

Towong Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee



MEETING MINUTES

MEETING HELD:	Thursday Dec 05, 2024, commencing at 10:00 am
LOCATION:	TICC, Tallangatta
CHAIR:	Mark Florence
PRESENT:	Jenny McCoy (TSC), Sven Erikson (TSC), Lynne Jones (ARC), Trevor Ebbels (CFA), Rob Decker/ Jonathan Harper (AV), Kate Rowe (AgVic), Mal Clarke (VicPol), Sean Farrar (Com Rep), Christy Jackson (DoH), Rebekah Kendell (DFFH), Eilidh Grigg (ERV), Dave Jenson (DEECA), Diana Hobbs (Com Rep), Warren Lukins (Comm Rep)
APOLOGIES:	Sharyn Nankervis, Scott Richter, Jeff Cave

ITEM

1. Apologies & Introduction –

- Amanda Pagan has moved to the Department of Transport and Planning.
- Committee now chaired by the Mark Florence, with Sven Erikson remaining as secretariat.
- Introductions made by Committee attendees.

Apologies noted from SES, Scott Richter and Sharyn Nankervis.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting –

Minutes of the previous meeting were circulated before the meeting.

- Previous meeting minutes referenced as June 13, 2025; correction acknowledged.
- Minutes moved by Warren for approval.

Motion: That the previous September 05, 2024, minutes are approved

Moved: Warren Lukins

Seconded: Dave Jenson

3. Business arising from Minutes (refer to actions register)

Sven Erikson gave an overview of the actions and their current status from the previous meeting. These actions are summarised in the below table.

Date	Action Number	Action Description	Action Required	Member Responsible	Action Status
05/09/2024	120	Name Alias	name Murray River Road	Sven Erikson-Secretariat	In Progress
05/09/2024	121	General Business - ESTA Name Alias	Request Council consider changing the tourist signage on the road due to the risk it poses to visitors unfamiliar with the name of the road.	Sven Erikson-Secretariat	In Progress
05/09/2024	122	Municipal Fire Planning Committee	Sven Erikson, Dave Jenson and Trevor Ebbels - meet to finalise draft then table to MFMPCC to endorsement to present to MEMPC in December.	Trevor Ebbels-CFA	Completed
05/09/2024	123	Exotic Animal Disease	Recirculate draft Ag plan for discussion & agency feedback	Jeff Cave - Ag Vic	Completed
05/09/2024	124	MEMPC Comms pack	Comms staff or Prep from each agency to meet to discuss and plan sharing opportunities of the flyer.	Sven Erikson-Secretariat	Completed
05/09/2024	125	MEMPC ToR	Change T.O.R names to positions before Dec MEMPC	Sven Erikson-Secretariat	Completed
05/09/2024	126	ERV Representative	Seek update on ERV representative as ERV have not attended the last 2 meetings	Sven Erikson-Secretariat	Completed

- Action item 120/121 - Contact was made with the Department of Transport and Planning and Council is now pursuing an application for an alias name to be put on the Murray River Road.
- Additional actions included amendments to the MEMPC and recirculation of the exotic animal disease plan.

4. Outwards Correspondence –

- NIL

5. Inwards Correspondence –

- Agency Report – DFFH
- Agency Report -DOH
- Agency Report - Red Cross

6. Towong Fire Management Planning Committee (FMPC) — CFA – Trevor Ebbels

FMPC met on Nov 28, 2024, and finalised the Municipal Fire Management Plan and has tabled it to the MEMPC for comment and approval.

Dave Jenson – The plan is modelled of a standard template that is being rolled at State wide.

The FMPC notes the plan will be a live document, to be amended through the life of the plan

There is a challenging budget position across agencies on fire access roads and different firefighting tactics and strategies have evolved.

Motion: For the Fire Management Plan to be endorsed as current from the MEMPC

Moved: Trevor Ebbels

Seconded Warren Lukins

Sean Farrar – Requests the FMPC look at Kurrajong Gap Road to be considered as a priority access Road

Action: Sven Erikson to publish Municipal Fire Management Plan on council website as per publishing obligations on behalf of the MEMPC

7. CEMP – Review and consideration of new CEMPS – Sven Erikson

- Acknowledgment of existing community recovery committees.
- Community plans developed post-2019/2020 fires.
- Nine plans already considered complementary.
- Council supported a community led development of their content.
- Plans serve as intelligence for incident management.
- Provides context for control agencies during emergencies.

