i>	CEO EA	In progress
26FEB2020	<i>Change the next Recovery Committee meeting to a half day workshop to consider the combined actions. Email the Combined Action List to Recovery Committee members.</i>	CEO EA	COMPLETED COMPLETED
26FEB2020	<i>Ranger to monitor signage for roadside grazing</i>	CEO EA	COMPLETED Referred to Ranger
26FEB2020	<i>The Chair to follow up with Richie Robinson re Snowy Valleys Cycle Challenge event – funding from the \$250,000.</i>	SVC CEO	In progress
26FEB2020	<i>Refer supply of wood for winter home heating to sub-committee</i>	Recovery Officer	COMPLETED – Referred to Infrastructure Sub- committee
26FEB2020	<i>Information to be obtained on prioritisation methodology for clean-up.</i>	SVC CEO	COMPLETED - <i>Preliminary advice from Lang O Rouke (two weeks ago) clean-up works would focus on primary residences as the first priority then other buildings/facilities. No details provided to date on methodologies or start date for the commencement of clean-up works.</i>
26FEB2020	<i>Half-day workshop to be scheduled for 11th March.</i>	CEO EA	COMPLETED

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held 12 February 2020 were confirmed as being a true and accurate record.

Natalie Randall/Denise Garner

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:

- SE Regional Coordinator Dick Adams will be on local radio this afternoon.
- The Chair will attend a Bushfires Ministerial Advisory Group Meeting in Sydney later this week.
- SVC has been flood declared, as of yesterday. Will submit for DFRA funding. Looking at how fires and floods funding can be linked together.
- Chair to speak with Guy Boardman re Live Traffic. Can call direct and get Snowy Hydro roads up on Live Traffic.
- Barney to discuss with Heinz the matter of wheat stabilisation and referral of same to Infrastructure sub-committee for an Erosion working group. Issue is road collapse and sediment in root systems/land slips. Sourcing of seed will be a major impediment. Needs to be a coordinated approach between all land holders and RMS.

ACTION: *Refer wheat stabilisation to Infrastructure subcommittee: Relevant members for erosion sub-group to be positioned under Infrastructure sub-committee suggested: RMS; SVC; State Forests; NPWS; Crown Lands/Public Works.*

4. Report on Sub-committee Action Plans

A combined action list from sub-committee action plans was circulated during the meeting and will also be distributed after the meeting along with the minutes.

Combined Action List was submitted to the Regional Recovery Committee last week.

Actions have been categorised/prioritised around items that need to be actioned by an outside agency. Recovery Committee members requested to take away and come back together to workshop priorities which will best position us for advocacy/action. Costings against priorities are estimates only. Some of the priorities will be determined by the Royal Commission inquiry.

ACTION: *Change the next Recovery Committee meeting to a half day workshop to consider the combined actions.*

Email the combined Action List to Recovery Committee members.

5. General Business

National Recovery Coordinator visit to SVC on 20 February

The Mayor provided a presentation regarding our issues, concentrated around our Issues Paper. The Recovery Coordinator (RC) then toured the area. Richard Cottam showed burnt vines and described issues for vigneron. Important to repeat the same main messages/issues and ensure these are on our action lists. RC interested in inconsistencies across jurisdictions. Differences have been noted regarding how matters are dealt with across borders/between councils.

Matt Lucas met with National Coordinator, National Bushfire Recovery Agency, Andrew Colvin who was receptive to information provided; noted what the Chambers were saying as being in alignment with the Council.

Blue Sky Projects

Discussion – what to do for economy short/long term. Funds available from the State to draft up ideas into small two-page documents; to develop advocacy plan into a bushfire advocacy plan.

Prioritisation and moderation of Action Plans

As agreed in Item 4. Half day workshop to be scheduled.

Snowy Valleys Council Issues Paper

The Chair led committee members through the Issues Paper item by item for discussion and advised that the issues paper is updated regularly.

