

Notes from Melbourne community meeting, 15 February 2016

Sue Wilkinson COS update

- COS is working with EVM and other agencies on bushfire recovery
- COS has set up a Directorate of Bushfire Recovery, headed by Sandra Wade, sandra.wade@colacotway.vic.gov.au

One Stop Shop

- Agreement reached with City of Yarra for this to be co-located at their office at 333 Bridge Rd, Richmond. It will open on Thursday 25 Feb and will be open 2pm - 7pm, on Thursdays.
- The Apollo Bay One Stop Shop is already open 10am - 4pm on Monday to Friday
- The Wye River location is proposed to be open on Friday's (10am - 4pm) and Saturday (10am - 1pm)
- COS is recruiting staff to run the One Stop Shops and will start with skeleton staff – opening hours can be adjusted to meet community needs
- The One Stop Shop will handle more than just Planning issues. It can also handle Grocon, legal and a range of other issues
- To get an appointment at the One Stop Shop in Richmond, you need to call Council's Bushfire Recovery line (5232 9400 option 1)

Community Resilience Committee

- 30+ nominations received
- The group will be chaired by the Mayor
- There are to be 8 appointments
- The selections have been made and the individuals will be notified this week with a plan for a public announcement potentially this week
- First meeting to be within 2 weeks to meet with the Mayor, Sue Wilkinson and Craig Lapsley

Future Community Meetings

- Schedule for the next two months, venues and times TBC
- Melbourne: 3rd March and 7th April
- Wye: 6th Mar and 10 Apr
- COS to publish a Calendar of Events

Re-settlement Action Plan

There is now a draft plan of what different agencies will do to clean up and facilitate rebuild – not sure what this plan will do

Laurie ? - Insurance Council of Australia

- It is expected that the number of insurance issues and questions will ramp up over the next month or so.
- There will be Insurance specific community meetings after Easter in both Wye and Melbourne
- ICA are able to escalate your claim for you if you feel you're getting nowhere.
- Keep up conversations with your insurer and ask them lots of questions.

Brian Macadam Grocon/clean up

- Grocon intend to start clean up at the beginning of March 2016
- Grocon produced maps of Wye and Sep Ck showing 6 clusters in Wye and one or two in Sep Ck which divide up both Communities into logical zones from a clean up perspective. The zones are still a work in progress
- The plans also showed proposed Traffic Control points and one way roads (eg Karingal Drv) to manage traffic and especially trucks

- Zone F, Iluka Ave, would be tackled first to clean the hill above the Great Ocean Rd as this poses a higher risk than other areas (debris especially tin falling on the Ocean Road)
- There are some other constraints eg upper side of Karingal needs to be cleared before lower side
- Ordering of zones after Iluka TBC
- Some further trees will need to come down.
- Work on road safety is continuing
- Grocon will provide a hygiene certificate for each block once clean up is complete
- If you opt out of the Grocon clean up, you will have to organise and go through the full compliance procedure, such as getting a Hygienist Certificate. Sue Wilkinson "strongly advises" against opting out, saying people should do their sums carefully, and she is yet to see a case where it will be cheaper to opt out.
- You can sign the opt in contract, get a quote, then opt out (apparently).
- Grocon have
 - Registered 201 property owners
 - Contacted 115 property owners
 - Interviewed and prepared Scopes of Work for 64 property owners

John Ginivan – Acting Executive Director of Statutory Planning at DELWP

- A Planning Permit will be required for all new building work, but there will be a simplified process (due to be approved in March)
- Information from recent Planning Permits (issued since March 2009) can be re-used as the regulations have not changed significantly in that time– if the permit is still current (ie issued within the past 4 years) it should be able to be reused as is
- All construction activity will require a building permit, but this can be from COS or a private certifier
- Geo Tech (eg Landslip) and Land Capability (eg Waste Water) investigations are due to commence next week
- Outside of this meeting there has been separate advice that Coffey GeoTech have been appointed for the Geo Tech investigations
- An explanation of what BAL ratings mean and the implications was provided. Basically BAL standards are required in bush fire prone areas and intended to reduce vulnerability to bushfire ignition and minimise the chances of fire getting in to properties. The ratings (from 12.5 to Flame zone) depend on many factors including steepness of slope and vegetation cover
- BAL Rating report to be complete by late March
- The Vict Govt Architect will provide "demonstration" plans of different BAL rated construction, which will be available through the One Stop Shops in March
- Considerations for re-building will have to include
 - Steepness of the land
 - designing to suit the site slope and orientation
 - remoteness on the location and resources

- logistics
- GeoTech to be completed by late March/early April

Disaster Legal Aid - Tel: 1800 113 432

Two reps from Disaster Legal Aid were on site to take questions

Q&A

- A response to a question re septic *seemed to confirm* that if you lost your house but the septic tank (old style) is still working, then you could go with that, but Sue W said she would seek legal advice on this issues. However, if you now build a larger house (more bedrooms) you would need a bigger septic and, presumably, therefore a modern sewerage treatment system.
- If your block is too small for a dispersal system then Council might develop a cluster with a community outflow.
- Questions re how and when Grocon will manage retaining wall issues on private property were not clearly answered.
- Minister Neville has promised a reinstatement survey undertaken, but there's no detail on how or when this will occur and how extensive it will be. Grocon will only provide a peg to identify the block for clean up purposes.
- When will people with damaged houses get access? Grocon advised area is still unsafe... so no date given , depends on clean up process
- Re the part of the Grocon contract that dispenses with our basic consumer rights to claim against any damages Grocon (or their contractors) may make to our properties (e.g. to footings), which was questioned as being somewhat dodgy, the Grocon rep responded "I'm not a lawyer" . He said every care would be taken, but this issue clearly needs more scrutiny.