Cassowary Coast
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Cassowary Coast Local Disaster Management Plan

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Cassowary Coast Regional Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land and sea on which we operate, the Mamu, Djiru, Girramay, Gulgnay, Jirrbal and Bandjin Peoples. We wish to acknowledge our respect for their current and emerging leaders and those in the dreaming. We thank all First Nations people for the contributions they make in building this community.

FOREWORD BY MAYOR

As someone born and raised on the Cassowary Coast—the wettest place in Australia—I have witnessed firsthand both the trauma and the remarkable resilience of our community in the face of severe weather events like cyclones and floods. The recent 2023 State Disaster Risk Report underscores the importance of managing flood risks as Queensland's top priority for the coming decade. Flooding, particularly from events like ex-Tropical Cyclone Jasper, has shown how severe and disruptive these natural disasters can be, causing significant damage to property, the environment, and local businesses and to the mental health and wellbeing of impacted community members

Our climate is changing, and this brings an increase in the severity and frequency of high-impact weather events. As a result, everyone on the Cassowary Coast must be aware and equipped with the latest information to stay informed and prepared for extreme weather events such as floods, cyclones, or fires.

In light of these risks, residents are encouraged to support one another in preparing for storm season. If you have elderly neighbours, or know a person who may be vulunerable with special needs, please offer them your support and assistance, and don't hesitate to seek help from your community when needed.

To receive the most up to date information during a high impact weather event or natural disaster, visit the Cassowary Coast Disaster Dashboard. This essential resource provided by Council includes the Local Disaster Management Group’s real-time updates, advice and warnings. It also includes current road conditions, flood zone mapping and checklists to help you prepare before, during, and after an event. Access the Disaster Dashboard at www.disaster.cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au.

When planning for an extreme weather event, remember that public cyclone shelters should be considered a last resort. Our region has only two designated shelters with limited space and facilities, so they will fill up quickly. It’s important to have a well-thought-out plan for where you will go and what you will do during and, more importantly, before such events. Communities that are well-prepared and work together are more resilient and recover more swiftly. Let’s all commit to staying informed, prepared, and supportive of each other as we navigate the challenges of extreme weather.

Stay safe and take care,

Mayor Teresa Milwood

AUTHORITY FOR PLANNING

The Cassowary Coast Regional Council Local Disaster Management Plan has been prepared by the Local Disaster Management Group in accordance with the Disaster Management Act 2003 Section 57(1) to ensure the effective coordination of resources necessary to counter the effects of disasters within the Cassowary Coast Regional Council area.

ENDORSEMENT

This plan is recommended for distribution by the Cassowary Coast Local Disaster Management Group.

Chairperson
Cassowary Coast Local Disaster Management group

Dated 11 / 12/2024

Endorsed by the Innisfail District Disaster Management Group.

Executive Officer
Innisfail District Disaster Management Group

Dated 11 / 12/2024

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TERMINOLOGY

Acronym	Meaning
AEMI	Australian Emergency Management Institute
AIIMS	Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System
CCRC	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
CDO	Counter Disaster Operations
CHHHS	Cairns & Hinterland Hospital and Health Service
DDC	District Disaster Coordinator
DDMG	District Disaster Management Group
DDMP	District Disaster Management Plan
DMO	Disaster Management Officer
DRFA	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (formerly known as NDRRA)
EMC	Emergency Management Coordinator
EAP	(Referrable Dam) Emergency Action Plan
EMAF	Emergency Management Assurance Framework
GIS	Geographic Information System
IMT	Incident Management Team
LGA	Local Government Area
LDC	Local Disaster Coordinator
LDCC	Local Disaster Coordination Centre
LDMP	Local Disaster Management Plan
LRC	Local Recovery Coordinator
LRG	Local Recovery Group
NDRRA	Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
QDMA	Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements
QDMC	Queensland Disaster Management Committee
RFS	Rural Fire Service — QFD
SDC	State Disaster Coordinator
SDCC	State Disaster Coordination Centre
SDCG	State Disaster Coordination Group
SDMP	State Disaster Management Plan
SEWS	Standard Emergency Warning Signal
SITREP	Situation Report
SMEACS	Situation, Mission, Execution, Administration, Coordination, Safety
SRC	State Recovery Coordinator
WHO	World Health Organisation
XO	District Executive Officer

DISASTER MANAGEMENT DEFINITIONS

Community	A group of people with a commonality of association and generally defined by location, shared experience or function;
Consequence	The outcome of an event or situation expressed qualitatively or quantitatively, being a loss, injury, disadvantage or gain;
Disaster	A serious disruption in a community, caused by the impact of an event that requires a significant coordinated response by the state and other entities to help the community recover from the disruption. For the purpose of this definition 'serious disruption' means: • the loss of human life, or illness or injury to humans; or • widespread or severe property loss or damage; or • widespread or severe damage to the environment.
Disaster Management	Arrangements about managing the potential adverse effects of an event, including, for example, arrangements for mitigating, preventing, preparing for, responding to and recovering from a disaster.
Disaster Operations	Activities undertaken before, during or after an event happens to help reduce loss of human life, illness or injury to humans, property loss or damage, or damage to the environment, including, for example, activities to mitigate the adverse effects of the event.
Disaster response capability	The ability to provide equipment and a suitable number of persons, using the resources available to the local government, to effectively deal with or help another entity to deal with an emergency situation or a disaster in the local government's area
Emergency preparedness	A state of readiness, which enables Government agencies involved in disaster management, the private sector, communities and individuals to mobilise, organise, and provide relief measures to deal with an impending or current disaster or the effects of a disaster.
Event	▪ a cyclone, earthquake, flood, storm, storm tide, tornado, tsunami, volcanic eruption or other natural happening; ▪ bushfire; ▪ an explosion or fire, a chemical, fuel or oil spill or a gas leak; ▪ an infestation, plague or epidemic; ▪ a failure of, or disruption to, an essential service or infrastructure: ▪ an attack against the State; ▪ another event similar to an event mentioned above. An 'event' may be natural or caused by human acts or omissions.
Hazard	Something that has the potential to cause significant negative impacts on community elements (such as social, environmental and economic).
Level of risk	Expression of the severity of a risk derived from consideration of likelihood the event will occur and the potential consequence that may arise.
Likelihood	An expression of how likely it is that a specific hazard will occur within a given time frame. It is used as a qualitative description of probability or frequency.
Mitigation	Measures taken in advance of a disaster, aimed at decreasing or eliminating its impact on society and the environment;

Reconstruction	Actions taken to re-establish a community after a period of rehabilitation subsequent to a disaster. Actions would include construction of permanent housing, restoration of all services and complete resumption of the pre-disaster state;
Recovery	The coordinated process of supporting emergency–affected communities in reconstruction of the physical infrastructure and restoration of emotional, social, economic and physical well–being;
Rehabilitation	The operations and decisions taken after a disaster, with a view to restoring a stricken community to its former living conditions, whilst encouraging and facilitating the necessary adjustments to the changes caused by the disaster;
Relief	The provision of immediate shelter, life support and human needs of persons affected by or responding to an emergency. It includes the establishment, management and provision of services to emergency relief centres;
Residual risk	Level of risk remaining after implementation of risk treatment;
Risk	Used to describe the likelihood of harmful consequences, arising from the interaction of hazards, vulnerable elements (i.e. the community) and the environment;
Risk control	That part of risk management which involves the provision of policies, standards and procedures to eliminate, avoid or minimise adverse risks facing a community;
Risk identification	The process of identifying what can happen, why and how;
Risk management	The culture, processes and structures that are directed towards realizing potential opportunities, whist managing adverse effects;
Risk reduction	Actions taken to lessen the likelihood, negative consequences, or both, associated with a risk;
Risk transfer	Shifting the responsibility or burden for loss to another party through legislation, contract, insurance or other means. Risk transfer can also refer to shifting a physical risk or part thereof, elsewhere
Risk treatment options (strategies)	Measures contained within mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery programs that aim to eliminate or drastically reduce the level of risk.
Review	To inspect officially and in a formal, systematic way so as to ensure the currency, relevance and accuracy of plans, arrangements and associated documents,
Serious disruption	Serious disruption means: (a) loss of human life or illness or injury to humans; or (b) widespread or severe property loss or damage; or (c) widespread or severe damage to the environment;
Vulnerability	The degree to which a community may be adversely affected by a disaster. Vulnerability refers to the susceptibility and resilience of the community and environment to hazards.

DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL

This document is a controlled document and is not to be altered in any way other than those amendments issued by the Cassowary Coast Region Local Disaster Management Group.

For ease of amendment numbering of sections is used in this document. When an amendment is required, only the section amended will be forwarded to plan holders.

Amended Section	Date of Amendment	Amended By	Date Entered
Distribution List	26th Nov 2009	C Washbourne, CCRC	27th Nov 2009
Section Three – Page 4,9,10 & 11	26th Nov 2009	C Washbourne, CCRC	27th Nov 2009
Section 9 - Response	26th Nov 2009	C Washbourne, CCRC	27th Nov 2009
Section 14 – Contact List – Page 1-7	26th Nov 2009	C Washbourne, CCRC	27th Nov 2009
Appendix G – Dangerous Goods & Inflammable Liquids	12th Nov 2009	Hazardous Industries and Chemicals Branch, WH&S Qld, Dept of Justice & Attorney General	27th Nov 2009
Appendix B – Ergon Priority List	30th Nov 2009	A Musumeci, CCRC	1st Dec 2009
Appendix H – Plant Register	25th Feb 2010	P Valenti, CCRC	25th Feb 2010
Amendment Register	25th Feb 2010	C Washbourne, CCRC	25th Feb 2010
Functional Planning Regime	25th Feb 2010	C Washbourne CCRC	25th Feb 2010
LDMG Functions and Compositions	14th Nov 2012	A Portelli CCRC	21 Nov 2012
Local Disaster Management Functional Register	14th Nov 2012	A Portelli CCRC	21 Nov 2012
Local Disaster Management Functional Register	14th Nov 2012	A Portelli CCRC	21 Nov 2012
New Section 1.3 – Terms of Reference	9th January 2013	A Portelli CCRC	11th Jan 2013
Section 1.9 page 4	9th January 2013	A Portelli CCRC	11th Jan 2013
Section 1.6 pages 2 & 3	9th January 2013	A Portelli CCRC	11th Jan 2013
Section 6.2	9th January 2013	A Portelli CCRC	11th Jan 2013
Section 7.1	9th January 2013	A Portelli CCRC	11th Jan 2013
Section 10.2	9th January 2013	A Portelli CCRC	11th Jan 2013
Section 7	9th January 2013	A Portelli CCRC	11th Jan 2013
LDMG Contact List	11th January 2013	A Portelli CCRC	11th Jan 2013
Section 1.9	7th August 2013	A Portelli CCRC	8th Aug 2013
Section 1.11	7th August 2013	A Portelli CCRC	8th Aug 2013
Section 1.12	7th August 2013	A Portelli CCRC	8th Aug 2013
Section 1.13	7th August 2013	A Portelli CCRC	8th Aug 2013

