

THE RIVERINA HIGHLANDS ZONE LIAISON COMMITTEE



Minutes

MEETING DETAILS:

Meeting date: 19 March 07 **Location:** Riverina Highlands Building
76 Capper Street, Tumut

Start: 2.30 pm **End:**

Participants:	Present:	Apology:	Absent:
Councillor Michael Kingwill	√		
Paul Luff	√		
Robert Field	√		
Steven Luff	√		
Graeme Tickner			√
Greg Lyons			
Theresa Lonergan		√	
Councillor Ron Blyton			
Councillor Graham Smith	√		
Brian Pearson			√
Kay Whitehead	√		
John Proctor			√
David McGruer	√		
Tom Butler	√		
Councillor McKenzie		√	
Paul Mullins			
Chris Adams			√
Alan Tonkin	√		
John Jervois	√		
Tony Clee	√		
Marie Casey	√		

Next meeting: **Venue:** Riverina Highlands Building, 76 Capper Street, Tumut

1. WELCOME

Chairperson, Councillor Michael Kingwill welcomed all present at the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Official apologies were received from Clr McKenzie, Theresa Lonergan,

3. Election of Chairperson

Clr. Michael Kingwill Nominated by David McGruer / John Jervois accepted by Clr Kingwill. **CARRIED**

Tony Clee apologised for lateness in the year of meeting, stating this was due to the prolonged fire activity through summer.

4. Chairperson asked for comments or any matters arising from the minutes previous meeting

- Robert Field noted that the fire tanker vehicle requested for Gundagai Shire was now a used Category 2.
- John Jervois sought information on the new Group Vehicle for Tumbarumba district, Tony said that an email had been sent to Head Office, no reply as yet.
- Radio linking work between Tumbarumba and Tumut had been completed.

Confirmation of minutes previous meeting: John Jervois/ Robert Field **CARRIED**

5. Quarterly Performance Review

Quarterly Performance Review has been signed off by the Regional Manager
A summary of items included:-

- 16 batteries and 10 new tyres put on various vehicles over the Zone.
- Volunteer workers compensation premium estimated at \$100 per Volunteer and likely to increase next year
- Estimated \$81,000 premium in this current financial year
- Local volunteers have made claims, mainly small claims with no serious injuries
- The age of the fleet is slowly reducing but will not likely reduce much more as used vehicles are still being sought.
- Pump repairs due to misuse of foam. Signage being developed which may help by advising proper use of foam on tankers.

6. Quarterly Financial Report

Full detail report included in business paper.

- Not all maintenance and running costs for fire vehicles within Tumbarumba Shire have been included in reports from Tumbarumba.
- Has been a very busy and expensive year in relation to telephones and vehicles running expences.
- Comprehensive Insurance for fire vehicles another factor in costs
- Question asked about total comprehensive Insurance costs on number of vehicles (Alan Tonkin to follow this up)

- Gundagai fuel cost increase due to fire activity and increasing costs of fuel.
- Volunteers should be advised that at S44 tankers should be filled up on the fire ground as bulk fuel tankers are at the fires and is paid for in the S44. Filling up at the local fuel stations is hard to track and claim reimbursement
- Meeting advised that the RFS were processing \$60 million in S44 claims for the summer. Drinking water is claimable but not soft drinks.
- Aircraft usage has been high this season, but aircraft costs are borne by RFS
- Advise received by zone Councils that an Estimated probable contribution of \$270,000, but this can change due to credits and debits plus enhancement funds for radio linking and paging upgrades. Estimated Contribution as per Council in accordance funding allocation report Gundagai \$57,926 Tumut \$110,429 Tumbarumba \$71,689

The meeting was advised that State enhancement funding for Fire Control Centre's were available on a limited basis and that these funds had currently been utilized at location such as Cooma, Albury/Hume and currently at Griffith. After discussion with RFS Regional Manager, Jeff Lucas and Tumut GM Chris Adams, the Tumut 2007/08 estimates included the amount of \$200,000 for the purpose of establishing a Zone FCC.

Recent Section 44's had put emphases on the need for a combined fire control operations centre and it was recognized by the RFS that such a venue was necessary.

Discussion took place on the feasibility of utilising the vacant area next to the existing FCC in the Riverina Highlands Building. It was recognized that the Riverina Highlands building was owned by the three councils however, currently there were some discussions at Council level about a possible sale of Tumbarumba and Gundagai Councils share.

It was agreed that it would be a workable situation as it is not practical to have land management personnel located separate buildings during major fires. Everyone associated with fire would understand the situation.

Tumut Council was seeking grants through Emergency Management Australia for funding for back up power supply for the Riverina Highlands building.

An EMA grant had also been sought for the PhosCheck retardant base at the Tumut airport for shed and storage area.

Kay Whitehead asked that a report be prepared for councils highlighting the proposals.

7. Single budget

Comments were that it is still very confusing as Tumut Council pays for the contribution installments to RFS on behalf of the three Councils. Suggested the process be that an invoice be raised to the other councils prior to making the payments. All funding reimbursement claims will be paid direct to Tumut and TSC pay

MINUTES RIVERINA HIGHLANDS ZONE, LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING held on Monday, 19th March 2007

the respective Councils. Alan Tonkin commented that there was more work involved than initially thought.

Agreed that a meeting comprising of Alan Tonkin, Paul Luff, Kay Whitehead plus Zone staff be called at end of May to complete reconciliation of 06/07 year and to clarify all financial part of the single budget.

8. Service Agreement Status

Service Agreement has been signed by the three General Managers at the end of September 2006 and forwarded to Head Office for Commissioner signing. Zone Manager reported that the Zone Service Agreement had been at HO for some time and would be signed by Acting Commissioner and sent back.

8. Other business

Enhancement funding was sought in January 2007, outside the normal bid, for \$40,000 to complete the upgrade of the radio linking between Tumbarumba and Tumut.

Other funding enhancements were sought to increase the coverage of the callout pagers for the Lower Bago, Darlow and Mundarlo brigade areas.

\$5000 was also sought for fireground radios for Group Captains and RFS Div Commanders.

Local Government Discussion Paper on transfer of Fire-Fighting Assets

Last meeting Clr Ron Blyton spoke about a position paper on the transfer of fire-fighting assets from local government to state ownership. Reported that Tumut & Gundagai Councils supported the transfer however Tumbarumba was against it.

No papers were received.

Meeting closed at 3.30pm.

Next meeting July

Finance meeting late May or early June

Outstanding Tasks Register:

No:	Resource	Task Description	Current Details	Due Date	New Date
New Task	Report	Report to the three Councils re FCC options		June 2007	