

FURNEAUX MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

UNCONFIRMED Minutes

DATE: 26 November 2021
VENUE: Rose Garden Room
COMMENCING: 1300

PRESENT: Sammi Gowthorp – Recovery Coordinator, Jacci Smith – Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator, Rick Mahnken – District Officer North East, Warren Groves – Emergency Management Coordinator, Mrs Robyn Dilger - CWA, Sam Grace – Biosecurity Tas, Roger Brown - TFS, Lucas Bryan - SES, Michael Withers – SES unit manager, Alanna Cowley - MPC, Chris Parr TasPol (local) Sergeant , Darren Hopkins – Acting Regional Manager TasPol, Fiona Maher – Cape Barren Island, David Williams - Chair, Chris Wilson – Infrastructure and Airport Manager, Andrew Carter – Senior Biosecurity Officer, Annie Revie - Mayor, Stephen Mason – Group Officer, Leon Murray – TFS Fire Planner.

APOLOGIES: Darren Grace – TFGA, Carol Baines - MPC

CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

AGENDA ITEMS:

Item 1 Welcome to Stephen Mason

Welcome to Stephen Mason is replacing Mr Alan Tuxworth as the Flinders Island Group Officer (TasFire)

Item 2 Borders Opening – Health

Warren discussed preparedness strategies inc landing only at Whitemark. Richard Harley noted that there is a new CASA requirement via national NOTAM but it's very hard to find. 24 hours notice to be given before arriving.

Warren suggested that we, as a committee, might write to CASA too advise of what is required from our end.

Annie added that the Commander is also looking into these things.

Alanna noted that the Tasmanian Health Service is providing a 'COVID @ Home' model which is aimed at avoiding unnecessary utilisation of hospital beds. Local health is in conversation with RFDS currently to confirm retrieval service provision

Sam noted that Andrew Carter is the new Senior BT officer. Borders will be open to unvaccinated persons though they will have to quarantine once they arrive in Tasmania. If they have to quarantine in gov facility they will need to go to TAS. If they are not deemed to be high risk they could isolate in a suitable premise. BT will determine what they are required to do as the gate keepers. Still some matters to be ironed out. Not sure who will be ordering/arranging the repatriation to TAS if required.

Warren gave some background to the note about the “Donga” being situated at the airport. Looking at obtaining a temporary structure from TasWater etc in the case of need. Has been raised with Commander Wilkinson and it has been noted that he has taken it onboard but nothing has been heard back at this stage.

Annie asked about the requirement of deep cleaning.

Alanna understands that there are THS cleaning protocol for MPC/CBI and aware of cleaning processes in place for RFDS/Tas Ambulance - these are not transferable to accommodation outside these services. Suggest speaking with Public Health (or cabin park as last years State quarantine) for cleaning process around accommodation.

Annie asked about the Airbnb (if used for isolation) what the protocols are for cleaning and who is responsible. Note that FIBI had provided details regarding this a few months ago.

Sam noted that people who “contract” covid may be residing in non approved places – such as the pub which is not compliant with isolation requirement.

Warren noted that these are questions to be put to the next Commander Wilkinson meeting.

Sam noted that he needs to wait for the Premier to provide for directives.

Darren Hopkins noted that he is also after answers.

Annie noted holes in communication seems to be an issue.

Chris Parr noted the risks associated with boating vessels also.

Alanna noted that we have moved past “prevention” and we are moving towards a “covid normal” status. Good idea to use this time to plan for embedding good protocols and to prepare our community for what “covid normal” looks like. Cape Barren Island noted as being part of the Furneaux group and therefore are included in regard to health protocols around providing medical assistance and retrieval etc.

David noted that Council will communicate the actions to the community via Facebook and Island News. Sammi noted that we had been speaking with Ochre health around vaccination clinic advertising and Council will be the single source

of messaging, using the available methods as required. Understand that we are at around 89% vaccination rated but it's a little unclear. Our messaging will be around what it would mean to our existing health services at MPC. IE the rest of the community will be affected if the MPC is affected.

Alanna noted that there are a number of plans (based on status at the time) of how to keep the MPC open to the service of the community.

Pfizer clinics to be provided for at the local ochre clinic in December and state health is planned to visit in January 2022.

Alanna asked that messaging include broad brush comments around the safety of the hospital and the ability to continue the service to the community.

