

Community Resilience and Disaster Recovery Committee

Date	20 February 2024	Time	1-4pm
Venue	MidCoast Council and Zoom	Note-taker	Janine Friedrich
Present	Maria Quintero, Alastair Breingan, Alex Mills, John Green, Jenny Brewer, Margy Hilder, Mark Johnson, Jess Corkill, Peter Epov, Paul Sandilands, Paul De Szell, Sandra Bourke		
Apologies	Trypheyne McShane		

Meeting Items

Item	Key points/actions
1	<p>Disaster Funding Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council lodged an application for the Disaster Ready Funding Round to continue receiving funding for a Community Recovery Officer and targeted resilience / recovery projects. The application was not successful. • Council has wrapped up the Black Summer Bushfire Funding Project. The Bushfire Preparedness Officer contract and Bushfire preparedness project have finished successfully with just under 10,000 kits distributed. Great support noted from SES and RFS, RA NSW. This project was developed because of feedback from the Bushfire Recovery Reference Group. • Request from Margy Hilder for alternative funding options for community blackboards at RFS sheds and community halls referred to the next Small Communities Supporting Each Other meeting.
2	<p>Lansdowne Telstra Community Meeting 8 February</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on Telstra feedback on tower and mobile phone reception around Lansdowne. • Some concerns shared on phone reliability during an emergency. • The Universal Service Obligation is under review, feedback due by 1 March.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/media-technology-communications/phone/phone-services/universal-service-guarantee-telecommunications/universal-service-obligation • https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/have-your-say/better-delivery-universal-services
3	<p>MidCoast Pre Event Recovery Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion on draft Plan and additions made in the plan to give some guidance on actions and themes that may arise in the transition to longer term recovery. • The plan proposed to be tabled at Local Emergency Management Committee on 11 March for endorsement. • Discussion on final Plan being tabled at Council meeting.
4	<p>Community Recovery Officer transition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NSW Reconstruction Authority (NSWRA) funding agreement expires on 30 June 2024, and the Community Recovery Officer (CRO) contract expires aligned to the funding. • NSWRA have stated there is a possibility the position may be funded until 30 August 2024. • Council does not have the funding or staffing resources to maintain the service offering of the CRO. It is anticipated at most 10% of the CRO workload could align within the Community Development Team. This will require other Community Development workloads to cease. • If approved, the MidCoast Pre Event Recovery Plan will be supported by the Local Emergency Management Officer.
5	<p>Possibility of retaining the Community Recovery Officer position</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CRO position is funded by the NSWRA \$170,000 per annum. • Council does not have budget to support the continuation. • Disaster Recovery is a responsibility of the State Government, and funding of CRO's is only released to LGAs after a significant natural disaster for a maximum of 24 months. • Discussion on the Reference Group's preference is for NSWRA to continue to fund the position and note that Council's application for funding was not successful. • The Community Resilience and Disaster Recovery Reference Group recommend that Council fund ongoing CRO position. • The Community Resilience and Disaster Recovery Reference Group recommend that Council continue to advocate State Government funding for CRO positions in NSW Councils.

Next meeting

Date	23 April 2024	Time	1 - 4pm
Venue	MidCoast Council/online	Note-taker	Janine Friedrich