

Byron Shire Business Roundtable

Held on Wednesday 17 May 2017

5.00 – 7.00 pm

Byron Shire Council – Conference Room

Matters Arising from Discussion on Natural Disaster Resilience

(power point ref# 2017/28189)

Focus: *Let's identify some effective tasks Council could possibly work on with the business chambers to assist in better preparing our businesses and business precincts for natural hazards and emergencies*

Points raised:

- Warnings had issues around:
 - Timing
 - Method
 - Accuracy
 - There is a degree of overreliance on the SES in terms of people think it can help
- Evacuation centres
 - Insufficient notice to the operator of the Ocean Shores centre
 - Facility need to have a secure power and communication source
- The way people reacted in the lead up:
 - A number of business who had undertaken training with the SES were better prepared to minimise the damage and in a stronger position to return to business
 - Some people were a little dismissive as the last event did not event a sever as expected
 - Businesses in the potential impact area could of benefited from help in preparing (Council or volunteers)
 - How people react is closely connect to the trust in the quality and accuracy of the waring system
- What happened afterwards
 - Effected businesses could of done with more help in the clean up (Council or volunteers)
 - Council identified a need for a better data base to be in contact before, during and after the event
 - People power is important in advocating for funding and support from other levels of government
 - Businesses felt the response was too slow
 - Feeling that Byron Shire was not on the radar in term of impact for the media or government agencies
 - Businesses are hesitant to invest in replacement of their assets if the external potential contributing factors such as drainage and mitigation are not similarly maintained and/or improved
- Other points
 - Having a plan is important – for each business, business area
 - Practice in implementing your plan is important
 - Does the local radio statin Bay FM have capacity to play a role in helping address – warnings/response/ rallying community voice or support?
 - Progress associations are also a good means of improving community and business resilience and response skills

Summary of key ideas

Aim: not to duplicate existing approaches/system – rather look to how the Council and Business Chambers can value add

Resilience

- ✓ Community groups /business chambers working with Council taking a self help approach to better prepare beyond that which the relevant emergency services can offer
- ✓ Seminars and training – drawing on establish programs – Council and Chambers to promote their importance
- ✓ Identifying potential business natural disaster champions in each business area
- ✓ Informing the new comers about what could/will happen and how to better prepare
- ✓ business contact data base

Response

- ✓ improvement in the methods of emergency warnings
- ✓ Value adding to the formal established warnings/ advice with local media and grapevine (email) communications
- ✓ Better preparing our evacuation centres and those who will staff/manage the centre

Relief

- ✓ Waste and clean up - scope for business in non affected areas helping affected areas
- ✓ Engaging with business chambers and local media to advocating on behalf of business

Recovery

- ✓ Promotion of business
- ✓ Council reviewing its flooding and stormwater mitigation
- ✓ Checking in and supporting our business neighbours

Who could be involved in this conversation?