Section 1.14	7th August 2013	A Portelli CCRC	8th Aug 2013
Section 4.10	7th August 2013	A Portelli CCRC	8th Aug 2013
Section 6.2.4	7th August 2013	A Portelli CCRC	8th Aug 2013
Section 7.1	7th August 2013	A Portelli CCRC	8th Aug 2013
Section 7.2	7th August 2013	A Portelli CCRC	8th Aug 2013
Section 7.2.1	7th August 2013	A Portelli CCRC	8th Aug 2013
Section 7.3	7th August 2013	A Portelli CCRC	8th Aug 2013
Section 7.4	7th August 2013	A Portelli CCRC	8th Aug 2013
Section 7.6	7th August 2013	A Portelli CCRC	8th Aug 2013
Section 8 (Replace entire section)	7th August 2013	A Portelli CCRC	8th Aug 2013
Section 3.4	13th August 2014	A Portelli CCRC	15th August 2014
Section 3.5	13th August 2014	A Portelli CCRC	15th August 2014
Section 3.9	13th August 2014	A Portelli CCRC	15th August 2014
Add new Section 1.15	13th August 2014	A Portelli CCRC	15th August 2014
Add new Section 1.16	13th August 2014	A Portelli CCRC	15th August 2014
Section 7.6	13th August 2014	A Portelli CCRC	15th August 2014
Update wording to replace EMQ with QFES	9th November 2015	A Portelli CCRC	11th November 2015
Section 1.1	9th November 2015	A Portelli CCRC	11th November 2015
Section 8.4	9th November 2015	A Portelli CCRC	11th November 2015
Annual Review and QLD Gov Dept name changes	2nd September 2016	A Portelli CCRC	2nd September 2016
Annual Review and QLD Gov Dept name changes	13th September 2017	A Portelli CCRC	13th September 2017
Annual Review and QLD Gov Dept name changes	16th August 2018	A Portelli CCRC	16th August 2018
Annual Review and QLD Gov Dept name changes	19th September 2019	A Portelli CCRC	19th September 2019
Annual Review – various minor amendments	15th August 2020	A Portelli CCRC	15th August 2020
Annual Review – various minor amendments	2nd September 2021	A Portelli CCRC	2nd September 2021
Annual Review and return submitted to IGEM	23rd August 2022	A Portelli	23rd August 2022
Annual Review and return submitted to	31st August 2023	A Portelli CCRC	31st August 2023

IGEM			
Rewrite of LDMP and information update	August/September 2023	A Portelli CCRC	

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Distribution determined by the LDMG
Electronic copies provided to all core LDMG members as a minimum

In accordance with section 60 of the Act, the LDMP is available for public view, free of charge via Council's website by searching "Local Disaster Management Plan" or via the link below:

Cassowary Coast Regional Council Disaster Information

DOCUMENT REVIEW

This document is to be reviewed at least on an annual basis to ensure its ongoing effectiveness. The LDMG may also choose to undertake a review of this and any other sub-plan at any other time in addition to the annual review as deemed necessary including following exercises or activations.

The process for the annual external assessment of the effectiveness of the LDMP will be determined by the Office of the Inspector General Emergency Management (IGEM) and be conducted in accordance with section 16C(b) of the Disaster Management Act 2003.

1 GOVERNANCE

1.1 Authority To Plan

Disaster Management in Queensland is underpinned by two key pieces of legislation. They are the Disaster Management Act 2003 (the "Act") and the Disaster Management Regulation 2014 (the "Regulation").

Sections 57 and 58 of the Act stipulate that all local governments must prepare an LDMP (including associated sub-plans) which must also be consistent with the Disaster Management Standard and Disaster Management Guideline to ensure there is an effective disaster management capability for the region.

Figure 1 - Disaster Management documents authorising environment

1.2 Key Objectives

The primary objective of the LDMP and the Cassowary Coast Regional Council disaster management system is to mitigate the effects of disasters on the community by ensuring a coordinated effort by all levels of government and non-government entities with responsibilities or capabilities in disaster management.

To achieve a safer, more sustainable and resilient community this plan promotes:

an ***all-hazards approach*** – promoting one management system for all hazards
a ***comprehensive approach*** – covering all phases of activity including prevention, preparation, response and recovery

1.3 Purpose Of The Disaster Management Plan

The purpose of the Plan is: -

To operationalise Council's legislative requirements in relation to disaster management through the formation and maintenance of the Local Disaster Management Group including roles and responsibilities of member and advisory agencies;

To ensure the Local Government and the Local Disaster Management Group comply with their disaster management obligations under the *Disaster Management Act 2003*;

Provide a framework for inter-agency collaboration when a multi-agency response is required to an event;

Promote community resilience through the provision of region specific community education and disaster management planning resources including hazard specific mapping and information.

The Cassowary Coast Regional Council is committed to:

Working within the State Disaster Management legislative framework, which focuses on a comprehensive, all hazards approach with all levels of government working in partnership to reduce the effects of disasters

Protecting health, safety and quality of life

Protecting our environment

Recognising and valuing the benefits of partnership and collaboration across all levels of government, community and industry, in all aspects of disaster management

Respecting the diversity of Queensland communities

Ensuring accountability and transparency of disaster management in Queensland

1.4 LDMP Structure

The LDMP is the overarching document that provides the detail around the disaster management response for the Cassowary Coast region including the function of the LDMG and the roles and responsibilities of the various LDMG stakeholders.

The LDMP details the planning for, response to and the recovery after a disaster event including post-event debriefs. The LDMP is intended to be a "living document" that is updated as needed either as a result of annual review, legislative changes, annual exercises or learnings identified from the activation for the response to an event to ensure it provides for an efficient, timely and coordinated response.

1.5 LDMP Sub-Plans/Hazard Specific Plans

As the strategic level document, the LDMP is supported by a series of sub-plans which provide the specific actions and responsibilities relating to key operational response capabilities. These sub-plans are designed to complement the intent and key objectives of the LDMP and are implemented independently of the LDMP.

The suite of sub-plans currently consist of the flowing:

Activation
Evacuation
Public Information and Warnings
Financial Management
Recovery
Evacuation Facility Management
Impact Assessment
Public Health and Medical
Logistics

In addition to the various sub-plans, hazard specific plans also play a critical role in response. An example of a hazard specific plan is:

Koombooloomba Dam EAP

1.6 Business Continuity Planning

All member agencies and advisories to the LDMG must have their own Business Continuity Plans to ensure they maintain the capability to respond to an event and maintain critical service levels to the community and other stakeholders.

It's intended that the LDMP will work in conjunction with and in support of the individual agency BCPs and not in place of.

1.7 Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements

Queensland has developed and implemented a tiered disaster management structure called the Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements (QDMA).

This structure is unique in that Local Government holds the primary responsibility for developing and coordinating disaster management planning and response at a community/regional level within their local government area. The principal behind this is that Cassowary Coast Regional Council is best placed to plan and respond to local events based on it's in depth understanding of environmental, social and economic intricacies along with management of key community infrastructure.

During a disaster event, the initial response is provided by Council and other LDMG members and advisories as needed. Once the local resources are exhausted, formal requests are made to the District Disaster Management Group who then either provide the required resources or escalate to the State and potentially Commonwealth for assistance.

A more detailed explanation of the QDMA is available here including structure, processes and functions of the various levels.

In addition, the QDMA can be demonstrated in figure 2 below.

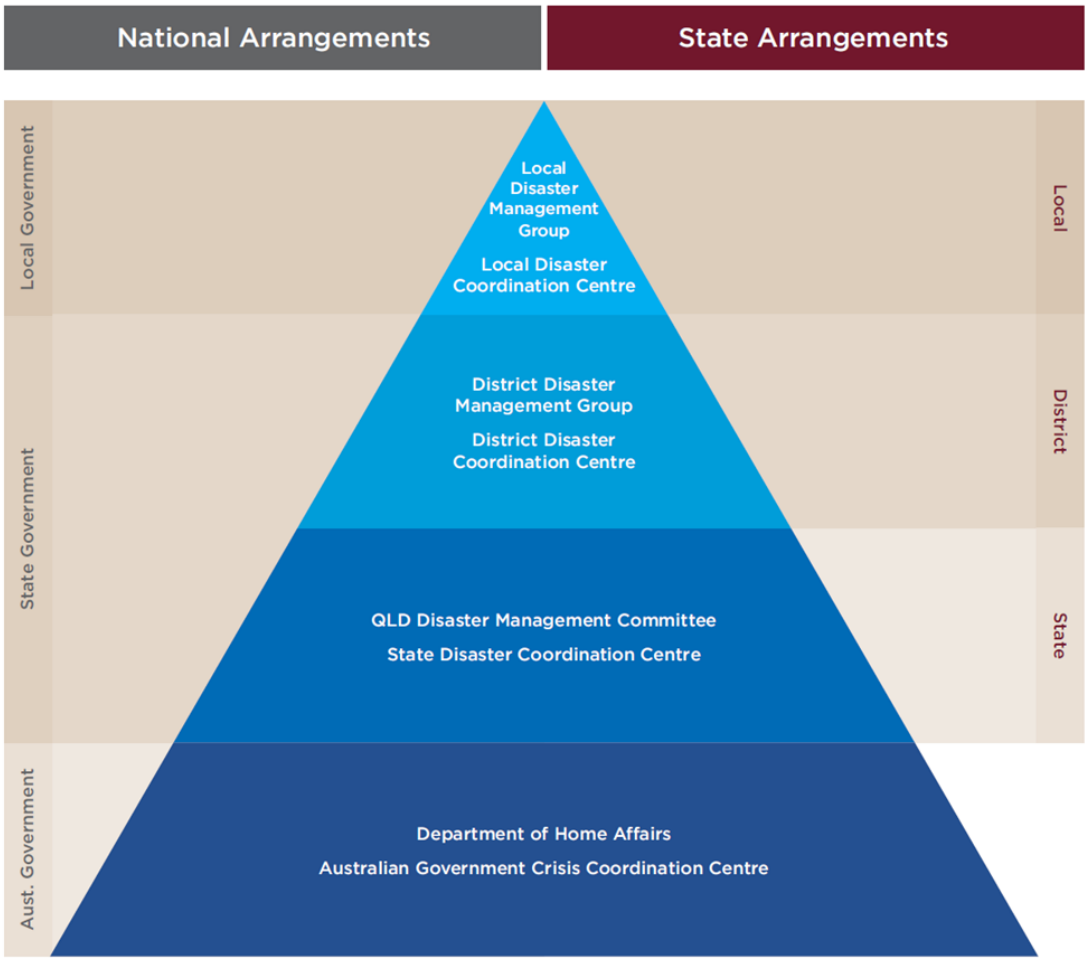
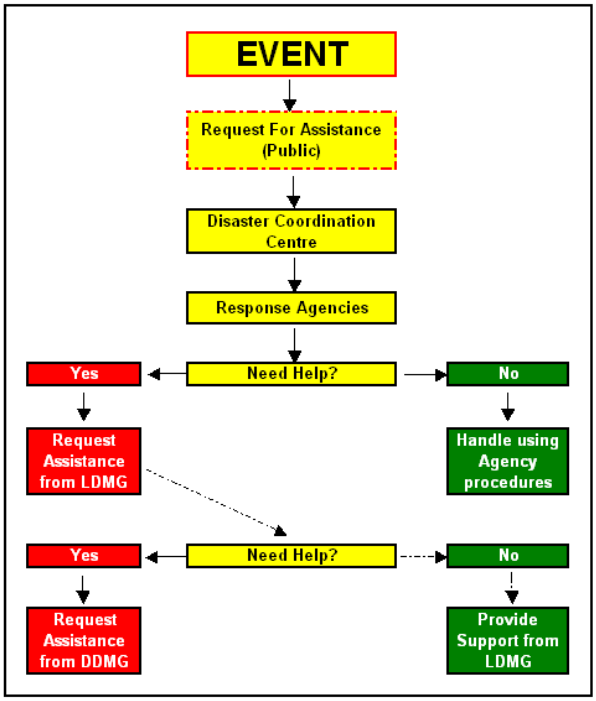


Figure 2 – the QDMA Structure

The following table depicts the disaster management system in operation at local level:



1.8 Disaster Management Strategic Policy Statement

The LDMP is consistent with the Disaster Management Strategic Policy Statement, which informs the State Government's strategic approach to keeping people safe and making communities more resilient to disaster risks and impacts.

The LDMG takes a flexible and scalable approach to disaster management, which reduces the risk and enhances community resilience while ensuring effective response and recovery capabilities.

1.9 Disaster Management Guiding Principles

In accordance with section 4A(b) of the Act, all events, whether natural or caused by human activity, should be managed in accordance with the Strategic Policy Statement, the State Disaster Management Plan (SDMP) and relevant disaster management guidelines. The Act identifies four key principles that guide disaster management in Queensland:

Comprehensive approach - The comprehensive approach to disaster management comprises the four PPRR phases. This approach ensures a balance between the reduction of risk and the enhancement of community resilience, while ensuring effective response and recovery capabilities.
The four phases of PPRR overlap and support each other. For example, recovery activities are likely to begin during the response phase and mitigation strategies may be considered during the recovery phase.

All-Hazards Approach - The all-hazards approach assumes the functions and activities used to manage one event are likely to be applicable to a range of events, whether natural or caused by human activity.

