

Wagait Shire Emergency Management Recovery Committee

Minutes

Meeting Date

29 March 2017 at 6.30pm

Venue

Wagait Shire Community Centre

Attendance

Chris Tyzack, Peter Clee, Nic Barclay, Fred Gillis, Ian Hinchliffe, Kym Dye, Lorna Manning, Chris Tyzack

Apologies

Barry Demasson, Deb Allen

Previous Minutes

Minutes of meeting 7 December agreed.

Business Arising/Action arising from previous minutes

- Dec-Jan availability list – Chris
- Funding for reconstruction of Tower - Peter
- Community Notice board - Peter

General Business

Availability list was prepared and available if necessary.

Peter advised that the 35 m CB tower that has been dismantled and currently at back of council block will need funding for reconstruction and this will be a long term project. He did advise it would appear council has received funds (\$4000) for the additional equipment needed and he plans to put this on a temporary tower. It will provide a very valuable communications resource once available.

Peter advised the group that council had purchase sandwich type notice board that will remain at road side and be updated with relevant council information. Although this group agreed in May 2016 that a community notice board (electronic) would provide an excellent means of communications it understands the cost and agrees the new board will assist in disseminating information.

New Business

Operation of the committee and future framework.

Chris reminded the group that new legislation enacted in 2013 changed the way the response and recovery arrangements work in the NT. Under the Act http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/nt/num_act/ema201327o2013236/ there is a requirement for an NT Emergency Plan (Section 9). This plan was recently identified, approved in January 2016, and is available at <http://www.pfes.nt.gov.au/Emergency-Service/Publications-and-forms.aspx>

This plan clearly states in Section 1.8 that local government doesn't have any legislative responsibility to manage or control an emergency event. That responsibility resides with NT Police and NTES.

Wagait Council is in an unusual situation in that it does operate the cyclone shelter when required. Other cyclone shelters are operated as part of the education department as they are school based. Also this group was formed as a committee of council to assist in decision making on recovery activities/arrangements.

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The group considered the fact the committee has been in operation since November 2010, has discussed a range of scenarios, been involved in consideration of the impacts and recovery issues of other Australian disasters and believes it has a valuable function to play in future as a committee to council.

There are arrangements that would go into place in through the 2016 NT Emergency Management plan for local involvement (Section 5). Thus, the group considers the committee should continue.

Cyclone Debbie: Committee members were asked to identify recovery issues arising from this current event for discussion at next meeting.

Business arising from this meeting

- Committee members to familiarise themselves with the 2013 Act and the Emergency Management Plan 2016
- Kym to seek the involvement of Police and attending a meeting and briefing the group on how Police and Emergency Services operations would occur for Wagait Shire area.
- Recovery Issues identified with cyclone Debbie

Next meeting

The next meeting - Wednesday 21 June 2017 at 6.30.