

# Wagait Shire Emergency Management Recovery Committee

## Draft Minutes

### Meeting Date

22 November 2017 at 6.30pm

### Venue

Wagait Shire Community Centre

### Attendance

Chris Tyzack, Peter Clee, Fred Gillis, Lorna Manning, Mark Sidey,

### Apologies

Nic Barclay, Kym Dye, Barry Demasson, Ian Hinchliffe

### Previous Draft Minutes

Minutes of meeting 21 June approved

Minutes of meeting 20 September approved with amendment

### Business Arising/Action arising from previous minutes

- Recovery Issues identified with Qld Cyclone Debbie - Mark has provided information. Chris to review and provide to meeting

Chris tabled a paper (copy attached) and several documents based on reviews undertaken in Queensland after disaster events. (Thanks to Mark for providing the links). One, a review of Cyclone Debbie response and recovery lessons, and the other 4 case studies undertaken by Regional Australia Institute. Both of these documents will be circulated to members by email. The points raised in these documents were discussed. One issue, that of managing volunteers who may come to the region, was discussed and it was agreed any volunteers would need to be well managed as they can be well intentioned but do need direction. NTES successfully manages volunteers and are a great resource.

It was agreed the CEO would be point of contact and this issue will be added into our recovery plan.

Action: Chris to add (Volunteer management) to recovery plan

Within the briefing paper there were two links, one to national the other international resources and publications the committee members may like to follow up.

- Disaster resilience grant applications – Peter to progress  
Peter indicated that no applications had been made for funds under this program.

- Discussion with Bushfires, NTES and CEO regarding communications systems-Mark/Peter

Discussion still to occur. And may be in conjunction with a visit by Allison Heath (NTES).

Peter gave an update to the committee regarding the loan tower that has been acquired to establish CB and UHF repeater. Under this project, and a small grant will allow for programming of all equipment and its readiness by Christmas. Ventia have also gifted 15 CB/UHF handhelds to Council and these will be widely distributed for use during an emergency event where they are required and then provide for recovery activity once transitioned. Once established this communications arrangement will allow Wagait Shire to be able to operate even if the main

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telecommunications systems fail thus proving independent resilience. The project for an alternate communication systems for our area was supported by this committee to ensure we could recovery in timely and organised manner. Peter also advised he will be having discussions with NBN regarding satellite internet as some emergency systems now require internet eg (WEB EOC). He also talked briefly about the possible long term location of the large tower currently on council land suggesting this may be moved to a location between Wagait and Belyuen so that greater coverage of the area could be achieved.

Mark also let committee know that the three council satellite phones (acquired through Disaster Recovery grant in 2016) are operational for the cyclone season.

- Update resource list Bushfires and NTES to provide info - Chris  
In progress

### **General Business**

Committee availability over December and January was discussed each member advised Chris. A list will be provided to CEO for information.

A brief discussion on anyone in our community that may need assistance in the case of an emergency was raised. Two older residents were identified. Several other known older persons are now not in the community.

### **New Business**

The updating of the Wagait Shire Recovery Plan was discussed. Chris indicated there is some valuable information from the Queensland documents but it is acknowledged they operate under different legislation to ours. There is also new information from the 2016 census, and the NT Emergency Management Plan (2016) that can be incorporated. The concept of broadening the plan to include overall emergency management eg response activity was discussed and not agreed.

Action: Chris will review the plan and update

Mark advised that Pam Wanrooy had attended a meeting of Shelter Managers in preparation for the cyclone season. Mark reiterated the shelter would be for short term only and have restrictions on what persons can bring in. Chris advised Mark that at this time of the year Council in conjunction with NTES have put a public notice out about the shelter. Chris will send a copy of previous notice to Mark.

Action: Chris to send Mark copy of previous years public notice.

### **Business arising from this meeting**

- Discussion with Bushfires, NTES and CEO regarding communications systems-Mark/Peter
- Add (Volunteer management) to recovery plan - Chris
- Rewrite the Wagait Shire Recovery plan to incorporate 2016 census data and other relevant information– Chris
- Update resources list Bushfires and NTES to provide info – Chris
- Provide CEO with previous years public notices - Chris

### **Next meeting**

The next meeting - Wednesday 21 February 2018 at 6.30.