Annie asked what the testing regimes are. Trish noted that the testing systems are the still the same as they always were. Committee are happy that council are the only source of information.

Warren requested that we activate the executive committee of MEMC for this purpose.

David asked about the supply of masks. Warren replied that he is of the understanding that the free masks have been provided and it is unlikely that we will get more. Sammi noted that there needs to be direction on masks being worn.

My view re masks is we follow Public Health direction. If individuals choose to wear masks then individual choice should be encouraged and not stigmatised.

Appropriate length of wear/replacing mask after prolonged use as well as washing and care of masks should be undertaken.

Noted that the order requiring planes to only land at Whitemark will include CBI. Warren noted that discussion held with Commander Wilkinson was also held with King Island with the ideas that public health orders can be made for both Islands at once.

Fiona wanted to ask if there were protocols in place for deep cleaning on CBI if they had a case. Alanna provided assurance that there is. Fiona noted that the hospital on CBI should be cleaned everyday. Aboriginal Health Worker for CBI is being advertised currently with hopes of filling the position form within the community and should allow for more regular cleaning of the facility.

Item 3 Recovery funding opportunity – Sammi Gowthorp

Stephen sent Sammi a grant opportunity from the federal preparing Australia program. Sammi explained the brief. Sammi asked what projects may be suitable. Stephen said that one suggestion was that people mover or bus be purchased though he didn't think that this would be well utilised as once can be hired. Webster asked for a trailer. Sammi said she had sought funding for a trailer, but

capital items cannot be funded. Trailers are treated as vehicles. Upgraded potential for the SES building but a contribution is required.

Fiona suggested isolation pods. Sammi thought this could be used in a recovery capacity. Other funding has had an application for a shipping container to be used as a staging area. Rick noted that pods are often hired for sleeping arrangements.

Stephen is worried about applying for funding because it's there. Really need to apply strategic thinking for something that is required.

Funding application closes 6 January so decision would need to be made soon. No outcome from meeting.

Item 4 Emergency Exercise – Rick Mahnken

Rick said that the confidentiality around the exercise is being tested. Aim is to test capabilities. Opportunity for crews to practice skills as well as mentoring along the way. ICC will be stood up and tested for Internet and Comms access. Aim to test MEMP also. Scenario will escalate to 65 Ha burn. Will have approx 80 people participating. CBI included in exercise. If all goes well BBQ will be held tomorrow arvo by Lions Club.

TFS Facebook page and website will be communicating what is going on.

Item 5 Standing Report

Tasmanian Police – Chris Parr

Just wanted people to feel comfortable that if we have an issue we will get through it together as we have done before.

Annie wanted the community to know that everything is in hand. Chris noted that there is a time for communicating information and that early communication of information can be problematic.

TasFire – Rick Mahnken

Showed presentation re pending fire season forecasting. Looks like 1 December will be fire permit period. Whole of Island elections saw some changes to positions:

- Stephen Mason is now Island Group Officer
- Whitemark Brigade Chief is Haydn Rhodes
- Cape Barren Island Brigade Chief is Shayne Maher
- Lady Barron Brigade Chief is Darren Grace
- Emita Brigade Chief is Mark Pitchford
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Bridges training as one. First Tuesday of the month.

Parks & Wildlife – Domonique Couzens (via Teams)

Dominique was on “teams” and provided tanning report. Is waiting for Premier to make further announcements but QR codes are set up at camp sites at present. Parks was looking at mandating vaccinations for staff. Was concluded that front line staff are to be fully vaccinated.

Alanna asked about QR codes at camp sites and queried cleaning protocols. Currently cleaned 1 per week but in summer will be cleaned twice per week. More requirements may come from the DPIPWE covid plan.

SES local and regional – Michael Withers

Welcomed Acting Regional Manager Darren Hopkins. SES raining officer Lucas Bryan. Darren leaving job at end of January. 15 fully qualified members and most are attending regular training so happy with current unit.

Jobs have been 2 storm damage jobs in June, August RCR which turned into a stolen car which turned in the S &R and S &R hiker with broken leg.

Alanna noted that there is a younger cohort coming through the unit now.

Item 6 General Business

Noted that the Premier is messaging as we are meeting and he is reiterating the point that each agency is responsible for their COVID safety plans etc. Noted the “covid at home” plan which keeps people who are sick at home as they are not in need of medical intervention in a hospital.

Meeting Closed

Closed at 1509

Next Meeting: TBA