- The Chair met with Snowy Hydro including the CEO Paul Broad last week. Snowy Hydro are making a concerted effort to procure more locally.
- Roadside management/roadside grazing: inconsistencies with other areas such as Riverina LLS or Murray LLS who are not allowing roadside grazing at all. Ranger to ensure that where permits are granted the signage is only out where there is stock on the roads and when they are back in behind the fence the signs are removed. Signage out on roads when no stock on the roads makes drivers complacent.
- Cross Border Confusion – Matt and James will be meeting with the two cross-border commissioners tonight and tomorrow.
- We now have \$1.75M (additional funding).
- ADF have exited this week, re-deployed to training and other places of need. Meeting this afternoon with Mayor and CEO as thank you for great work while here. Still an amount of tasks to be completed (that ADF were working on). Current figures estimated \$2.1M worth of costs for recovery un-funded.
- Provision of Resources: \$250,000 received for events in our area utilised by TumbaFest which was very successful this year. An extra amount to Rock the Turf and Ciderfest; the remainder to be distributed on case by case basis.
- Council is currently securing accommodation for Batlow; expected delivery within the next 2 weeks; family accommodation – 2 bed units x 6. Submissions for Batlow and Tumbarumba have been made; waiting on outcome. Council is running the Batlow and Tumbarumba caravan parks whereas Tumut caravan park is under a lease arrangement to September this year, therefore restricted in what we can do.
- Have met with Laing O'Rourke this week who are committed to discuss timeframes with the public; most likely second week of March. Discussed/negotiating contractors (from ACT) being used for Batlow Cannery site. Waste to be transported directly to either Albury or Bald Hill site at Jugiong as SVC does not have the capacity. Commitment given to Laing O'Rourke to focus community group meetings around waste/clean-up process. OEM waiting for advice from Laing O'Rourke regarding what exactly will be included i.e. sheds/how close to homestead, fencing?
- Demolition costs greater than the value of the properties.
- People have lost their stockpile of wood at home woodfires during winter. Refer to Infrastructure/Agriculture Sub-committee.
- No estimated finishing date for clean-up. 350kms of affected road being addressed on a priority basis. DFRA funding does cover roads, but not parks/gardens.

ACTION: *Ranger to check signage in terms of roadside grazing
Chair to follow up with Richie Robinson re Snowy Valleys Cycle Challenge event –
funding from the \$250,000.
Refer supply of wood for winter home heating to sub-committee
Information to be obtained on prioritisation methodology for clean-up.*

Ministerial Advisory Group Bushfires Meeting

Meeting will be attended by SVC CEO and Mayor this Friday. SVC to present issues paper; the General Manager's group has also submitted an issues paper.

Accommodation proposal Batlow/Tumbarumba

Already discussed.

Membership of the Recovery Committee

The Chair suggested the idea of peeling back membership now.

John Craig no longer the recovery manager; currently recruiting to fill.

Donations sub-committee frequency of meetings may be spaced further apart until matters finalized/meet on an 'as required' basis. Last sub-committee meeting keen to hear from Givit coming to Tumut. Givit provide coordination of funds/matching donations to those who could receive. Purchase vouchers locally, supporting the local economy. Can put local organisations in touch with Givit. Scott Barret contact M: 0408 163 740.

Communications sub-committee has folded as each sub-committee should have communications as an item for discussion and the demand for a specific communications sub-committee has been satisfied by various community meetings and recovery centres. Dave to attend various sub-committee meetings if/as required.

Community Enterprise Foundation – Bendigo/Adelaide Banks – funds to be provided, therefore Samantha Machell would like to attend half day workshop.

ACTION: Forward half-day workshop meeting request to Samantha Machell.

General Update

Dave: Need to consider other options to improve communications in mountainous areas. May need to consider 'old school' UHF as a good, affordable, easy fix in the instance of network inaccessibility or failure.

Re Wereboldera APZ clearing on site at Tumut - NPWS will be in discussions with RFS in the near future as to the best way forward to have the job done. Jon Gregory will be speaking with Matt White about the matter. All looks very positive. Thanks to LEOCON Stan Wall for co-ordinating.

