

## Community Resilience and Disaster Recovery Reference Group

Date	9 May 2023	Time	1 – 4pm
Venue	MidCoast Council	Note-taker	Janine Friedrich
Present	Cr Peter Epov, Cr Paul Sandilands, Peter Hatton, Maria Quintero, Alastair Breingan, Maria Frazer, Steve Prohm, John Green, Janine Friedrich, Alex Mills, Peter Brown, Margy Hilder, Daniel Trudgeon, Jess Corkill, Mark Johnson, Trypheyne McShane, Greg Hale, Sandra Bourke		
Apologies	Karen Anderson, Ann Burley		

### Meeting Items

Item	Key points/actions
1	Acknowledgement of Country
2	Disclosure of interest - none
3	<p>What is the focus of the Community Resilience and Disaster Recovery Reference Group?</p> <p>Resilience - The ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions through risk management</p> <p>About vibrant communities, able to look after themselves in good times and bad, building of relationships that allow people to support each other</p> <p><a href="https://www.undrr.org/quick/11974gement">https://www.undrr.org/quick/11974gement</a></p> <p>Recovery - The restoring or improving of livelihoods and health, as well as economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets, systems and activities, of a disaster-affected community or society, aligning with the principles of sustainable development and 'build back better', to avoid or reduce future disaster risk</p> <p><a href="https://www.undrr.org/quick/11972k">https://www.undrr.org/quick/11972k</a></p>

	<p>can involve post traumatic growth, no set time limits to when recovery finishes, may be more than 10 years. It is not about reinstating what was there before a disaster, may involve finding a new “normal”</p> <p>Recovery and resilience are not about what emergency services do during a disaster/emergency event. By a disaster we mean an event that requires a coordinated response from emergency services and agencies to minimise consequences, where there is an immediate threat to life, health, property or environment. Arrangements and activities in this context are mandated by state legislation. Community and other agencies are affected by actions that take place in this context and this affects recovery and resilience. Communities and organisations may undertake their own activities in this phase separate from an emergency services response.</p> <p>Small group work to answer the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In relation to the emergencies of the last five years (drought, fire, flood, Covid) what do you think are the current recovery and resilience issues in the MidCoast LGA?</li> <li>- What recovery activities do you think are currently needed in our LGA?</li> </ul>
4	<p>Current Recovery and Resilience Issues (brainstorming)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Confusion and overwhelmed (multiple disasters and processes).</li> <li>2. Communication – not coordinated, incorrect, people unable to access.</li> <li>3. Cost to fix things – emotional, monetary, government, long term.</li> <li>4. Cascading disasters – drought doesn’t get enough focus.</li> <li>5. Centralised hubs – for charities and recovery services generally</li> <li>6. We assume everyone has the same capacity to recover and be prepared, including applying for recovery grants. The reality is that the ability to recover is uneven.</li> <li>7. Identifying and educating about risk – use this information to advocate and educate.</li> <li>8. Council expected to do a lot but are not mandated or funded to do what is needed on an ongoing basis.</li> <li>9. Advocacy on telecommunications.</li> <li>10. Residual angst – unresolved issues, people not being heard.</li> <li>11. Awareness of risks – emergency management arrangements, what people can do individually – empowering individuals, education.</li> <li>12. Varied levels of understanding and awareness – you don’t know what you don’t know.</li> </ol>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13. Not every locality has been highly impacted, how do build resilience in this context.</li> <li>14. Infrastructure is not appropriately strengthened for resilience.</li> <li>15. People still don't have a home post-bushfire – state government guidelines, timelines not transparent.</li> <li>16. Mental health.</li> </ul>
5	<p>Recovery activities that are needed in our LGA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Education &amp; awareness.</li> <li>2. Red Cross and Council doing Community-led Resilience Teams (CRTs) &amp; communication tree with ongoing resourcing, processes, and funding. Roll out needs to be expanded.</li> <li>3. MCC infrastructure connectivity.</li> <li>4. Workshops – focusing on preparedness, stories from local experts, create messages from the stories (jingles), grant writing, free food, tailored multiple activities.</li> <li>5. Fridge magnet to all rate payers about disaster risk and preparedness.</li> <li>6. Council advocacy on telecommunications.</li> <li>7. Ongoing funding/support for recovery &amp; preparedness.</li> <li>8. Celebrate resilience.</li> <li>9. Buddy system for places doing emergency planning.</li> <li>10. Recovery and resilience items on community hall agendas.</li> <li>11. Create LGA storybook about disasters &amp; resilience, sharing tips.</li> <li>12. A council coordinating/consortia approach to grant applications.</li> <li>13. Central place for disaster information – disaster dashboard or similar.</li> <li>14. Simplified way to find out your disaster risk, e.g. QR code on rates notes going to council website with interactive map with flood, bushfire and tsunami risk.</li> <li>15. Educating children – expand the pillowcase project.</li> </ul>

### Outstanding Actions

1	Community profiles – strengths and weaknesses in each community?
2	Community Recovery Officer/Bushfire Preparedness Officer updates

3	Telecommunications issues in disasters – carried over from previous meeting. Which options do we want to pursue, if any? Is our purpose to lobby on this issue?
4	Minderoo Update

### Next meeting

Date	18 July 2023	Time	1-4pm
Venue	Barrington Room, MidCoast Council	Note-taker	Janine Friedrich