

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
Katie Fowden (dial in)	Hyne	Industry
Roy Humphries	Valmar	Infrastructure
John Stanfield	Valmar	Waste & Environment
Phil Clements (dial in)	Forestry	Softwoods Working Group
John Larter	Deputy Mayor	SVC & Ambulance
Angeline Mulder (Dial in)	Costa Berries	Industry
Matthew Hyde	Snowy Valleys Council	Chair
Brad Palmer	Australian Defense Force	Disaster Relief
Mike Kelly MP (dial in)		
Kimberley Cavanagh representing Steph Cooke MP (dial in)		
Stan Wall	NSW Police	
Richard Cottam (information provided for the meeting)	Mount Tumbarumba Vineyard	Industry

Apologies

Name	Organisation	Representing
Cr James Hayes	Mayor, Snowy Valleys Council	
Natalie Randall	Tumut Regional Chamber of Commerce	Industry
Steph Cooke MP	Member for Cootamundra	Electorate of Cootamundra

Actions

Date	Action	Responsible	Completed
16JAN2020	<i>Southern NSW Recovery Committee and State Recovery Committee to be added to the flowchart.</i>	SVC Administration Officer	20JAN2020
29JAN2020	<i>Send community meetings flyer with minutes and upload to SVC website.</i>	SVC officer	
	<i>Invite health representative to attend all community meetings.</i>	SVC officer	
	<i>Circulate Council's Code of Conduct with Minutes.</i>	SVC officer	
	<i>Recovery Bulletins to be emailed to Recovery</i>	SVC officer	

	<i>Committee members</i>		
	<i>Stan Wall to contact Costa Berries re HAZMAT assessment.</i>	Stan Wall	
	<i>Investigate possibility of ADF being based in Tumbarumba</i> <i>Mike Kelly MP to email the Chair a prioritised list of suggestions</i>	Chair, Matt Hyde Mike Kelly MP	
	<i>Mike Kelly MP to take up with Anthony to see if a Federal one could be arranged; will also raise with Michael McCormack.</i>	Mike Kelly MP	
	<i>Minutes of sub-committee meetings to be sent to Recovery Committee members</i>	SVC officer	

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held 16 January 2020 were confirmed as being a true and accurate record.

John Larter / Dave Eisenhaur

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Agency Updates

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

Matt Hyde, Snowy Valleys Council

Recovery Manager appointed to coordinate recovery, commencing in two weeks. A previously experienced recovery manager will fill in until then. A Recovery Coordinator and Administration Officer will assist the Recovery Manager. These positions will be funded by the State; Council will lobby to extend, the Recovery Manager position is being funded from the \$1M. Council will seek alternatives. The \$1M requires a plan in 3 months time to Federal Government to explain expenditure. Need to ensure no legacy at the end of the whole process.

A set of community meetings has been scheduled. A bus has been arranged to attend where there is no community hall. This has been a rapid process; some clashes; rescheduling where necessary. SE Regional Coordinator Dick Adams will attend Tooma and Tumbarumba meetings today. Community meetings will work differently depending on the particular community. Jingellic for example is ahead of things/independent. SVC is here to assist. SVC facilitating the rest. It is about going out there to see what the issues are. Some agencies have been organised to attend; Council is moving as fast as possible as a result of

instruction from State. Request to invite health representative to attend all community meetings.

Council adopted the Recovery Action Plan at its Extraordinary Meeting held yesterday.

Sub-committees are being scheduled for next week. The first Recovery Advisory Group meeting was held last week and went well.

The Chair provided a map of the impact of fires within our/surrounding areas. Fires are still active in some areas; assessment crews out there; close to assessments being finalized for our LGA.

Derek McCarthy, Manager Disaster Funding Reform NSW Government will visit to discuss what funds are available for what. Will lobby for additional funding. Phil Clements to attend.

Will circulate the Code of Conduct with the Minutes – all required to adhere to as representing a Council Committee. Comments must only come from the agreed representative of the committee.

ACTION: *Send community meetings with minutes; upload to SVC website.
Invite health representative to attend all community meetings.
Circulate Council's Code of Conduct with Minutes.*

Dave Eisenhauer, Sounds of the Mountains

- Comms good. Demand backed off. Meeting held with Cr Smit and Cr Cross (sub-committee). Dissemination of information now. Infrastructure an issue; working to make sure the existing transmission facilities are OK for any future issues. ADF have assisted in this.

