

Wagait Shire Emergency Management Recovery Committee

Draft Minutes

Meeting Date

20 September 2017 at 6.30pm

Venue

Wagait Shire Community Centre

Attendance

Chris Tyzack, Peter Clee, Fred Gillis, Kym Dye, Lorna Manning, Mark Sidey, Barry Demasson, Ian Hinchliffe

Guests Paul Wood (NTPolice), Melissa Kennedy (NTPolice), Ray Nicholls and Shellby Rawes (Busfires), and Jason Murphy (NTES)

Apologies

Nic Barclay

Previous Minutes

Minutes of meeting 21 June to be approved at next meeting.

Business Arising/Action arising from previous minutes

- Committee members to familiarise themselves with the Emergency Management 2013 Act and the Emergency Management Plan 2016
- Police attending the next meeting to brief the group on how Police and Emergency Services operations would occur for Wagait Shire area in the event of a cyclone.
- Recovery Issues identified with Cyclone Debbie - Mark to check with LGA for any information/evaluations.
- Disaster resilience grant applications – Peter to progress

General Business

Paul Wood, and the other guests were welcomed to the meeting and each attendee gave a short statement about their interest in emergency management.

Paul was then invited to discuss the police response in the case of responding to a cyclone. He advised the group that once declared Police will go onto a 12 hour roster and he will be responsible for allocation of teams to the shelter as and when directed by the EOC (Emergency Operations Center). He indicated the aim would be for 2 persons to attend Wagait Shelter but that would be dependent on the resources he had available given the area under his command.

The importance of Police presence to control behaviour at the shelters was raised as was the need to accommodate both Wagait and Belyuen Residents. It is understood the shelter capacity is 120 persons across both buildings.

The number who would attend the shelter is unknown and in the past the Council, NTES and Furies have conducted a door to door. This is resource intensive and it was suggested that the priority should be those who are more vulnerable (aged who are alone and families with young babies) and the recovery committee has done some planning for this and would liaise with Council, Furies and NTES as and when required.

Wagait Shire Emergency Management Recovery Committee

Paul indicated in the early stages he would be in close contact with Mark Sidey (CEO). It was suggested the Firies and NTES also keep in contact with Mark but that they would get their instructions from their own line command. Paul noted that he considers this community well prepared and self sufficient.

The issue of communication was raised as a point of discussion. The problem being that Firies had VHF radios, NTES had UHF and council had mobile phones (satellite). This issue does need to be addressed and resolved locally.

After the initial response and in transition to recovery Police would be tasked according to presenting requirements eg looting, domestic disruption etc. These issues should be addressed through normal communication centre eg 131444.

An issue that was discussed was the need to know what resources we have available in the community to assist in both response and recovery. The Wagait Shire recovery plan includes a listing which is usually updated annually at this time of the year. Firies and NTES will be asked to review and provide feedback.

It was agreed the same principles that apply to cyclones can be translated across other emergency situations. The chain of command, the establishment of an EOC and then information flows into that with tasking flowing out to the respective functional groups depending upon the issue.

Paul indicated he is more than pleased to attend future meetings.

Business arising from this meeting

- Recovery Issues identified with Qld Cyclone Debbie - Mark has provided information. Chris to review and provide to next meeting
- Disaster resilience grant applications – Peter to progress
- Discussion with Firies, NTES and CEO regarding communications systems- Mark
- Update resource list (Firies and NTES to provide info) - Chris

Next meeting

The next meeting - Wednesday 22 November 2017 at 6.30.