Local Disaster Management Capability - Local level capability is recognised as the frontline for disaster management, primarily due to the benefits of localised knowledge and networks.

Support from District & State Groups - The Act establishes a District Disaster Management Group (DDMG) for each of the districts in Queensland, to provide support when required or requested by an LDMG.

The Queensland Disaster Management Committee (QDMC) provides additional support and assistance when required or requested by a DDMG. The State Disaster Management Plan (SDMP) provides a framework for response and recovery operations.

1.10 IGEM Emergency Management Assurance Framework

Part 1A of the Act establishes the IGEM and Office of the IGEM. The priority for the Office of the IGEM is to facilitate improvements to Queensland's disaster management arrangements to enable confidence in the system and enhance public safety. The functions of the Office of the IGEM are detailed in section 16C of the Act.

The Emergency Management Assurance Framework (EMAF), developed by the Office of the IGEM in partnership with disaster management practitioners, provides the foundation for guiding and supporting the continuous improvement of entities' programs across all phases of disaster management. The EMAF outlines the structure and mechanism for reviewing and assessing the effectiveness of disaster management arrangements. The EMAF is comprised of Principles, the Standard for Disaster Management in Queensland ('Standard') and Assurance Activities.

1.11 Integration with Cassowary Coast Regional Council's Corporate, and Operational Planning Processes

Local government plays a major role in disaster management. Under the Disaster Management Act 2003 one of local governments' main roles is to ensure it has a disaster response capacity. An all hazards approach is taken when writing disaster management plans.

Council incorporates Disaster Management into Council's core business functions by -

Assigning Council resources to maintain a capability to coordinate the response and resources for an event or disaster within the Cassowary Coast Regional Council area.
Actively provide information and warnings about an event or disaster to the public and appropriate emergency services as per legislative responsibility
Annually review and exercise disaster management plans.
Actively provide public education on disaster preparedness.
Actively mitigate against potential disaster situations to reduce community vulnerability.
Liaise with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services on disaster management planning.
Assist local SES groups to maintain operational standards.
Actively provide disaster management training to staff and the Local Disaster Management Group.
Actively work with the community towards strengthening community resilience against disasters.
Assist State and Federal agencies in the recovery of the community after an event or disaster.

1.12 Local Government Development Priorities

In accordance with State Planning Policy, development approvals (Planning and Building) and sustainable agricultural management practices are adopted and assessed against the relevant legislation and Planning Scheme for the region.

2 LOCAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT GROUP

2.1 Role & Responsibilities of Local Government

The Act details a range of functions and responsibilities for local government to ensure it meets its statutory obligations. Under Section 80 of the Act, a local government is required to undertake the following functions:
To ensure it has a disaster response capability.
To approve its LDMP.
To ensure information about an event or a disaster in its area is promptly given to the DDC for the district in which its area is situated.
To perform other functions given to the local government under the Act.

In accordance with section 80 of the Act, a disaster response capability for local government means the ability to provide equipment and sufficient human and other resources to effectively manage or help another entity to manage an emergency or disaster in the local government area.

To ensure this can be achieved, CCRC has specific emergency management plans and procedures in place which details specific responsibilities in disaster management that reflect their legislated and/or technical capability.

In addition to these functions, Section 29 of the Act specifies that local government must establish an LDMG for the local government's area.

2.2 Local Disaster Management Group Functions And Composition

Under section 29 of the Act, an LDMG must be established by a local government to support and coordinate disaster management activities for their respective LGAs.

The Cassowary Coast Regional Council Local Disaster Management Group has the following functions:-

- To ensure that disaster management and disaster operations in the area are consistent with the State group's strategic policy framework for disaster management for the State;
- To develop effective disaster management, and regularly review and assess the disaster management;
- To help the local government for its area to prepare a local disaster management plan;
- To identify, and provide advice to the relevant district group about, support services required by the local group to facilitate disaster management and disaster operations in the area;
- To ensure the community is aware of ways of mitigating the adverse effects of an event, and preparing for, responding to and recovering from a disaster;
- To manage disaster operations in the area under policies and procedures decided by the State group;
- To provide reports and make recommendations to the relevant district group about matters relating to disaster operations;
- To identify, and coordinate the use of, resources that may be used for disaster operations in the area;
- To establish and review communications systems in the group, and with the relevant district group and other local groups in the disaster district of the relevant district group, for use when a disaster happens;
- To ensure information about a disaster in the area is promptly given to the relevant district group;
- To perform other functions given to the group under this Act;
- To perform a function incidental to a function mentioned above.

When a Member of the Local Disaster Management Group identifies a Deputy or Proxy to act on their behalf, this Deputy will be appointed to the Local Disaster Management Group by signed notification which is then approved by the Chair of the LDMG.

Any member of the Cassowary Coast LDMG may appoint a delegate to attend the meetings on the member's behalf, and the delegate will have the authority to make decisions and commit resources affecting that organisation. Member Delegates are to be nominated to the LDMG by their respective Member Agencies in writing on agency letterhead.

Observers, Advisors and guests may attend the LDMG meetings and participate in discussions but do not form part of the Local Disaster Management Group or have voting rights.

The process for collection, storage and management of members, deputy members and advisors contact details will be in accordance with the Information Privacy Principles contained in schedule 3 of the Information Privacy Act 2009. Membership will be updated at least annually, in accordance with s.37 of the Disaster Management Act 2003.

Refer to Appendix A for current membership and contact details.

The State Disaster Management Group and the District Disaster Management Group (DDMG) are to be advised annually of membership of the Group under the requirements of Section 37 Disaster Management Act 2003.

All members of the Local Disaster Management Group must be duly appointed and must undertake training in terms of the Queensland Disaster Management Training Framework which can be located at

Queensland Disaster Management Training Framework

2.3 Local Disaster Management Group Meetings

Under Section 38 of the Act, the Cassowary Coast Local Disaster Management Group conducts regular scheduled meetings monthly during the storm season (November to April) and bi-monthly outside of this period. During periods of activation the LDMG meets as and when required to support the LDCC operations.

The venue for the LDMG meetings will be the Innisfail Disaster Coordination Centre, Flying Fish Point Road, Innisfail unless otherwise advised. Meeting dates and times will be set and distributed at the first LDMG meeting of each year. Meetings may be held as face to face meetings, via teleconference or via video conferencing or a combination of methods as deemed most appropriate at the time.

Meeting Quorum : The quorum for conducting a meeting is the number equal to one-half of members plus one (1). Members can join the LDMG meeting by utilising any form of technology that allows members to hear and take part in the discussion. If a member chooses to do this, their attendance is counted towards quorum.

Presiding at Meetings : All LDMG meetings will be presided at by the Chair of the LDMG. The Chair of the LDMG must be a councillor of the Local Government. If the Chair is unavailable then the Deputy Chair will preside if present. If both these members are absent and neither have appointed a Deputy or a member to act as Chair, then under section 41 of the *Disaster Management Act 2003* the members present can choose a member to preside as the Chair for the meeting.

Appointment of LDC : The Chief Executive Officer for Cassowary Coast Regional Council has delegated authority to appoint the LDC for the CCRC LDMG.

Minutes : The LDC will organise for Minutes of each LDMG meeting to be taken, stored and distributed to each member as soon as practical following the meeting, but before the next meeting. The Minutes will record attendance, apologies, records of discussions, agency reports, resolutions passed and details of next meetings.

A resolution made by the LDMG is only valid when a majority of members vote in agreement, however it can also be valid if a majority of members gives written agreement to the resolution and notice of the resolution is given under procedures approved by the group. The procedure for notice of a resolution will be that each member has an email sent to them and if a majority of members reply in agreement than the resolution will be approved. Each resolution will be minuted. "

2.4 LDMG Operational Decision-Making Capability

The LDMG Chair and LDC are authorised to make initial operational response coordination decisions on behalf of the full LDMG to initiate the disaster management arrangements and while acting in accordance with LDMG approved plans and procedures. The Chair and LDC have an exclusively operational response coordination function, which will not replace the policy decision-making role of the full LDMG.

2.5 Cassowary Coast Regional Council Local Disaster Management Group Membership

The composition of the Cassowary Coast Regional Council Local Disaster Management Group is as follows:-

Title	Membership	Organisation
Mayor	Core	Cassowary Coast Regional Council (Chairperson)
Councillor or	Core	Cassowary Coast Regional Council (Deputy)
Local Disaster Coordinator	Core	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Chief Executive Officer	Advisory	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Director, Infrastructure Services	Advisory	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Director Development & Environmental Services	Advisory	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Local Recovery Coordinator	Advisory	Cassowary Coast Regional Council
Emergency Management Coordinator	Core	Queensland Police Service
Inspector/Officer In Charge	Core	Queensland Fire and Emergency Service
Officer-in-Charge	Core	Queensland Ambulance Service
Senior Sergeant	Core	Queensland Police Service
Innisfail DDMG XO	Advisory	Queensland Police Service
Director of Nursing	Core	Queensland Health

Senior Advisor Emergency Management	Advisory	Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads
Cairns Harbour Master	Advisory	Maritime Safety Queensland
Manager	Advisory	Canegrowers Organisation Ltd
Site Manager	Advisory	CleanCo / Koombooloomba Dam
Area Manager	Advisory	National Broadband Network
Regional Manager	Advisory	Department Of Women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Multiculturalism

2.6 Roles And Responsibilities Of Participating Agencies

The primary role of all agency representatives to the LDMG is to act as the liaison officer between that agency and the LDMG and have the ability to provide advice on behalf of that agency.

The core members and advisors of the LDMG should have:

- the authority to commit their respective organisation to the LDMG's decisions
- the ability to effectively navigate their respective organisations to seek approval for the commitment of their organisation resources
- a sound understanding of the QDMA and this LDMP.

Key agency responsibilities are detailed in Appendix C of the State Disaster Management Plan on pages 72 to 104.

2.7 LDC Financial Delegation

The Local Disaster Coordinator has authority as Disaster Coordinator, Cassowary Coast Regional Council to incur expenditure up to $20,000 for disaster related matters during a disaster event. In addition, the Local Disaster Coordinator is authorized under a number of sub plans to direct staff and coordinate resources necessary for particular functions to be undertaken in relation to appropriate response to a disaster event. The Local Disaster Coordinator also works within the Council organizational structure with direct access to senior staff with higher financial delegations and authority to deploy further resources as required.

2.8 LDMG Recovery Group & Subgroups

A single overarching Recovery Group may be formed or the LDMG Recovery Group may decide to activate one or more of the following 5 Recovery Subgroups:

Human-Social Recovery Subgroup
The key function is to address the human-social recovery aspects of a disaster.

Economic Recovery Subgroup
The key function is to address the economic recovery aspects of a disaster.

Environmental Recovery Subgroup
The key function is to address the environmental recovery aspects of a disaster.

Built Infrastructure Recovery Subgroup
The key function is to address the built infrastructure recovery aspects of a disaster.

Road and Transport Infrastructure Recovery Subgroup
The key function is to address the road and transport infrastructure recovery aspects of a disaster.

The Chair of the LDMG may establish additional temporary or permanent subgroups to manage the business of the LDMG.

2.9 Reporting Requirements

The Cassowary Coast LDMG shall report its activities via the Local Disaster Management Group Annual Report at the end of each financial year and provide the completed report to the Innisfail District Disaster Management Group .

Operational Reporting
Extraordinary meetings of the Local Disaster Management Group will be convened on an as required basis during disaster operations.

The frequency of operational reporting in the form of SITREPS to the District Disaster Management Group and consequently to the State Disaster Management Group will be communicated by the District Disaster Coordinator.

Situation Report (SITREPS)
During operational activity the Cassowary Coast LDMG, through the operation of the Local Disaster Coordination Centre, will be responsible for the preparation and distribution of SITREPs. Situation reports are utilised to capture accurate information from the day's operations through communicating a current and forecast situation during a disaster event.

The Cassowary Coast LDMG will ensure regular and accurate information is received from operational areas to inform operational response, forward planning and the contents of the LDMG SITREP. The LDC will ensure that appropriate staff in the LDCC to compile the SITREP.