Ken Dale, Tumbarumba Chamber of Commerce

- Met yesterday with Australian Chamber of Commerce; advocating for consistency; looking at tapping into tourism/business development; securing funding for telecommunications; our liability; more medium term plans, solar etc. for community resilience. Raised with Australian Business Council and Mike Kelly MP for ADF to be more involved and longer term. ADF has been invaluable.
- Two Chambers meeting on 3 February; bringing in Batlow Progress Assoc. with the aim of inclusiveness. Looking at Talbingo also.
- Natalie Randall at Canberra round table today; advocating for funding for SVC. Upcoming meetings with politicians to keep this going.

Deputy Mayor, John Larter

- Council adopted the Recovery Plan at the Extraordinary meeting held yesterday. Meetings have a Code of Conduct which it must be adhered to, as well as various Plans and Policies. If any concerns regarding the Recovery Committee processes, please raise within this meeting so as to be able to discuss/resolve. Example – update for Tumut aerodrome is not about Tumut, it is for all SVC.

Stan Wall, NSW Police

- House search completed by rescue squad. There will be extra police in the area for a few more weeks. State Crime command will take over investigation of fire. Email sent this morning due to the hot weather advising that the EOC will stand up again if needed.

Peter Jones, RFS

- Recovery meetings venues to be clarified - Lower Bago RFS Shed – Bringenbrong RFS shed.
- Weather for Friday 40+ degrees; significant winds expected. Sunday may be 15 mills rain. Next 3 days quite critical.
- Potential for the fire in the ACT to cross back into NSW on our side from easterly winds; potentially pushing into Brindabella. EOC would stand up if this occurred.

Denise Garner, Murrumbidgee Health

- Changing approach as a result of community feedback that they would like to see the same face/same place/same time. 4 staff identified to attend. Comms being put together and will advise locations.
- Only other concern is that there is a lot happening and although sitting on the recovery committee not aware of some matters. Now aware of bulletins issued from SVC – please send to Recovery Committee. Would like to see consistent messaging with contact numbers.
- Some concern from Environmental health officers re private potable water for domestic use. Very unhappy people at recovery centres regarding fresh water. In NSW only doing that for domestic water tanks contaminated with fire retardant. How are SVC people affected? What assistance? Clean water is being supplied, however will escalate to the region tomorrow.

ACTION: *Recovery Bulletins to be emailed to Recovery Committee members*

Brad Palmer, Australian Defence Force

- There is a force of around 90 ADF personnel based across Tumut and Tumbarumba. This number will change however as the ADF is assisting Snowy Valleys, Canberra, Cooma, and Bega on South Coast. Priorities will dictate where ADF resources go. Over to Canberra overnight. This will be ongoing based on priority.
- 5 to 7 chain sawing teams for local famers, clearing fence lines.
- Plant equipment at Bago Forest opening key routes.
- Logistics element has been supporting fodder distribution and potable water; a decline in these requests in last few days.
- Moving forward our focus will be reinforcing the Council as the key coordinator of all recovery efforts with any requests through Council, then ADF to action.
- Longer term will move back to normal operations and having the reinforcement of Council will assist in that transition. Will maintain communication through Jeremy. The Chair advised that this has been emphasised with Council staff today.
- In terms of ongoing operations; ADF stay within out remit; not taking on new tasks and focus on supporting Council where it needs. Major tasks seem to be supporting farmers with fencing.

John Stanford, Valmar

- Waste transfer stations; to date we have not seen anything. Need an assessment on the whole lot to determine the issues.
- Attended a meeting of the Infrastructure Sub-committee last week. Established a platform where we can go from there; need situation reports to see where we can go.
- The Chair advised that Council is conducting assessments, and data will be changing as we go.

Angeline Mulder, Costa Berries

- Unfortunate news following horticulturalist assessment; damage to the plant on the outside; some regrowth – good progress with insurance; busy with assessments due to a fair bit of chemical damage in the shed; assistance needed for a HAZMAT assessment because this could make a difference to demolition. Will have an influence on the timeframe of building.