Denise: Action Plan extensive; essentially identifying needs/providing information to the community; mental health assistance well utilised. Another group established between Murrumbidgee Health Network and Primary Health Network; grant availability. Recovery

grants available through Red Cross. Trying to identify gaps; working with Valmar re vulnerable people in the community and their ability to access help; increase risk of DV post disaster events.

Sarah/OEM: Northern fires established a support service connecting people with the right service with the same person assisting throughout. This is being extended into the south. DPI approval process; suggested recovery support workers; one at Tumba, Batlow, Jingellic, Cootamundra and Gundagai. Potential of that worker co-locating with Council. DPI person referring to a range of services. If there are people needing small business support as well as health/wellbeing, those counsellors will have this information also. Working with Service NSW.

Natalie: Some actions starting to happen. Small business BEC training; other agencies; Service NSW assisting in registering people to obtain information. Meeting with Future Gen re Snowy 2 project for discussions about re-deployment of skills to the Snowy project. Tumut Rotary wanting to provide assistance to businesses that were not directly impacted, however still struggling with cash flow.

Matt: How will funding for events be distributed? Not only for large event/s, but for small event/s. Energy collective/solar panels and batteries into fire effected areas; such as Batlow RSL, so if a refuge spot, can maintain power. Looking to do 100 installations in 100 days. Identifying places at the moment. Concentrating on Adelong, Batlow, Tumut, Talbingo. Ken to work with other areas.

Ken: Thanks to Matt for passing that on. One of the biggest things beyond communications, is the need to promote cycling for tourism. About 33% in our Action Plan. Need to be on the same page to develop into one program and ensure that is championed by all levels. Clear that cycling will be major tourism in the future.

Shelley: recovery assistance points – still operating 5 days this week. Talbingo patronage low. Probably not the model to work for that community. Talbingo this week delivered by the Charlie truck; will see how that goes. Every week numbers are assessed and evaluated. Strong response in Batlow and Tumba. Batlow open again today.

Sam/OEM –have visited recovery assistance points where possible. Attendees at Batlow asking about housing and water supply. Carers now seeking assistance. Indicates that the immediate relief is wrapping up. Action Plan great. Recovery multifaceted; things get lost easily. Good to keep to priorities. Sam has 6 priorities for SVC – *Completing cleanup before snow starts falling; Ensuring viability of softwood industry; Clearing access; Accommodation; Fencing – keeping cattle safe an issue; Support Council in recovery effort as much as possible.*

Barney: What are the damage figures? Potential income loss for next 1 to 2 years to begin with. Primary producers – number of livestock lost – destocking will impact on incomes for the next 2 or 3 years. Data good to provide to the government. The Chair advised that Council is looking at turning the Impact Statement into an info-graphic. Need the information from agencies to quantify. Missing the data of how the initial figures impact on tourism for example. Who is coordinating the data from various agencies? The physical cost of losing Mt Selwyn – what is the ongoing/real cost?

Horticulture recovery will be very slow. Batlow will need something else to support it – tourism? Alternative crops? Year ‘round turn over. Blackberries – good opportunity to gain control over. Funding for required/hazard reduction.

Insurance an issue for those impacted; either under-insured or insurance knocked back. Legal Aid has been in attendance at Recovery Assistance points.

Richard: Now getting results regarding smoke damage for Tumbarumba vineyards; nothing will be harvested/ a loss of just over \$9M. All would have been income to Tumbarumba businesses. Loss of qualified staff. Not insurable as smoke damage has not been an issue/matter to insure against in the past.

Guy: Snowy 2.0 community sessions at Tumut tonight and Talbingo tomorrow night.

Phil: Action plan tabled; 5 main issues including salvage, economic data out prior to fires; losses of 30-40% of plantations provides an idea of production losses medium to long term. Have been meeting with various people including Andrew Colvin. Last Industry Update 24 January remains the most recent.

Pam: Nil.

Next Meeting: 11th March – half day workshop 9am to midday.

MPs are included in all Recovery Committee invitations.

Meeting closed: 1.12pm