If a disaster event requires the activation of the Cassowary Coast LDCC, the LDC will ensure that a SITREP is developed and is forwarded regularly from the LDCC to the DDCC. If an event is contained within a local government area and has not progressed to DDCC activation, the DDMG will still have activated to 'lean forward' level and the DDC may still request LDMG SITREPS to monitor and assess the situation.

The nature of the disaster and the involvement of the DDMG will determine the timings, complexity and format of the SITREP for a given event.

A template for a LDMG to produce a SITREP to a DDMG during disaster operations is available on the DM Portal.

The SITREPS will be forwarded to the Executive Officer of the Innisfail DDMG as well as all members of the Cassowary Coast LDMG.

2.10 Post Disaster Assessment

All staff involved in disaster activations or exercises are expected to participate in hot debriefs. Debriefs should be conducted at the end of exercises and operational shifts to ensure information is captured whilst still fresh in people's minds. This will ensure that all lessons learnt during operations are captured and that any necessary amendments can be made to improve future responses.

2.11 Post Operational Reports

The Cassowary Coast LDMG is committed to processes promoting continuous improvement that involves disaster management processes and arrangements being regularly reviewed, evaluated and improved to ensure they remain relevant, efficient, effective and flexible and align with District and State planning.

2.12 Training and Exercises

The QPS Emergency Management Coordinator for the region works closely with the LDC and LDMG to design and deliver a training program based on the requirements of the Queensland Disaster Management Training Framework (QDMTF) which outlines the core training courses and inductions relevant to the key disaster management stakeholders.

Exercises are used to help review the effectiveness of the LDMP. Exercises can take many forms, from simple discussion type exercises to full scale operations.

3 DISASTER RISK ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING

3.1 Risk Based Planning

In Queensland, the Queensland Emergency Risk Management Framework (QERMF) provides the basis for the risk-based planning to occur through the completion of the risk assessment process.

The QERMF assists key stakeholders working within Queensland's Disaster Management Arrangements (QDMA) to review existing natural disaster risk management processes and assist in enhancing resilience as outlined within the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience.

3.2 Regional Profile

In order to develop effective and detailed disaster management plans, a detailed understanding of the region's profile and potential hazards is required and will assist in reducing community vulnerability and the impact of disasters and assist in speeding up the recovery process and building resilience.

The following detail provides an overview of the region and potential hazards.

3.3 Geography

The region covers approximately 4,701 square kilometres. The area consists, topographically of coastal flood plains with the Great Dividing Range on the western side of the region. There are four major river systems, the Johnstone River, the Murray River, the Tully River and the Hull River; just south of Innisfail is the Moresby River, a short river which flows out to Mourilyan Harbour.

Numerous creeks enter the sea throughout the region's coastline. These river systems flood easily isolating a major portion of the community. Areas that may become isolated or affected by flooding are Innisfail, Mourilyan, Silkwood, Japoonvale, Moresby, El Arish, Euramo, Feluga, Silky Oak, Mission Beach / Bingil Bay area, Tully / Hull Heads, Jarra Creek, Jumbun Indigenous Community, Lower Tully, Kings Ranch, Kurrimine and Cowley Beach.

There are many islands fringing the region's coast, most of which are uninhabited. The most famous of these are Dunk, Bedarra and one of the world's largest island national parks, Hinchinbrook. Re: Appendix A – Map of Cassowary Coast Regional Council Area.

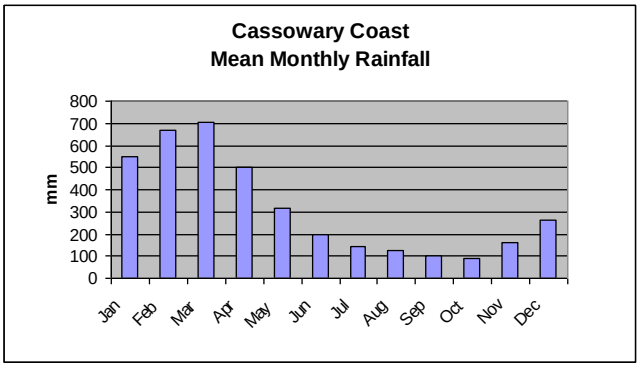
The Cassowary Coast region shares boundaries with the Hinchinbrook Shire, Tablelands Region and Cairns.

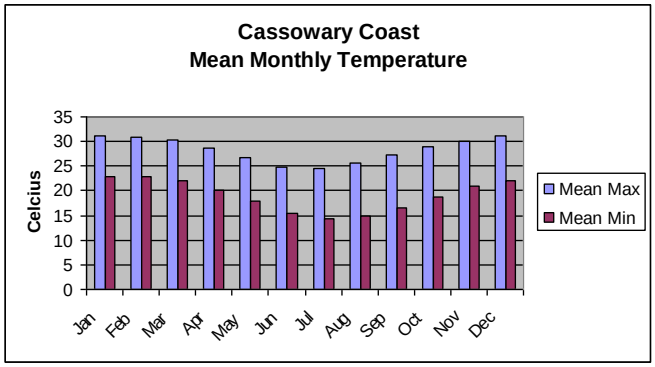
3.4 Vegetation

The region is home to world heritage listed rainforests and one of the last habitats of the Cassowary; an icon to this region. The Cassowary is a large, colourful, flightless bird that is a keystone species of rain forests. Approximately 196,760 Ha of the combined area is listed under the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. 281,605.1 ha is mapped as remnant vegetation and 63,428.43 Ha is mapped as non-remnant. 39.9 Ha is forestry plantation and approximately 22,816 Ha of Mangrove ecosystems.

3.5 Climate and Weather

The region is located in the heart of the tropics. This area is known as the wettest area in Australia with a topical climate consisting of a wet summer season from November to March and a dry winter season from April to October. During the wet, humidity is frequently over 90% with temperatures in the low to mid 30's C during the day and upper 20's C at night. During the dry season from April to October, blue skies and sunshine abound and the temperatures and humidity are lower. The daytime temperatures in the dry season are in the mid to upper 20's C with the nights on the lowland coast creeping down to the 10-15 C range.





Monthly average annual statistics for rainfall and maximum and minimum monthly temperatures. (Source:BoM)

3.6 Population (Source: ABS 2021 Census data)

The population of the region is approximately 29,157. This number fluctuates during and at the end of the tourist season.

Snapshot of community profile *(Source: ABS 2021 Census data)*

People (Persons count based on place of usual residence on Census night)		
Male	14,983	51.4%
Female	14,173	48.6%
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people	3,206	11.0%

The main township is Innisfail, with the next largest population centres being Tully, Cardwell and Mission Beach. Urban areas include residential, commercial, industrial, entertainment and tourist land uses. Rural land is used largely for agriculture, particularly sugar cane farming and banana growing, with some tropical fruit and vegetable growing, cattle grazing, timber production and fishing. Tourism is an important industry, with world-heritage rainforests, beaches, tropical islands, coastal ranges and numerous resorts.

Of the households counted in the Region at the 2021 ABS Census, 68.2% were family households, 28.4% were lone person households and 3.4% group households. Family households include couple families with children, couple families without children, and one-parent family households.

There were 12,813 occupied private dwellings in the region as at the 2021 ABS Census. Of these, 86.7% were separate, detached houses; 6.1% semi-detached; 4.4% flats, units or apartments and 2.3% other dwellings such as caravans, tents, sheds, etc.

At the 2021 ABS Census, the Cassowary Coast region had a high proportion of home ownership at 39.5%, compared to the Queensland average of 29.1%. A further 23.9% of households were purchasing their house with a mortgage. The region's median monthly mortgage repayment was $1300, comparatively lower than the Queensland median monthly repayment of $1733.

At the 2021 ABS Census, 31.0% of households were renting, with a median weekly rental payment of $250, lower than Queensland's weekly rental average of $365.

3.7 Population Prediction ***(Source:QLD Treasury)***

Population predictions estimate by 2046 for the region to be between 30,182 and 33,156.

The bulk of this expected growth will be in the Sth Mission / Wongaling Beach area and Innisfail.

As at Census 2021, the majority of residents (8,411) were aged between 45 and 64 years but by 2046 this is forecast to change to a majority of residents (8,908) being aged over 65.

3.8 Cultural Diversity

The original inhabitants of the region are the Mamu, Djiru, Girramay, Gulnay, Jirrbal and Bandjin Aboriginal people. At the 2021 ABS Census, 16.7% of the Cassowary Coast region's population identified as being of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.

Of the people in the region, as at the 2021 ABS Census, 76.6% indicated they were born in Australia and 75.9% indicated they spoke only English at home. The most common other countries of birth included England, India, New Zealand, Italy and the Philippines. Other languages spoken at home included Cape York peninsular languages, Punjabi, Italian and Hmong
.

3.9 Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage

The Australian Bureau of Statistics Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage (IRSAD) is an index that summarises the relative disadvantage of people and households within an area. The IRSAD considers a range of economic and social condition variables to determine an area's relative disadvantage score. Indicators include low income, unemployed, without internet, have no/low educational attainment, undertake low skilled employment, have health conditions, no personal transport, poor English, or are one parent families. A low score is indicative of a relatively greater general disadvantage in the population when compared with other areas.

In 2021 the Cassowary Coast region received a relative disadvantage score of 902. This score placed the region in the 26th percentile when compared to all Queensland LGAs, meaning the level of relative disadvantage in the region was representative of being below the State's median.

3.10 Community capacity

Long term and rural residents are generally resilient and to a large extent self supportive. Isolation and previous experiences of disaster events has meant that this group of people would be to a large extent self sufficient; at least for several days. Newer and younger residents with no memory or experience with a disaster event, such as TC Larry, would be less prepared to cope and more dependent on government services.

The increased reliance on social media and other electronic devices and communications is also perceived as a risk as the resilience of the communications network is not high in rural locations. Mobile phone networks and the NBN are both highly susceptible to damage from disaster events including flood and cyclone leaving individuals and communities unable to communicate and unable to receive vital response and recovery information.

There are also three aged care facilities within the Cassowary Coast region. These facilities are all required to have their own emergency management business continuity plans in place to ensure the safety of their residents including those requiring ongoing medical assistance such as renal dialysis.

3.11 Economic Base

The region continues to experience levels of economic growth. The mainstay of the economy, agriculture, in its many forms including banana farms, cane production, cattle breeding and fattening along with farms dedicated to other tropical fruits is in a healthy condition; despite the fluctuations in market price for a number of commodities. However, whilst the significant annual rainfall coupled with warm temperatures creates the ideal growing conditions for a number of crops such as sugar cane, bananas and tropical produce the region's economy and prosperity is particularly sensitive to events such as cyclones or floods which affect its rural sector.

The people employed within the area are directly or indirectly employed in primary industries.

Tourism is an emerging industry with the region located in the middle of the Great Green Way; there is a range of tourism opportunities, such as environmental, historical, agricultural and traditional touring.

As at Census 2021, 24.5% of couple families were both employed either full time or part time and a further 30.3% of family households had at least one person employed full time. Unfortunately 25% of couple family households had both members unemployed compared to the State average of 20.5%.

3.12 Employment By Industry

(Source: ABS 2021 Census data)

Employment by Industry	
Industry	**Total**
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	2764
Mining	55
Manufacturing	983
Electricity, gas, water & waste services	143
Construction	673
Wholesale trade	229
Retail trade	1122
Accommodation & food services	820
Transport, postal & warehousing	539
Information media & telecommunications	52
Financial & insurance services	120
Rental, hiring & real estate services	113
Professional, scientific & technical services	306
Administrative & support services	325
Public administration & safety	683
Education & training	1,166
Health care & social assistance	1,622
Arts & recreation services	101
Other services	438
Inadequately described/Not stated	397
TOTAL	**12,917**

3.13 Critical Infrastructure

Residential Buildings

The majority of buildings in the region are a mixture of high and low-set dwellings of timber or masonry/concrete constructions with iron roofing; there is a mix of double storey buildings.

A substantial proportion of the building stock is over 30 years old and was constructed prior to the introduction of improved cyclone-rated building codes. Such structures have been more susceptible to damage during tropical cyclones and major storms than newer buildings, which have fared reasonably well, including during Tropical Cyclones Larry and Yasi.