ACTION: Stan Wall to contact Costa Berries re HAZMAT assessment.

Phil Clements, Softwoods Working Group

- Mills are operating. A lot of focus on strategy going forward; how to stockpile wood and process; will get into full stride in next few weeks. Fielding a lot of enquiries for info re damage and requirements for recovery – from Politicians and agencies. A major report put out; as requested by NSW Department of Industry and Environment. Met with sub-committee last Tuesday; agreed to use the infrastructure within SWG and hubs to provide continuity.
- Also attending a round table in Canberra on 6 February with a number of other industry players.

Mike Kelly MP

- Congratulations on the work all putting in. Orchardists need assistance as quickly as possible for new plantings; government most likely. Opportunity to improve irrigation structure on these farms. Fruit picking issues; accommodation for packers; might need to look at modular accommodation/ options in the short term. Tumbarumba have been really grateful for ADF support and were hopeful that ADF presence could be based there. Would be helpful in the short term. Could this be looked at?
- A very strong element of feedback has been for assistance in navigating processes such as a personal presence from Centrelink in the area; a small business advisor would be very helpful also. Big issue is cash flow for small businesses.
- Southern LGA environmental issues – loss/impact to Sugar Pines/Hume and Hovel etc. Funding required to get up and running ASAP. Mountain bike track established ASAP. Tourism season – could the caravan project be fast tracked?
- Support for those who are traumatized - similar to what done in Victoria.

The Chair advised that SVC is currently in negotiations re temporary accommodation. Richie Robinson, Destination Riverina Murray will be visiting SVC today working on solutions for tourism.

ACTION: Investigate possibility of ADF being based in Tumbarumba
Mike Kelly MP to email the Chair a prioritised list of suggestions

Katie Fowden, Hyne

100% processing loss; challenging; OHS issues; additional process costs; getting media interest; long term loss – two issues merged; no doubt that the industry as a whole will need support; ongoing dialogue.

Richard Cottam, Mount Tumbarumba Vineyard

The Tumbarumba Vignerons Association has conducted a survey of the vineyards in the Tumbarumba wine region. Of the 19 vineyards in the region, 7 were directly impacted by the

bushfires including one that was damaged by retardant. The amount of damage to individual vineyards ranges from a few rows of vines to 100% of the vineyard.

Almost 18 ha, or 8%, of vineyards have been directly affected by fire. The economic value of the damage for the 2020 vintage is estimated at \$640,000.

All vineyards in the Tumbarumba wine region now face the risk of crop rejection due to contamination of berries with smoke compounds. Testing of grape samples by the Australian Wine Research Institute will commence from 10th February. Around 2,036 tonnes of grapes are potentially affected. The estimated value of the loss of crop sold and wine produced by Tumbarumba vignerons is \$9,010,200 for the 2020 vintage. This figure represents the potential loss of income for small businesses that are based in the Tumbarumba region and who employ and spend in the Tumbarumba region. It does not include the value of wine sales lost by large wine businesses who purchase Tumbarumba grapes for their own brands.

4. Overview of Sub-committee meetings held 21 January 2020

The Chair provided a brief overview of the sub-committee meetings held where committee chair, Council staff representative and community representative fleshed out some initial thoughts. Sub-committee meetings being arranged for next week.

5. General Business

- The Mayor invited the State and Federal Governments to hold cabinet meetings in the region. The State opposition will hold a cabinet meeting here on 11 February.

ACTION: *Mike Kelly MP to take up with Anthony to see if a Federal one could be arranged; will also raise with Michael McCormack.*

Dave Eisenhauer advised that it would be good for Michael McCormack MP and Mike Kelly MP to speak on air. Agreed by Mike Kelly MP.

Material donations to the radio station is an ongoing issue – what to do? Ken Dale advised that John Burgen set up a storage shed at Tumbarumba. Mick Jones local police officer may also be able to assist.

The Chair advised that an emphasis should be that cash is preferred therefore not a drain on resources/managing. Getting the message out about how the money would be administered would assist. Sub committee will discuss when they meet.

Next Meeting:

Agreed to hold the next Recovery Committee meeting in two weeks, as long as kept in the loop.

ACTION: *Minutes of sub-committees will be sent to Recovery Committee members.*

Meeting closed: 12.55pm.