



State Recovery Coordination Group Partnership Forum Communique – 21 May 2021

The State Recovery Coordination Group (SRCG) Partnership Forum was formed to enable stakeholders to collaborate and ensure progress on community recovery from the Wooroloo bushfire of February 2021. The partnership consists of a range of government agencies, local government authorities, not-for-profits and other interest groups.

At the latest meeting held on Friday 21 May, one significant point of discussion was the increasing frustration being expressed by some residents at the perceived slow speed and lack of communication in relation to of the clean-up of properties.

It was noted that the increasing number of properties reported to have asbestos (31, up from 20 previously) is complicating the clean-up effort.

It was also recognised that there is a need to provide personalised and localised information to communities when communicating about recovery initiatives. Some affected residents do not have internet access or use social media, so there is a need to provide communications materials in hard copy form and make them available through local shops and local government offices.

With this in mind, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services and Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) are working together to enhance recovery communications and keep impacted community members better informed of the progress of clean-up efforts. This has already commenced with the DWER contractor GHD telephoning all affected residents to update them on the clean-up program.

Looking forward, there are a number of positive initiatives and events planned to help address these issues and better support impacted community members.

Disaster Relief Australia are picking up outstanding issues and working with the Swan and Mundaring local governments to deploy teams to where they are needed and complete outstanding work orders as quickly as possible.

Two mental health forums are scheduled for June, conducted by disaster recovery expert Dr Rob Gordon, and sponsored by Red Cross. The forums will help participants to better understand their reaction to what has happened to them and how best to support themselves and their community through challenging times.

Discussions during the latest SRCG Partnership Forum also emphasised the need for a proposed housing roundtable to be held as soon as possible, and that a date for the planned community forum should be set in June.

The next meeting of the SRCG Partnership Forum is scheduled for Wednesday 16 June.