

Wagait Shire Emergency Management Recovery Committee

Final notes

Meeting Date

24 July 2013 at 6.30pm

Venue

Wagait Shire Council Community Meeting room

Attendance

Chris Tyzack, Michael Campaign, Kim Dye, Barry Demasson, Fred Gillis, Trish McIntyre

Apologies

Ian Hinchliffe, Peter Clee, Lorna Manning, Belyuen Clinic Manager

Previous Minutes

Minutes of meeting 22 May 2013 held over to next meeting for endorsement

Meeting business suspended to have an open discussion with invited guest Collene Bremner, Director Security and Emergency Recovery, Department of Chief Minister

There was open discussion regarding issues of concern to the Wagait community regarding or capacity to respond and recover.

Collene was very interested in our anecdotal information about population growth as she was still assuming we had about 250 residents rather than the 400 hundred odd. We also talked about the profile change with a number of younger families and not many very old residents.

We talked about our need for communications when the tower goes down and she indicated we should rely on getting our requests through to the central system via the radio in the communications room. She said as NT recovery coordinator she will require information from NTES once they have done the survey about the number of damaged dwellings and degree of damage so that planning for recovery can commence. She thought most people in Wagait Beach would be pretty resilient and a lot would have their own generators so are able to be relatively self sufficient.

We also talked about the capacity for the cyclone shelters to accommodate the potential number of residents from both Wagait and Belyuen. She said our concern should be taken up through emergency management services.

She did suggest the shelters should be open for shortest period possible and once safe to go out residents should be encouraged to return to their accommodation or share with others in community. She said once the role of longer term accommodation was taken on it can be hard to move people out. This can also be very costly and inconsistent with recovery principles of returning to normal community function as soon as possible.

Collene also indicated funds can be made available where council and others have to extend beyond their own capacity eg hiring local contractors. She said good records need to be maintained to ensure re-imburement.

She mentioned the NT Government has reviewed the Disasters Act and will be updating it shortly. The current one was developed not long after Cyclone Tracy and didn't include what we now know about recovery.

Next meeting

The next meeting is proposed for Wednesday 25 September at 6.30.