

Community Resilience and Disaster Recovery Reference Group

Date	4 th April 2023	Time	1 – 4pm
Venue	MidCoast Council Chambers	Note-taker	Janine Friedrich
Present	<p>Janine Friedrich, Cr Sandilands, Greg Hale, Jenny Brewer, Greg Hale, Jess Corkill, Daniel trudgeon, Steve Prohm, Al Breingan, Trypheyne McShane, John Green, Margy Hilder, Mark Johnson, Peter Hatton Maria Frazer, Alex Mills, Sandra Bourke</p> <p>Special Guests: Minderoo Foundation (Clare Alexander and Jamie Lloyd), Resilient Ready (Renae Hanvin)</p>		
Apologies	Cr Epov, Paul De Szell, Maria Quintero, Anna Burley, Peter Brown		

Meeting Items

Item	Key points/actions
1	Acknowledgement of Country – Cr Sandilands
2	Housekeeping - Janine
3	<p>Minderoo Foundation offer to the MidCoast - Clare Alexander & Jamie Lloyd (Minderoo Foundation)</p> <p>The Minderoo Foundation are offering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Musters – groups of up to 30 volunteers to the MidCoast area to carry out musters, physical works in the community that will allow communities to be more prepared against bushfire and flood. If you have a possible muster project, please contact Janine with the details by COB 20 April. • Community resilience framework workshop – Minderoo training on how communities can work together for better outcomes in the next disaster event and improved community well-being more broadly. Prioritisation of community-led approaches. Sandra and Jess are both interested in this coming to their communities. If you would like this approach brought to your community, please contact Janine by COB 20 April

	<p>Council will be meeting with Munderoo 21st April to finalise a short list of possible projects. See attached documents for more information on what's on offer.</p> <p>Interest from Sandra and Jess for Tea Gardens and Cooperook to be involved in the Community Resilience Framework workshops</p>
4	<p>Future Ready farmers and fishers opportunity, ResilientReady.org - Renae Hanvin</p> <p>Resilient Ready have funding to offer free workshops to farmers and fishers in the MidCoast area. 15 online modules and 3 face to face workshops from March to May. The online modules are designed to cover key topics in 5 minutes on the small steps each business owner can take to thrive in good and bad times. The modules and workshops are now open to all ages (flyers detail it as for 18-40-year old's)</p> <p>See attached documents for more information, or go to/sign up at https://resilientready.org/projects/bcr-toolkit-young-farmers-in-midcoast-nsw/</p> <p>Please promote through your networks where appropriate</p>
5	<p>Outstanding actions –,</p> <p>Starlink - Janine Friedrich</p> <p>Janine has sent an email to Starlink asking if they would consider assisting with the costs of installing Starlink infrastructure and the ongoing connection costs for MidCoast Community halls. No acknowledgement of email has been received. There are no other ways of contacting Starlink</p> <p>The group discussed ways to improve telecommunications access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council/government subsidy for individuals purchasing their own satellite phone. Who could the group lobby for this kind of subsidy to be set up? • How do we get funding for alternative telecommunications technology in our communities, e.g. UHF radio, satellite phone and Starlink. Can we approach philanthropists • Inviting our Federal Member for Lyme, Dr David Gillespie to come to a meeting to hear our concerns about telecommunications • What specific technologies would ensure our communities have more resilient telecommunications? • Communities need to take some onus and apply for grants themselves. • Regional Tech Hub provides independent, free advice about telecommunications services for regional, rural, and remote Australians, including connectivity options for individual households and advocating with telcos when services are not delivered/resolved. More information

about their services and contact options at:

<https://regionaltechhub.org.au/>

- Invite Regional Tech Hub to the next meeting to talk about what satellite phones work the best.
- CREST – Citizens Radio Emergency Services Team can assist with communities and individuals wanting to set up UHF radio networks. See their webpage for more information:
<https://www.crest.org.au/wordpress/>
- Sandra asked for a status update on Australian government funding for telecommunications in the Midcoast area, as tabled in last Council meeting – Paul Sandilands to provide name of program to Janine

Road repairs – Janine

Request at last meeting on the status of road repairs for flood damaged roads at:

- Manning Point road (Oxley Island to Manning Point),
- Main street (Manning Point)
- Old Bar Rd (Tavern to ambulance station)
- Harrington Rd
- Lansdowne Rd
- Upper Lansdowne Rd

From Daniel Park, Manager Operations North

“Under the NSW Disaster Assistance Guidelines (DAG), the NSW Government provides financial assistance to councils to restore essential public assets that are damaged as a direct result of an eligible disaster. You will find that those roads listed below have not been directly affected by the disaster. Their pre-disaster pavement condition was already considered “poor”. Therefore, they are not eligible for funding under these arrangements.

Having said that and not sure if you’re aware but Council has set aside \$7.5M for additional road repair works that are targeting roads such as Lansdowne Road and Upper Lansdowne Road with works to be delivered this financial year.

Further details can be found at the following link: [\\$7.5 million roads program | Have Your Say \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)”

The Harrington Road project was not a natural disaster funded project. This project is now completed.

Discussion that State government representatives have said that disaster recovery funding was available for these roads. Jess to share with Janine

	her sources of information with Janine, Janine to then clarify with council staff what funding is available for what
6	<p>MidCoast Pre-Event Recovery Template – Maria Frazer</p> <p>NSW Reconstruction Authority has requested Council and the Local Emergency Management Committee work with them to develop a pre-event recovery template.</p> <p>Group discussion with confusion over the different phases of emergency management, what is meant to happen in a disaster and what the reference group focus and goals are.</p> <p>Suggestion to group: enrol in the emergency management training, as per details emailed by Janine on 6th April</p> <p>Janine to investigate emergency management representatives doing a group presentation on emergency management arrangements</p> <p>Janine and Maria to develop a template for community representatives to contribute community profile information</p>
7	<p>Update for Tea Gardens – Sandra Bourke</p> <p>Sandra has done considerable research in the Tea Gardens and Hawkes Nest areas on what their status quo is regarding disaster risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • limited road access, older population, limited community awareness of emergency plans and emergency management processes, limited telecommunications coverage, limited medical assistance in the area, perceived lack of appropriate bushfire management activities to minimise current bushfire risks, fire mitigation plan outdated <p>Next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adapt EMPLAN template to local villages with on the ground implications, include local recovery plan • Create network of local services for situational awareness • Social media presence on emergency management planning relevant to the area • Partner with organisations to develop a resilience framework
8	Carried over: Community Recovery Officer update - Janine
9	Carried over: Arising recovery issues - everyone
10	<p>Carried over: Our focus – outcomes for this group</p> <p>What can MidCoast communities do to be safer and more prepared for future emergencies?</p>

	What can we (the reference group and Council) do to ensure we recover more quickly from future disasters?
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Next meeting

Date	9th May	Time	1 - 4pm
Venue	MidCoast Council - Barrington Room	Note-taker	Janine