Commercial Buildings

There is a concentration of Art Deco buildings within Innisfail's CBD which have been mostly built during the 1920 - 1930s after a devastating cyclone in 1918. Buildings in the business centre of Tully are generally double storey and most are also over 20 years old; therefore they have been constructed prior to the introduction of improved cyclone-rated codes. Construction materials are mainly concrete and brick with iron roofing. Cantilever awnings cover the footpath.

Roads

The Bruce and Palmerston highways are the primary arterial roads through the region. The Bruce Highway provides road access north and south of the region whilst the Palmerston Highway traverses the northern end of the region in a generally westerly direction from Innisfail to the western boundary of the region. The steep nature of the mountains on the western side of the southern end of the region has limited the construction of roads in and out resulting in only two roads leading out; both of these are on the coastal plain and subject to flooding.

Major towns in close proximity to the region include Cairns (approx. 90km north of Innisfail on Bruce Hwy.), Atherton (approx. 100km west of Innisfail along Palmerston Hwy), Ingham (approx.. 100km south of Tully on Bruce Hwy) and Townsville (approx.. 200km south of Tully on Bruce Hwy.).

The Council maintain a local road network of approximately 1296 klms. Significant roads in the area include:

The Innisfail to Japoon Rd and Silkwood to Japoon Roads	These connect Innisfail with Sth Johnstone, Mena Creek, Japoonvale, Bombeeta, Germantown, Camp Creek and Wangan.
Mourilyan Harbour Rd	Connects Mourilyan (Bruce Hwy) to Mourilyan Harbour
Flying Fish Point Road	Connects Innisfail with Flying Fish Point and Jubilee Grove
Tully-Mission Beach Road	Connects Sth Mission Beach, Wongaling Beach, East Feluga, Carmoo and Merryburn area to the Bruce Highway and Tully. The road passes through the mostly uninhabited area of the Tam O'Shanter Forest Reserve and Mt Mackay State Forest.
Tully Hull Road	Connects Hull Heads, Tully Heads and Lower Tully area to the Bruce Highway and a small section of the mostly uninhabited area of Hull River National Park.
El Arish to Mission Beach Road	Connects Mission Beach to El Arish and the Bruce Highway.
Tully Gorge Road	Provides access to the Cleanco Hydro Power Station.

Including the major roads listed above, the secondary road network in the region is generally surfaced with bitumen; however, minor roads are predominantly gravelled with a small number of areas where the roads are not well formed.

Railways

The North Coast railway line is a primary railway line in Queensland, it runs from Brisbane to Cairns. The line runs through the region from north to south; mostly parallel along the Bruce Highway. The line services both freight and passenger transport services. The region also has a large network of cane railways.

The railway network can be affected by localised flooding in various locations in the region resulting in the suspension of services. Depending on the duration of the rain event and resultant damage, the line may be closed for several days or longer.

Airfields

Council owns and operates three airstrips, Tully, Mundoo and Dallachy, suitable for light aircraft only. A number of charter companies operate from these facilities.

In addition to the local airstrips, there is a domestic/international airport located in Cairns to the north and a domestic airport in Townsville to the south. There are also various small private airstrips in the region owned and maintained by commercial agricultural aerial spraying contractors.

Throughout the region there are numerous locations where rotary wing aircraft can land in emergency situations. These mainly comprise of sporting fields, school ovals and parks.

Tully Airstrip: Being Reserve for Landing Ground Aircraft R.581
Latitude: Latitude-17º 56′, Longitude-145º 57′
Altitude above Sea Level: 15.24m
Surface
- Type - Bitumen 600m x 10m, remainder soil aggregate.
- Effect of rain - Soil aggregate section becomes slippery and unsafe after heavy rain.
- Rough - smooth, smooth
- Lengthwise gradient - 0.26%

Landing Strip
- Direction - 6º
- Length - 915m
- Width - 18m
- Northern end Bitumen sealed (600m x 10m)
- Prepared and cleared (1220m x 61m)
- Wind sock - north west

Approaches
- Direction - 6º
- Angle (gradient) flat
- Direction angle - 186º

Remarks
- Reference to surrounding terrain - Sugarcane and light scrub
- Position relative to homesteads etc - Couple of farmhouses in vicinity. One km from Tully Post Office. Adjacent to Golf Club and clubhouse.

Night Landing Facilities:Nil

Aerodrome Facilities: Nil

Refuelling: By private arrangement (Supplier will meet plane)

Landing Fees: Contact council for current fees and charges

Dallachy Airstrip: Being Reserve for Landing Ground for Aircraft R.691
Latitude - 18° 10′, Longitude-145° 56′A
Altitude 15.50m

Surface
- Surface Type- Soil Aggregate
- Effect of rain- Soil aggregate becomes slippery and unsafe after heavy rain.
- Rough-smooth, smooth.
- Lengthwise gradient- 0.50%

Landing Strip
- Direction - 137°31′
- Length - 1000m
- Width - 15m
- Prepared and cleared (1500m x 60m)

Remarks
- Reference to surrounding terrain - Cultivated land and light scrub
- Position relative to homesteads etc - Several farmhouses in vicinity. Ten km from Cardwell Post Office. Approx. 800m east of Bruce Highway.

Night Landing Facilities:Nil

Aerodrome Telephone: Nil

Refuelling: By private arrangement

Innisfail Aerodrome – Mundoo

Latitutude: 17° 33.7 S, Longitude -146° 00.6 E

	Runway 1 - [03/21 Bearing]	Runway 2 - [14/32 Bearing]
Runway Length:	1343 m	1353 m
Runway Width:	30 m	30 m
Construction:	Grassed	Sealed
Pavement Rating:	Unrated	9/F/B/580 (84psi)/U [Light Aircraft]
Side slope:	0.3% down to NE	0.2% down to SE

Runway Lighting: Pilot Activated Lighting (PAL) - Frequency: 125.3 MHz

Avgas: Available through: Hinchinbrook Air Services
Phone (B/H) (07) 4061 2241
Fax (07) 4061 4060
Navaid facilities: NDB - Code IFL - Coordinates S17 33.7 E146 00.9 - Range 25,(DW)50 - Pilot monitored

Communication Services: FIA: Brisbane Centre - Circuit: Area 124.6 .
Special Procedures: All aircraft departing for Cairns shall obtain a specified departure time from ATC by phoning (07) 4050 5380

Power

Provision of electricity supply is categorised as an essential service. Ergon Energy services the area. Ergon Energy assets in the region consist of transmission lines, sub transmission lines, major zone substations and distribution feeders. Provision of electricity is essential to the economy of the region, supporting industrial, commercial and residential sectors of the region.

As part of any disaster recovery process maintenance and restoration of electricity supply is considered a critical component in supporting other essential services and community infrastructure.

Kareeya Power Station

The hydro electric power station is located at the Western end of Tully Gorge road; water is released into the Tully River from Koombooloomba Dam and flows approximately 13 kilometres to the Tully Falls Weir, which is situated just above the Tully Falls. The weir is a regulating pond for Kareeya Hydro, which sits about two kilometres below the Tully Falls. Generated capacity: 84 megawatts; equivalent homes powered 70,000. Power enters the Queensland high voltage electricity grid at Kareeya switchyard. Stanwell Corporation Limited manages the facility.

Telecommunications

Communications in the region are relatively good, mobile coverage has been increased with the installation of the Murray base; though there may be limited mobile coverage in the upper reaches of the Tully River area. Smaller communities within the region also have coverage but there will be isolated area's that still miss because of hills or hollows. During extended power outages these communications may drop out.

Internet - high speed internet connection (NBN) is available across the Region, however some premises may require additional work prior to connection. ADSL and satellite-based access is still used in some rural and remote areas.

Telephone Communications - similar to other Queensland regional areas, landline and mobile communication services are provided by Telstra, Optus and Vodafone, with service ranging from reliable to no or low coverage. Multiple “black-spots” exist in the region which are devoid of all communications.

Communications are considered to be vulnerable, generally due to exposure from high winds during an event and loss of power and reduced accessibility after an event. Given the NBN relies on power supply at all stages through the network, the resilience of the network during

disaster events is very low. Mobile phone towers also have limited to no backup power redundancies in case of mains power outage so the mobile network resilience is also low.

Residents are encouraged to consider the vulnerability of their communication networks in their preparedness planning. Some residents are moving toward stand alone satellite communications infrastructure such as “Starlink” to enable internet connection when all else fails.

Water Supply, Sewage & Waste Disposal

Water

Provision for a safe and adequate supply of water is essential. The Cassowary Coast Regional Council has four water supply schemes:

Innisfail Water Supply Scheme (6069 connections)	Servicing Innisfail, Daradgee, Wangan, Flying Fish Point, Mourilyan, Mourilyan Harbour, South Johnstone, Mena Creek and other small residential communities
Nyleta Water Supply Scheme (1935 connections)	Servicing Silkwood, El Arish, Kurrimine Beach, Bingil Bay, Mission Beach and other small residential communities
Tully Water Supply Scheme (3,322 connections)	Servicing Tully, Feluga, South Mission Beach Wongaling Beach, Hull Heads, Tully Heads, Silky Oak and Euramo
Cardwell Water Supply Scheme (1,025 conections)	Servicing Cardwell and Kennedy

From a vulnerability perspective, the tropical location of the area normally ensures that ample water supplies exist however extreme conditions for a protracted period have jeopardised primary water supply sources in recent years. Some water storage facilities are relatively small, and some areas are occasionally asked to reduce use to avoid boil water notices being issued.

In extreme weather events, high turbidity (cloudiness) means that chlorination is not effective, and boil water notices are issued until the source clears. Power is also required to support water distribution and
treatment and an extended power failure may lead to a loss of reticulated water supply. Some sites are fitted with permanent generators and the remaining sites can take external generators. Contingency supplies can be sourced from alternate locations in an emergency.

Sewerage

Provision of adequate sewerage and waste water disposal infrastructure is critical. Cassowary Coast has three sewerage schemes:

Innisfail Sewerage Scheme (3,916 connections)	Servicing the general Innisfail township area
Mission Beach Sewerage Scheme (2,327 connections)	Servicing North Mission Beach, South Mission Beach and Wongaling Beach

Tully Sewerage Scheme (1,114 connections)	Servicing the general Tully township area

All of the plants rely on power from the local power supply authority and loss of power has the potential to result in health and/or environmental problems. All sites have generator backup power.

Premises outside of declared sewerage areas use privately owned onsite wastewater treatment systems, predominantly septic systems.

Trade waste discharge is regulated under the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008. Permits are required for trade waste discharged into the sewer system.

Public RV Sanitary Dump Points are located in Innisfail, Mission Beach, Tully and Cardwell.

Stormwater

Adequate control of stormwater is essential for providing access for emergency vehicles, residents, farms and businesses, and for controlling damage to property and the environment. The Cassowary Coast has a vast network of culverts and drains incorporated with existing river and creek systems to enable to quick drainage of stormwater.

In extreme events and severe storms, flash flooding and localised flooding which cause some roads to be impassable and isolate some locations are considered normal for the region and will usually drain quite quickly once the heavy rain as eased.

Referable Dams

There is one referable dam which impacts the Cassowary Coast which is the Koombooloomba Dam. This dam is unique in that the dam itself sits within the Tablelands Regional Council area but the effects of a dam failure will predominantly impact on the Cassowary Coast region. The failure of the dam has the potential for considerable damage to agricultural land and crops along with homes and commercial premises in the Tully Valley area through to Euramo and along the length of the Tully River to Tully Heads.

See Hazards for further details.

Waste Management

Disaster conditions will overwhelm normal tip facilities and planning for the utilisation of emergency methods of disposal are contained in the Waste Management Emergency Plan. In a disaster, the control of public health problems such as vector/vermin control will depend on the efficiency which all refuse is collected and removed.

Council operates 2 primary waste transfer facilities at Stoters Hill (Innisfail) and Tully along with smaller facilities located at Bells Creek, Mission Beach, Cardwell, Murray Upper and Hull Heads.

