

Community Recovery Bushfire Reference Group

Date	3 November 2020	Time	5pm
Venue	Zoom	Chair	Mayor David West
		Note-taker	Janine Freidrich
Attendance	Mayor David West, Paul De Szell, Janine Friedrich, Mike Parsons, Danitry Gerrand, Greg Hale, Kim MacDonald, Lindsay Segal, Neal Parker, Bree Katsamangos, Mark Johnson, Sharon Chamberlain, Trypheyne McShane, Alastair Breingan, Linda MacKenzie & Chris Jones		
Apologies	Deputy Mayor Claire Pontin, Kylie Atkinson, Jenny Brewer, Bettina Bettington, Peter Ruprecht Adam Parish & Lucinda Fischer.		

Meeting items

Item	Key points/actions
1	<p>Acknowledgement of Country</p> <p>We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we work and live, the Gathang-speaking people and pay our respects to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who now reside in the MidCoast Council area. We extend our respect to elders past and present, and to all future cultural-knowledge holders.</p>
2	<p>Outstanding actions</p> <p>No update provided</p>
3	<p>Community Recovery update</p> <p>Janine has a number of events coming up and all reference group members are welcome to attend. Janine to send out a list of events for members' information.</p> <p>Janine has a new assistant, Gemma Cluff who some of you may have already been introduced to.</p>
4	<p>How MidCoast Council's decision to declare a climate emergency should be influencing this work and are there any other notable actions across Council related to that decision?</p> <p>Council is putting together a climate action strategy but this is inwards facing, for the council to get their own business in place. This will be shortly made public. The move to Birirpi way will also contribute to some of this strategy.</p>
5	<p>General Business</p>

Item	Key points/actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From today Janine and the Recovery Team will manage matters for this group; agenda, notes, invites to meetings, etc. • A discussion needs to be held with regards to the commencement time for these meetings – as currently both the 2.30pm and 5pm times affect different members, so possibly may have to alternate the commencement time for future meetings. • Sharon is currently putting a together a community grant and was hoping to do a joint application. Bree believes that partnerships will get you further in the grants process. • Harrington, Brimbin and Caparra are yet to receive their “Are you Bushfire ready?” document in their mailboxes, all other areas are believed to have received the document. • Greg indicated that Killabakh has their own grants committee to work towards making the community of Killabakh more resilient and bushfire prepared. A survey of Killabakh properties is being completed to ensure residents know when to enact what elements of their bushfire plan. It will also be investigated if FRS trucks can get down all roads and driveways and where they can access water/water points. • Al commented that Upper Lansdowne and Killabakh are both going through the same process of mapping access onto properties/residence. • Janine – council able to help with RFS preparedness, also Red Cross and other organisations • Kim said Bobin will be hosting their Fire Ready Project on Friday. Suggested that a simple sign could be created that residents can put on their property gate/letterbox to advise if they are on their property or evacuated, or if the property has access for RFS and say where water is located. This is similar to what Upper Lansdowne and Killabakh are already doing. • This would prevent the issue RFS from outside areas had during the fires RFS, not knowing who had evacuated. The RFS do have signs for a “static water supply” – a good first indication of whether RFS should go further on property to get water. Council to investigate whether they can get these signs for property, or if it is up to the local RFS brigades to organise. • Still some issues with boundary fencing damaged/destroyed by fires. Paul commented the common understanding is that neighbours will share the cost of common boundary fencing; this understanding does not apply to council or other government, they do not have to bear the cost of maintaining/replacing these assets. Instead people can apply to the Local Land Services “Supporting Our Neighbours – public land boundary fencing program” to get assistance with the costs • Request for an update on halls audit. Paul clarified there are 50-60 halls included in this audit. Currently works are being costed, followed by a works program to hopefully roll out early in the year. Chris Jones added to this there are 53 halls in this project, and it being found that sometimes it is

Item	Key points/actions
	<p>really hard to connect into the hall's group to get feedback on the proposed works.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Al said Upper Lansdowne hall was visited quite some time ago, but no one has got back to them to ask what their wishes and needs are. Trypheyra raised that BlazeAid need somewhere to move their BlazeAid camp to as they have to leave the Wingham showground. They are looking for a community hall they can be based from. They had 600 properties asking for fencing assistance and have gotten to 500 of them. Daintry is finding there is a lot of interest in their Hotspots program, recently run at Bungwahl. This program is a 2-day event which includes a workshop and test burn. The program is run by Nature Conservation Trust and RFS with input from other agencies such as National parks, and the Council's Catchment Officer. Daintry thinks 50 more workshops could run in the area alone here and is really keen to work with whoever to run more workshops, get some more funds to run this, or funds to do something complementary. Janine and Daintry to talk about this offline with other Council staff and agencies to see if a funding application could be put together to make this happen Review of the meeting times.

Next meeting

Date	1 December 2020	Time	TBC
Venue	TBC		

Record of actions

Date of meeting	Action	Responsible officer	Status
23 June 2020			
	Group members provide summary of themselves	All	Progressing
25 August 2020			
	Group members to provide a list of actions/issues	All	Completed Oct 2020
15 September 2020			
	Details of Reference Group members be included in the next Bushfire newsletter	Janine	Completed Oct 2020
13 October 2020			
	Invite RFS to next meeting to discuss issues/concerns raised by group members	Paul	Completed Nov 2020
	Update on hall upgrades program	Paul/Chris	Completed Nov 2020

3 November 2020			
	"Are you Bushfire ready?" document still to be received by Harrington, Brimbin and Caparra residents	Paul/Janine	
	RFS supplied Static water supply signs – can they be made available to the Council to distribute to MidCoast residents?	Janine	
	Sharing of upcoming bushfire recovery events spreadsheet.	Janine	Completed Nov 2020