- Community plans demonstrate engagement and preparedness.
- Progressively increasing number of community plans.
- These plan become evidence of Community Consultation and acknowledgement by MEMPC as part of Hume regional assurance MEMPS
- Demonstrates Link between community planning and agency obligations.

Amendments - Change 1800 numbers to correct ones, change references to DELWP, to DEECA

Motion: That the Towong MEMPC endorse as Complimentary Plans of the Towong MEMP:

- Bellbridge Community Emergency Management Plan
- Bethanga Community Emergency Management Plan
- Dartmouth Community Emergency Management Plan
- Eskdale Community Emergency Management Plan
- Granya Community Emergency Management Plan
- Koetong, Shelley, Burrowye Community Emergency Management Plan
- Mitta Mitta Community Emergency Management Plan
- Tallangatta Valley Community Emergency Management Plan

Moved: Trevor Ebbels

Seconded: Eilidh Grigg

8. Exotic Animal Disease (EAD) Plan – Kate Rowe

EAD Plan has been circulated for consideration of the MEMPC to be endorsed. Development of the plan for exotic animal disease risk has led by Agricultural Victoria based on community assessments. Minor feedback incorporated into the plan by Jeff Cave. The plan is a live document subject to review and amendments. Ag Vic Encourages regular updates to ensure effectiveness

Motion: For the Exotic Animal Disease Plan to be endorsed as current from the MEMPC.

Moved: Lynne Jones

Seconded Trevor Ebbels

Action: - Sven Erikson to publish Exotic Animal Disease Plan on council website as per publishing obligations on behalf of the MEMPC.

9. MEMPC Relief Communication Program – Update – Sven Erikson

- Agency communications representatives collaborated on a program focused on educating the community about relief arrangements within the Municipality. A draft communication pack was developed by the council's communications team then finalised after feedback from various member agencies.
- Final media pack has been distributed. Agencies ready to distribute through their channels. Social media and physical media will be utilised. Customer service points will have physical collateral available.
- Future communication regarding Emergency Management arrangements- potential topics include control of incidents. A template has been created for regular community communication.

10. MEMPC Amendments Update – Sven Erikson

- MEMPC ToR amended to reference agency positions instead of personnel.
- Potential amendment regarding collaboration among councils to be discussed in March. To support consistent language across MEMPCs.
- Group satisfaction regarding approved amendments confirmed.

11. General Business

ERV- cultural healing position vacant. ERV taking on coordinating of relief at regional level, Relief and recovery regional subcommittee being formed, Hume region recovery committee will be transitioning work over to the new Hume MEMPC subcommittee. Federal Government is making changes to C and D categories to the Disaster Recovery Financial Arrangements (DRFA) should not impact any current program.

DEECA- Cross border arrangements – agreement from 2012 is being reviewed, a committee has been formed, cross border agreement focuses on bushfire attack including first 12 to 24 hours of response, incorporates latest aviation guidelines, management of air space and aircraft deployment, allows cross-state deployment, area of mutual interest is 15 km along the river.

Complications with vehicle permits in both NSW and VIC, Agencies push up to EMV to sort out the broad issues, let agencies focus on response.

DoH -Heat Health information is going out, expect alerts to come with Heatwaves and agencies to activate their obligations.

SES – Corryong Unit is back online as active, a great outcome for communities and the sector

Sven Erikson – proposal to make Administrative changes – moving to sharepoint and MS Teams for document management and administration.

Action: Sven Erikson to begin transition work to move administration of MEMPC on to sharepoint and MS Teams.

Sven Erikson - MEMPC Dates 2025- propose to set them as the same for 2025 with a potential to hold a meeting in Bethanga/ Bellbridge or surrounds.

Action: Sven Erikson to set 2025 dates, send out invitations and Upload onto EM Cop HUME

Regional Calendar.

Trevor Ebbels CFA – current weather – don't be complacent due to the current rain. 2 or 3 warm days and we will be dry again and the risk.

Dave Jenson DEECA - AFAC Risk – Upper Murray now is in a higher risk; soil moisture is the same as it was prior to the fires of Summer 2019/2020.

Meeting Closed: 11:45am

**Next
Meeting:**

6 March 2025, 10:00am, Location – MS Teams