Full details of these facilities is available here

Medical Facilities

Innisfail Hospital offers Acute Care Services, Accident and Emergency Services, Medical Services and a wide range of Specialist Services. Tully hospital although small meets the majority of residents needs. There are several medical facilities located mostly in Innisfail's CBD which are privately owned as well as two medical centres in Tully, one medical centre in both Mission Beach and Cardwell. The indigenous community of Jumbun located in the Murray Upper region also has a health care centre. In more serious cases, or where highly specialised care is required, patients are referred to the Cairns Base Hospital or the Townsville Hospital.

Innisfail Hospital Facility Services: Location – Rankin St, Innisfail

Hospital	Accident and Emergency Care Services; Medical Services; Acute Care Services
Specialist Services	Aged Care; Palliative Care; Alcohol and Drug; Speech Pathology; Social Work; Occupational Therapy; Physiotherapy; Oral Health; Pathology; Radiography; Pharmacy
Clinics Available	Ante Natal, Wound Management, Internal Medicine
Allied Health Services	Social Worker, Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist, Speech Therapist
Outreach Services	Paediatric
HACC Services	Frail Aged and Young Disabled and their carers
Other Aged Services	Nil
Visiting Specialist Services	General Medicine; Orthopaedics; Thoracic Medicine; Psychiatry; Surgical
Community Health	School/Child Health Screening; Immunisation Clinics; Parent Education; Mental Health; Drug & Alcohol Services; Health Promotion; Youth Suicide; Diabetes Educator.

Tully Facility Services: Location – Bryant St, Tully

Hospital	Accident and Emergency Care Services; Medical Services; Low Risk Maternity Services
Specialist Services	Pharmacy; Radiography; Physiotherapy; Occupational Therapy; Oral Health; Social Worker
Clinics Available	Immunisation; Well Women's
HACC Services	Visiting Aged Care
Visiting Specialist Services	Radiotherapy, Psychiatry; Social Work; Mental Health

Australian Defence Force

The Tully Military Training area known as the 'Jungle Training Wing' covers 13 300ha 11km north-west of Tully, within the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area.

3.14 Hazards

This plan has been developed within the context of an 'All Hazards' approach, however, the main threats to the region have been identified as: -

Storms/Cyclones and Flooding

Due to its geographical positioning the area can experience cyclones during the months of November to April, which is known in the Far North as the cyclone season or wet season; however, some cyclones have been recorded as late as June. Cyclones usually lose intensity over land.

Cyclones, and the after affects such as heavy rainfalls, often result in flooding from two directions; the Pacific Ocean to the east and from the Gulf of Carpentaria to the northwest. In the past crop damage from cyclonic winds and flooding has caused major economic losses.

Storm surge poses the greatest risk to the areas of Lower Tully, Tully Heads, Hull Heads, Sth Mission Beach, Nth Mission Beach, Wongaling Beach, Cardwell, Port Hinchinbrook, Kurrimine Beach, Mourilyan Harbour, Flying Fish Pt, Etty Bay, Cowley Beach as well as the coastal islands of Dunk, Hinchinbrook and Bedarra Islands, all of which have resorts, and Goold and Garden Islands which have camping ground facilities. Bingil Bay would be at risk in an extreme storm tide event.

Full details and flood mapping can be found in Council's Interactive Mapping located on Council's website.

Storm Tide

Along with the risk of cyclone comes the risk of storm tide. This is the process of higher than forecast tides as a result of the lower internal pressure of a cyclone crossing or nearing the coast along with the significant waves that are generated by the cyclone.

Storm tides pose a significant threat to not only coastal communities but those that live along rivers and creeks that flow directly to the ocean.

A series of Storm Tide Evacuation Maps have been developed for all coastal and adjacent communities in the Cassowary Coast.

Landslides

The landslide threat to the population within the area is low. However, during constant heavy rainfalls landslides may intermittently block the Tully Gorge Road near Cardstone. Areas with a slope greater than 15% such as Coquette Pt, Bingil Bay and Flying Fish Pt may be vulnerable to landslides.

Bushfire

The majority of the region is under World Heritage, National or State Forest Parks or Crown Lands, with the remaining being available for residential and industrial use. The greater part of the eastern region is classified as a medium bushfire hazard area. Re: Appendix C - Bushfire Risk Analysis Map

Earthquakes

From historical data it could not be stated that the region is a high risk area in terms of the likelihood of being subjected to an earthquake at a sufficient level to cause significant loss. Nevertheless, it is within the realms of possibility that the region could be impacted by such an event. It is of particular note that the epicentre of an earthquake can be over 100km from the point of impact.

Epidemics

The risk of an outbreak of disease such as pandemic influenza throughout the population could cause the health system to be taxed to its limits and may involve the isolation and quarantine of a substantial number of people for a protracted period.

Emergency Animal Disease

Potential exists in Australia for the rapid spread of exotic animal diseases with a subsequent impact on the rural and national economy. One of the secondary industries in the north of the region is cattle breeding/fattening. An animal disease such as foot and mouth disease would impact on the local scene.

There are no poultry producers within the region. Any instance of disease such as Avian Influenza or Newcastle Disease would only affect domestically kept birds and wildlife.

Exotic Plant Disease

The region's main agricultural economy is sugar, banana and to a lesser degree tropical fruits. With their increasing value to the area's economy, a major outbreak of disease in either the fruit or sugar industry would have a major economic affect.

Tsunami

From historical data it could not be stated that the region is at high risk in terms of the likelihood of being subjected to a Tsunami. Nevertheless, it is within the realms of possibility that the area could be impacted by such an event

Heatwaves

According to the Bureau of Meteorology, severe and extreme heatwaves have claimed more lives than any other natural hazard in Australia. Heatwaves can be dangerous because they pose health risks to the most vulnerable, such as elderly people and very young children. Heatwaves can also affect the transport, agriculture and energy sectors and associated infrastructure.

The Cassowary Coast region has occasionally experienced heat waves. The National Heatwave Forecasting and Assessment Service is a BoM product that operates from the start of November to the end of March. It provides warning of unusually hot conditions allowing government, emergency services and communities time to implement measures to reduce the impact.

Queensland Health are the lead agency for issuing advices and warnings in relation to heatwaves.

Major Infrastructure Failure

The widespread loss of power, with consequential interference with telecommunications, water supply, or sewage treatment systems will have a major impact on the community. As power outages in the area are mostly due to cyclonic activity the possibility of roads being cut off due to flooding may result in the services being disrupted for extended periods.

Disruption of communications facilities will also have a major impact on the disaster management coordination capacity in the affected area.

Dam Failure

Cassowary Coast has one referrable dam which is the Koombooloomba Dam operated by Cleanco. Koombooloomba Dam is located on the Atherton Tablelands within the Tablelands Regional Council area. It is a central mass concrete spillway with flanking earth-rockfill embankments and two separate saddle dam embankments on the crest across the Tully River, approximately 36km north-west of Tully and 35km south-southeast of Ravenshoe.

Koombooloomba Dam was built in 1960 for hydroelectric power generation and provides recreational opportunities and commercial white-water rafting in the Tully River. Restrictions apply to watercraft on the lake above 90% and below 25% dam level for safety and environmental reasons.

CleanCo Queensland is the current owner of the dam and has undertaken flood mapping and impact assessments as part of the development of their Dam Emergency Action Plan. This plan also includes details of properties at risk of impact based on various failure scenarios. The EAP has been compiled with consultation with the Cassowary Coast LDMG and desktop exercises have been conducted as part of CeanCo's emergency preparedness procedures.

Climate Change

Climate change is being linked to the increasing frequency and severity of natural hazards. Climate Change in the Far North Queensland region indicates the area will be increasingly affected by higher temperatures, hotter and more frequent hot days, more intense rain events and less frequent but more intense tropical cyclones.

The Cairns, Tablelands, Mareeba and Yarrabah Councils are undertaking a pilot Climate Resilient Alliance to accelerate the delivery of on-ground climate transition and adaptation actions.

Council has recently completed the Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy to identify the potential risks of climate change and the impact on the region along with actions Council and other stakeholders may be able to undertake to mitigate some of these impacts.

Further information is available in the Queensland Government's Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan for Climate Change.

3.15 Residual Risks

Residual risks are the risks that remain after the LDMG has applied the risk mitigation strategies within their capacity, but those strategies have not sufficiently reduced or eliminated the risk. This list is not exhaustive and further residual risks will likely emerge as the QERMF is progressed.

Issue	Current Capacity	Residual Risk	CCRC Capacity
Inability to provide sufficient spaces in cyclone shelters and/or places of refuge	Existing capability for sheltering of approx. 1,100 people in designated cyclone shelters for short duration however LDMG has limited capacity, staffing and resources for: long term events or concurrent events. evacuation of large numbers, or an entire community, from or into the region concurrently managing multiple cyclone shelters , places of refuge or evacuation centres longer duration evacuation	Request for Assistance to DDMG for assistance	Limited
Extensive damage to homes resulting in long term resident displacement	Limited capacity exists to open post event evacuation centres or use commercial accommodation for short duration. No capacity exists for longer-term events where multiple properties have been damaged.	Request for Assistance to DDMG for assistance	Limited
Widespread or sustained loss of essential services	Council has backup generators on majority of essential infrastructure including water treatment plans, sewerage plants and main depots and administrative centres including the Disaster Coordination Centre. Once capacity is exceeded, assistance will be required. Limited capacity exists to operate the LDCC and Council operations without internet as phones will also be impacted.	Request for Assistance to DDMG for assistance	Limited – purchase of Starlink as temporary backup in case of major comms failure but will have limited capacity.

Issue	Current Capacity	Residual Risk	CCRC Capacity
Availability of staff and agency representation during response and recovery from an event	CCRC undertakes staff and stakeholder training each year around the use of Guardian and the operation of the coordination centre and cyclone shelters, but staff numbers are limited, and some critical roles have no experienced contingency. If agencies are not available to the LDMG, assistance will be required from the DDMG to ensure they are engaged.	Request for Assistance to DDMG	Limited
Asbestos contamination from damaged buildings	The community has limited personnel trained in or equipped for asbestos removal. External expertise will be required.	Request for Assistance to DDMG	Limited
Mass-casualty events	Limited capacity within the region to respond to events with multiple fatalities or multiple serious injuries.	Request for Assistance to DDMG	Limited
Significant damage to or loss of LDCC	There is one purpose-built coordination centre in the region. If this was compromised, there is a backup plan to locate at alternate premises but would take considerable time and resources to do so.	Request for Assistance to DDMG	Limited
Exotic animal diseases	Limited capacity exists and assistance will be required to manage and control outbreaks.	Request for Assistance to DDMG	Limited
Public health risks	Council has two Environmental Health Officers. In a major event, external EHO assistance will be required.	Request for Assistance to DDMG	Limited

Business continuity management	CCRC has a suite of Business Continuity Plans for the various departments and functions of Council. Every effort will be made to ensure critical functions are maintained to the best of capability but external assistance will be required depending on extent of disruption.	Request for Assistance to DDMG	Limited

4 PREVENTION

4.1 Prevention

Prevention refers to activities, policies and procedures undertaken to eliminate, mitigate or reduce the likelihood of a disaster occurring, or the severity should it eventuate.

Hazard mitigation is the action taken in advance of a disaster, aimed at eliminating or reducing the impact on the community, economy, infrastructure and environment.

In 2013 Council contracted AECOM to undertake a Natural Hazard Risk Assessment which included significant stakeholder engagement to produce a report that identified that major risks and hazards which may impact the region along with current and proposed mitigation activities.

The implementation of appropriate and targeted mitigation initiatives will provide a more effective and sustainable benefit and result in a safer, more resilient and sustainable community that will recover more quickly.

4.2 Planning Scheme/Land Use Planning

Effective land use planning in areas susceptible to natural hazards can significantly mitigate disaster risk and the impact of hazards should they arise and enhance the resilience of existing and future communities. Regulating the use and development of land is a key strategy to avoid risk to life, property and environment, and reduce damage and disruption to the community.

Cassowary Coast Regional Council adopted a new planning scheme on 3 July 2015. The Cassowary Coast Planning Scheme 2015 regulates land use and development across the region and delivers Council's local planning aspirations for the region. The scheme replaced the Johnstone Shire Planning Scheme 2005 and Cardwell Shire Planning Scheme 2007, providing a consistent planning regime for the whole council area.

