



**WAGAIT SHIRE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MEETING TO DISCUSS RESPONSE AND RECOVERY TO COVID-19 #1**

**27 MARCH 2020 – TELECONFERENCE – MINUTES**

**ATTENDING:**

WAGAIT SHIRE COUNCIL	Peter Clee (President) - PC
	Renita Glencross (CEO) - Chair
	Beckie Taylor (S&R) - BT
WAGAIT SHIRE RESIDENTS	Chris Tyzack - CT
	Kim Dye (NTPES) - KD
	Chris Chaplin (WB Supermarket) - CC
BELYUEN HEALTH CENTRE	Nicholas Barclay (CM) - NB
	Marcella Keenan - MK

Apologies: Kelly Murphy (Belyuen Aged Care); Cathy Winsley (Belyuen CG Council CEO)

**MINUTES:**

1. Introductions
2. Draft Terms of Reference (ToR)
  - The ToR will provide a framework for the group, pending ratification of a Committee and formalisation of a Wagait Shire Council policy.
  - Chair invited group members to provide comment by email prior to next meeting (Monday 6 March).
3. Acknowledging and working within the restrictions of each Community
  - Chair acknowledged Belyuen and Wagait Beach are very different demographically and carried different risks; acknowledged emailed information from Cathy Winsley, CEO Belyuen CG Council.
  - NB confirmed that the Belyuen residents are all high risk due to overcrowding in houses and advised that he had received many enquiries from WB regarding access to the clinic, including some which were abusive, inferring that they were the wrong colour.
  - PC acknowledged that there no tolerance for racism, the Group would provide information back to the WB community and request that WB residents consult with their GP's, via telephone or telehealth if necessary.
4. Wagait mapping – residents returning / in isolation / vulnerable people
  - Chair advised a mapping exercise to identify and locate vulnerable residents in Wagait Beach has commenced. The document includes residents who have recently returned from overseas or interstate and are in self-isolation. **Due to the sensitive information in the document, it will remain confidential.**

5. Belyuen mapping – community shutdown / essential staff commuting
  - Chair referred to Cathy’s email again, outlining measures undertaken by community to mitigate COVID-19 transfer risk.
6. Medical – current situation and support (both communities)
  - NB provided an update for Belyuen, noting that community residents scared, generally compliant with restrictions and wanting information about COVID-19.
  - No COVID-19 cases identified. Residents are presenting with other viruses and colds.
  - Any emergencies should be handled the usual way – dialing 000, which would most likely be redirected to Belyuen but is important to ensure emergency services are notified from the outset, records are maintained, and hospital is prepared for possible admission.
  - Marcella added that if there was a symptom-based concern from a WB resident it would be possible to make an appointment and meet at WB Clinic for consultation. Reminded the group that Medicare funded Tele-health is available and Wagait residents should use their regular GP for medical needs via this method.
  - Chair noted additional preventative measures being undertaken by council now included twice-daily washdown of handrails at the jetty stairs.
  - PC commented that Sealink have provided hand-sanitiser on the ferry and noted passengers were being encouraged to use it on both embarkation and dis-embarkation which would also mitigate potential virus transfer between here and Darwin.
7. Supplies – current situation and support (both communities)
  - CC advised that WB Supermarket is observing all hygiene and social distancing protocols and that so far has been manageable.
  - CT requested confirmation of food security; CC responded that they are well stocked, have had no issue with orders and deliveries and can respond to community special requests if needed. WB Supermarket will deliver goods and supplies (except for tobacco and alcohol) to self-isolated or mobility-restricted residents.
  - CC advised that WB and Belyuen residents would be given priority for goods over (unknown) visitors who try to stockpile.
  - CC advised Power cards for Belyuen still at shop.
  - BT noted online support for WB Power top-up has still not been implemented.
8. Vulnerable and sick people – service delivery options
  - Chair noted community concerns that Aged Care may not have capacity to maintain services if clients became sick. KM had confirmed earlier in the week that they do not have the PPE required for all staff.
  - CT queried if there is a list of clients and how WB might support to ‘fill the gap’ in services. **WSC to follow up.**
  - Chair noted WSC staff do not have enough PPE to take this on but may be able to create delivery options that don’t involve personal contact. WSC is also working with NTG to review a component of Sport/Rec funding for wages that might be redirected to facilitate/coordinate delivery of the emergency plan, should that become a priority.
  - BT noted that regular scripts may also need to be a part of the service.
  - Marcella suggested Northpharm based at RDH should be able to provide and courier to ferry for collection and distribution. **WSC to follow up.**

#### 9. Communications networks in community

- Chair advised all available media is currently being utilised to communicate information to WB residents including regular e-Bulletins, facebook, Council office and WB Supermarket noticeboards. It is possible that some residents are still falling through the gaps.
- PC suggested there is an existing banner of medical info that can be used.
- CC requested list of COVID-19 info-line numbers for WB Supermarket. **WSC to follow up.**

#### 10. Compliance issues

- Chair noted community concerns that since the Cox Club has closed private weekend parties have continued which may be a health risk. Police have been notified and will continue to monitor.
- Chair also noted that fly-in/fly-out workers in the community are returning from interstate and the process for self-isolation is not clear. **WSC to follow up.**
- KD advised that restrictions are changing frequently and will most likely change again to lockdown directly.

#### 11. Review actions

- WSC to follow up with Kelly Murphy on planning for Aged Care clients in WB.
- WSC to check with NorthPharm on process for receiving and distributing scripts in WB.
- WSC to provide Supermarket with list of COVID-19 info-line numbers for noticeboard.
- WSC to follow up advice from NTG on self-isolation and quarantine restrictions for interstate fly-in/fly-out workers based in WB.

#### 12. Next meeting

- Monday 6 April 2020 at 2:00pm via GotToMeeting teleconference.

Meeting closed at 3:00pm.