In addition to the above scheme, the Coastal Hazard Adaptation Strategy outlines suggested actions and policies which take into account the potential impacts of climate change on the region.

4.3 Building Codes, Regulations & Legislation

Given the region is susceptible to tropical cyclones and flooding, the application of appropriate building codes and building use regulations ensures structures and critical infrastructure are designed and constructed to standards that reduce the likelihood of damage and injury in an event. Standards and codes should be referred to and enforced, particularly for the design and construction of major infrastructure and components of essential services.

4.4 Hazard Reduction

Individual LDMG agency stakeholders are responsible for implementing appropriate hazard reduction programs for risks under their control.

As an example, CCRC, QFD, QLD Department of Environment and Science, Indigenous Rangers and various landowners undertake annual hazard reduction burn program for bushfires. This includes a program of targeted fuel reduction and back-burning, maintenance and development of fire breaks. The Area Fire Management Group consists of various stakeholders including Council, Rural Fire and Indigenous Rangers and provides strategic fire mitigation programs, operational preparedness and response, risk identification and hazard reduction burning as part of the development of the Area Fire Management Plan.

4.6 Continuous Improvement

Continuous improvement is an ongoing process that involves disaster management processes, policies, procedures and arrangements being regularly evaluated and improved to ensure they remain fit for purpose, efficient, effective and flexible. Improvements may be identified following the activation for an event or following an exercise designed to test aspects of a response.

5 PREPAREDNESS

5.1 Training Program

A comprehensive disaster management training program in line with the Disaster Management Training Framework underpins the safe and effective response and recovery from a disaster event. The training will include specific training, through workshops, discussion forums, and formal instruction or through training exercises in order to maintain the disaster management knowledge and understanding levels of all participants at the highest possible level.

The preparedness of the LDMG specifically refers to ensuring the plans and arrangements are in place to ensure the necessary response following an event is able to be undertaken with the necessary resources.

Capacity building occurs across the phases of prevention and preparation and is built through activities that ensure ongoing improvement of the disaster management arrangements. The implementation and delivery of LDMG meetings, workshops, training and exercises are critical elements in the continuous improvement of disaster management capacity building.

5.2 Public Preparedness, Awareness and Capacity Building

Under Section 30 of the Act, LDMGs are required to ensure the community is aware of ways of mitigating the adverse effects of an event and preparing for, responding to and recovering from a disaster.

Local knowledge is invaluable to the disaster planning process and the community plays a key role and should be encouraged to contribute to its own safety and build resilience. As part of the pre-season disaster preparedness community engagement activities, communities are encouraged to prepare for disasters in ways that can reduce the impact on their home, family, friends, pets, communities and themselves. Being prepared will build a better level of understanding of disaster events and their potential impacts and reduce anxiety by being better prepared and having clear plans in place for what actions they will undertake.

The various community education and awareness programs focus on creating resilient communities. Resilient communities understand the risks they face; know how to prepare themselves, their home and their community for a disaster; can adapt to the circumstances; recover quickly; and emerge stronger than their pre-disaster state.

5.3 Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience

Statistics show that Queensland is the most disaster impacted state in Australia. Queenslanders are known for their resilience and ability to adapt, with a strong community spirit that supports those in need to plan, respond and recover from a variety of disaster events.

Preparedness and resilience of individuals and communities is considered a shared responsibility of all sectors, including all levels of government, business, NGOs and individuals. Disaster resilience is significantly increased by proactive planning and preparation for the protection of life, property and environment through an awareness of hazards, associated risks and local disaster management arrangements.

The Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience is the guiding policy for ensuring Queensland is the most disaster resilient state in Australia. This is underpinned by four key objectives:

- Queenslanders understand the potential disaster risks they face
- Queenslanders work together to better manage disaster risk
- Queenslanders seek new opportunities to reduce disaster risk
- Queenslanders continually improve how they prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters

5.4 Get Ready Queensland

Get Ready Queensland is a Statewide initiative aimed at providing information and resources to Queenslanders to assist in preparing for, responding to and recovering from disaster events.

In conjunction with the state level campaign, the LDMG undertakes a series of community forums, presentations, displays and community awareness days as part of promoting the annual Get Ready Program.
These community engagement programs build resilience in preparation for seasonal hazards (storms, bushfires, floods, etc) and empower the community to understand their local risks and prepare themselves, their families, homes, communities and businesses. The Get Ready Queensland program promotes three steps to Get Ready:

Understand your risk
Prepare a household emergency plan
Prepare an emergency kit

Queenslanders are impacted by more natural disasters than anyone else in Australia. Everyone's disaster risk is different as natural hazards are largely determined by location. Other hazards such as pandemic and heatwave can happen to anyone at any time. It's important to know your disaster risks so you can be prepared. Being ready will help reduce the impact of a disaster on yourself, your loved ones, home, family, finances and business. The first step to being ready is to find out what, when, and where a disaster might happen, how severe it could potentially be, and if you would be affected.

5.5 Disaster Dashboard

The Cassowary Coast Disaster Dashboard is designed to be a hub of vital information to assist the community to remain informed and aware of the current situation. The dashboard brings together key information including weather warnings, road closures, power outages, evacuation centres and helpful contacts and links to useful disaster-related information and social media.

6 RESPONSE

6.1 Response Capability

A critical first step in the response to a disaster event is the activation of the Local Disaster Management Group. The LDMG will activate in response to an actual or potential event that will significantly impact on the community and that will require a significant coordinated multi-agency response and recovery effort.

The decision to activate the LDMG is based on defined triggers and the perceived level of threat to the community.

The ultimate decision to activate the LDMG rests with the LDMG Chair based on information available to hand. The Chair may also consult with the core LDMG membership with regards to the decision to activate.

6.2 Activation Procedure

The disaster management response procedures may be activated for a variety of reasons. The decision making process is based on positive responses to any or all of the following criteria:

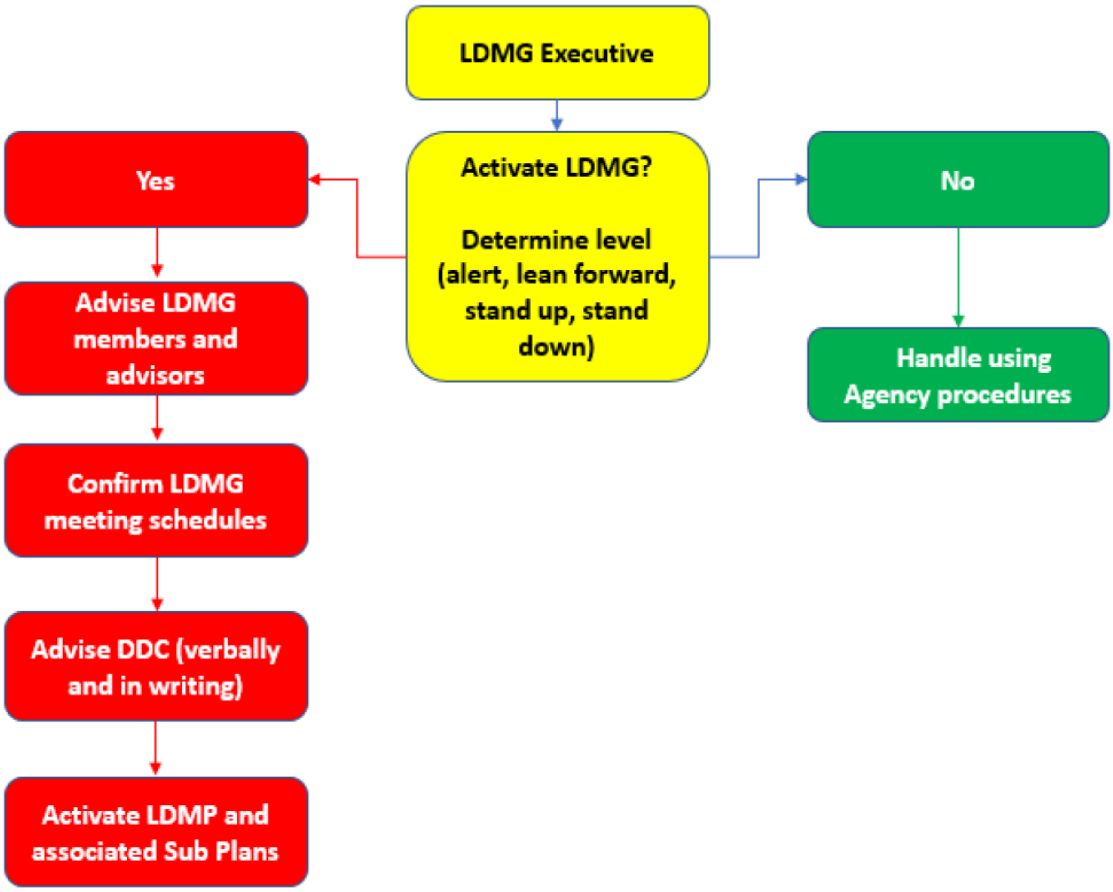
Is it likely there will need to be a coordinated multi-agency response to an impeding event or hazard?
Has there been a formal request or direction from the District Disaster Coordinator to activate the LDMG?
Has there been a request from a response agency to provide support or resources and coordination in relation to a current operation?
Has there been a rapid onset event that has required the LDMG to respond in terms of the PPRR protocols?

As a matter of course, the activation of the Local Disaster Management Plan and the associated sub-plans occur automatically in line with the activation of the LDMG.

LDCC Levels of Activation – Triggers and Actions

	Triggers	Actions	Communications
ALERT	A heightened level of vigilance due to the possibility of an event.	Monitor situation closely – watching brief. Initial advice to stakeholders. Refer LDC checklist.	Chair and LDC communicating remotely.
LEAN FORWARD	Operational state prior to stand up. Heightened level of situational awareness and a state of operational readiness.	Ensure relevant facilities are set up and rosters developed as required (e.g. LDCC and evacuation centres) Formal briefing of LDMG. Public information and warnings initiated. Refer LDC checklist.	Chair, LDC and LDMG members on mobile and monitoring email remotely. Ad-hoc reporting.
STAND UP	Threat is imminent. Community has been or will be impacted. Resources are mobilised, personnel are activated, and operational activities commence.	Activate staff and facilities as needed (e.g. LDCC and evacuation centres). Manage disaster operations.	Formal SITREP reporting.
STAND DOWN	Transition from responding to an event to normal core business and/or recovery operations.	Implement plan to transition to recovery. Debriefing and identification of lessons.	Final response SITREP to DDC.

LDMG Activation Notification Flowchart



6.3 Disaster Declaration

Section 64(1) of the Act states the District Disaster Coordinator (DDC) may, with the Minister's approval, declare a disaster situation for the district, or a part of it, if satisfied that a disaster has occurred, is occurring or is likely to occur, in the disaster district or it is necessary, or reasonably likely to be necessary, for the DDC or a declared disaster officer to exercise declared disaster powers to prevent or minimise:

- loss of human life
- illness or injury to humans
- property loss or damage
- damage to the environment

The DDC is to take reasonable steps to consult with each local government in, or partly in, the proposed declared area before declaring a disaster. As outlined in sections 75 to 78 of the Act, the declaration confers extra powers on particular groups to perform actions, give directions and control movements within the declared area.

The declaration of a disaster situation relates to the situational requirement for additional powers and is not linked to the activation of particular disaster management groups under the QDMA or the activation of disaster financial assistance arrangements. All three actions are independent processes and are not interlinked or conditional. The declaration of a disaster does not impact the requirements of a local government under the Act to manage disaster operations in their area.

6.4 Activation Of The Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC)

The multi-agency response to the event is coordinated from the LDCC. The primary LDCC is located at the Disaster Management and Public Education Centre in Innisfail Coordination Centre, Atherton. The activation of the facility will be undertaken in terms of the Activation Sub Plan and, in most instances, will be activated prior to the impacts of an event other than rapid onset events.

Should the primary LDCC location be deemed as not appropriate for any particular reason, secondary locations have been identified in the Activation Sub Plan.

6.5 Response Priorities

The response to any disaster event must be scalable and appropriate to the impacts of the event and involves the application of appropriate response measures by multiple agencies to respond appropriately. The initial response activities should also take into account any longer term implications or further impacts following the event. Particular focus will be on minimising the impacts on people in the most impacted areas to ensure they have the support they need to remain safe and recover.

These priorities apply to any response, in order of priority:

- Preservation of life.
- Protection of critical infrastructure and property.
- Safeguard the economy.
- Protect the environment.

6.6 Response Principles

Once intelligence has been received to indicate a disaster event will impact an area or a rapid onset event has occurred, the LDMG will undertake the following:

- commence planning and activate early to prepare for the response and coordination of disaster operations
- begin communications with and collaboration with the responsible lead agencies and the DDMG to manage and coordinate disaster operations
- develop and distribute early accurate, timely and consistent warnings, alerts and public information
- ensure disaster operations and response activities of all agencies are coordinated to adhere to the response priorities
- ensure resources are available and efficiently and effectively deployed
- provide support to meet community needs
- provide situational reporting.

A key function of the LDMG is to ensure the responsible lead agency or agencies are supported by the disaster management system. The responsible lead agencies for each hazard are identified in the State Disaster Management Plan in Section 8.2.3 (pages 47–50).

6.7 Public Information & Warnings

When an event is imminent, it is essential the public receive as much advanced warning of the danger and are provided with information and advice on recommended actions. The key objective is to deliver accurate, clear, timely information and advice to the public, so they feel confident, safe and well informed, and are aware of any recommended actions.

The LDMG in conjunction with other lead agencies will issue advices and warnings to the community through the Australian Warning System which is a standardised warning system being implemented Australia wide but with localised warnings for specific regions and communities.

These warnings are in addition to the other specific hazard warnings issued by lead agencies such as weather warnings issued by the BOM.

These warnings will be broadcast through local media, social media and also be available through the Disaster Dashboard.

6.8 Evacuation

Evacuations are recommended and/or ordered primarily to protect the safety of residents. Evacuations carry inherent risks to those being evacuated and emergency personnel assisting and managing the evacuation. Consideration must be given to the risks associated with any evacuation. In many circumstances, sheltering in place may provide greater safety for the community depending on their location and resilience of their home or place of shelter.

As part of their preparations for storm season, all residents are asked to consider what hazards they would need to evacuate for and how they would evacuate and where they would go.

6.9 PUBLIC HEALTH

A significant event will cause major disruptions to the community. Major infrastructure could be compromised including water supplies, sewage treatment, waste disposal, and access to safe food along with impacts on the health sector including hospitals and medical clinics reducing or overwhelming the system.

The LDMG suite of sub plans includes a Public Health Sub Plan which details various actions which may be undertaken to help mitigate some of these issues.

6.10 Financial Management

The expenses in relation to various aspects of the response to an event may be able to be claimed by Council under various State and Federal Government funding streams. In accordance to meet the criteria for the funding/reimbursement of these costs, operational expenditure needs to be appropriately detailed, recorded and tracked using specific task and work order numbers established specifically for the event. Expenditure needs to be finalised at the conclusion of the event including collating invoices, making payments and claiming funding. For further information refer to Financial Management Sub Plan.

6.11 Damage Assessment

Following a disaster, damage assessments will be instigated as soon as safe to do so to determine the extent of the impacted area, the damage to homes, businesses, infrastructure and essential services, and the level of hardship being experienced in the community.

QFD are the lead agency with regards to the Rapid Damage Assessments however all agencies are able to contribute to damage assessments through operational reporting (i.e. dam owners on storage levels, QPS on missing people, Queensland Health on people requiring hospitalisation / medical treatment and council on damage to it's infrastructure).

The damage assessment data will be critical in informing the areas/locations most in need of immediate assistance following an event and aid in the appropriate and timely deployment of the necessary resources to those locations to assist in the immediate response and recovery operations.

6.19 Resilient Communities Being Prepared

In the lead up to and following an event, residents should try and remain calm and to think clearly. By being prepared and having clear plans in place for their preparations, sheltering and evacuation planning this will all assist in reducing their anxiety.

Remember, there are many vulnerable members of the community too and they may need your help or you may need the help of others. Timely and accurate information is key when making decisions about your safety so ensure you seek information from reliable and reputable sources.

Regardless of what the disaster event may be, planning and preparing early is the key. Some simple actions which residents should do to minimise the risk to themselves and their loved ones are:

- Activate your household emergency plan and get your emergency kit out and ready
- Stay inside and clear of windows, doors and other openings during storms.
- Shelter in the safest part of your house (internal room, hallway or built-in wardrobe). Do not venture outside until the event is completely past. This includes not going outside in the eye of a cyclone.
- Avoid using electrical appliances.
- If outdoors, seek immediate shelter in a solid, enclosed space away from trees, power lines, drains and waterways.
- Stay tuned in to reliable information — CCRC Disaster Dashboard; CCRC Facebook page and the BOM weather and warning updates.

6.20 Resupply

The State Disaster Management Group Queensland Resupply Manual describes the various roles and responsibilities of different levels of the disaster management system in relation to Resupply.

The LDMG in conjunction with QFD and any other agency as needed are responsible for ensuring communities are as prepared as possible, have established resupply procedures in place and that local retailer resources for essential items are identified. The State Resupply Manual outlines the specific guidelines for what items can and can't be ordered for resupply.

7 RECOVERY

7.1 Definition Of Recovery

The Queensland Recovery Plan defines disaster recovery as "*the coordinated process of supporting disaster-affected communities' psychosocial (emotional and social) and physical well-being; reconstruction of physical infrastructure; and economic and environmental restoration (including restoring the natural environment, associated infrastructure and heritage sites and structures, and the management of pollution and contamination)".*

7.2 Foundations For Recovery

The activation of formal recovery measures may arise from a range of natural and non-natural disasters, often providing an opportunity to rebuild a stronger, more resilient community.

Recovery often begins in the latter part of the response phase once the impacts have been properly identified. Recovery is often a long term, challenging and complex process and is often considered the most resource-intensive and protracted element within the PPRR framework.

The Recovery process focuses on building a recovered community. While funded recovery programs under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements have a two-year life span, it is recognised that the time it takes for a community to recover will vary based on the impact of the event, the individuals in the community and the level of preparedness within the community.

7.3 Characteristics Of Successful Recovery

Supporting the National Principles for Disaster Recovery, the Australian Disaster Recovery Framework has identified key characteristics of successful recovery. The Queensland Recovery Plan has combined some of these characteristics and suggests they be considered when developing, implementing and reviewing recovery sub-plans and recovery programs. The characteristics are outlined below:

Community-led	Respects the role of all communities in recovery and seeks to engage, enable and include those more at risk in disasters throughout the recovery process.
Dynamic and tailored	Reflects the specific context of the event and unique history, values and dynamics of affected communities whilst reflecting and anticipating community needs, priorities and aspirations in a complex environment.
Evidence based	Recovery programs are designed, managed, monitored and evaluated on the basis of needs and impacts of potentially compounding consequences as well as evidence from diverse sources.
Collaborative, scalable and capability focussed	Recovery programs are implemented in a scalable, collaborative and flexible manner drawing on the compatibility

	of functions and resources. They recognise, utilise and grow existing recovery capabilities.
Resilient	Enables the sustainable enhancement of lives, livelihoods and community resilience.

Source – Queensland Recovery Plan

7.4 Appointment Of Local Recovery Coordinator

An appropriately qualified and authorised person has been appointed as the Local Recovery Coordinator (LRC) to coordinate and facilitate local recovery operations. The LRC and the LDC liaise regularly to ensure response operations support the recovery effort and the LRC has good situational awareness to ensure their disaster recovery planning is relevant to the community.

Depending on the event, some of the duties of the LRC may include (but are not limited to):

- liaising with lead agency representatives at the local and district levels
- liaising with the DDMG
- working with identified agencies and the community to develop the event-specific recovery plan
- coordinating short- to medium-term recovery to address immediate effects and develop longer-term measures
- ensuring the event-specific recovery plan addresses functional areas of recovery — human and social, economic, environment, built infrastructure and roads and transport
- performing the role of conduit between community and government
- developing and implementing strategies for community participation and partnership in the recovery process
- providing advice to the State Government on the needs and responses of affected individuals, community and other sectors
- undertaking a post-operation debrief and providing a final report to the LDMG at the conclusion of recovery operations
- providing or delegating the responsibility for ongoing recovery reporting on the progress of the event-specific recovery plan.

7.5 Activation Of LDMG Recovery Group

The LDMG will consider the impact of an event during the response phase. If the event is of sufficient magnitude, the LDMG may decide to activate the Local Recovery Group (LRG). The LRG may be activated in a variety of circumstances including when:

- an event results in significant loss or damage is sustained and impacts the community, economy, environment and/or infrastructure
- an event creates significant disruption to the community's connectedness, or overwhelms local resources or the capacity of the community to cope or recover independently
- the LDMG determines there are ongoing impacts and requires a coordinated and collaborative multi-agency approach to recovery
- requested to activate by the DDMG.

The LRG is chaired by the Mayor and is responsible for coordinating recovery activities and ensuring recovery efforts are implemented across the region. An event specific Recovery Plan and Terms of Reference can be adapted to the specific circumstances of the event**.**

Recovery Group Position	**Organisation**
Chair	Mayor
Local Recovery Coordinator	TBC
Secretariat	CCRC Support Officer
Core Members	Chair & Advisory of Human-Social Recovery Subgroup Chair & Advisory of Infrastructure Recovery Subgroup Chair & Advisory of Environment Recovery Subgroup Chair & Advisory of Economic Recovery Subgroup
Supporting Members/Advisors	Department of Families, Seniors, Disability Services and Child Safety Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation Department of Transport & Main Roads Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers Department of Housing and Public Works

7.6 Activation Levels, Triggers & Communications

Recovery activation levels closely follow response activation levels. This means recovery actions are triggered early in the event cycle before the disaster has occurred. This table identifies the recovery activation levels, triggers and communications.

Response	**Recovery**	**Triggers**	**Actions**	**Communications**
Alert	Watching Brief			
Lean Forward	**Alert**	• Response phase at lean forward level.	• Appoint LRC if required. • Identify potential actions and risks. • Share information. • LRC in contact with LDCC/LDC. • Provide initial advice to recovery stakeholders.	• Maintain communication between LDC and LRC. • LRC and Recovery Group mobile.
Stand Up	**Lean Forward**	• Response phase at stand up. • Assess impacts and determines if Recovery Group is required. • Immediate relief arrangements are required during response phase.	• Monitor response arrangements. • Analyse hazard impact or potential impact. • Commence relief and recovery planning. • Deploy immediate relief by recovery functional agencies. • Formalise Recovery Group and Subgroup structures and reporting requirements.	• LRC and Recovery Group mobile. • Commence Recovery Group planning meetings. • Increase reporting as required by the LRC and DDMG and QDMC. • Develop community engagement and communication. • LRC to liaise with State Recovery Coordinator (SRC).

Stand Down	**Stand Up**	• Relief arrangements continue. • Response phase moves to stand down. • Medium-term recovery commences. • Finalise LRG arrangements. • Community returns to normal activities with ongoing support as required.	• Activate Recovery Group at LDCC or alternate location. • Activate Recovery plan. • Deploy community information strategy. • Participate in response debrief. • Activate transition arrangements from response and recovery to recovery, including handover from LDC to LRC. • Continue action plans for five functions of recovery. • Continue community information strategies.	• Continue LRC and LRG involvement in medium-term recovery. • Lead agencies report to LRC/ LRG as required. • LRC to continue to liaise with SRC as needed
	Stand Down	• Finalise Recovery Group arrangements. • Community returns to normal activities with ongoing recovery support as required under pre-agreed arrangements and processes.	• Consolidate financial records. • Finalise reporting. • Participate in recovery debrief. • Participate in post event debrief. • Conduct post event review and evaluation. • Transfer long-term recovery arrangements • to lead agencies. • Return to core business.	• LRC and Recovery Group resume standard business arrangements.

7.7 Recovery Sub Plan

The Local Disaster Management Group Recovery Sub Plan provides a framework for the coordination of recovery operations within the Cassowary Coast Regional Council area and is supported by the procedures outlined in the Queensland Recovery Plan.

The recovery strategy has been developed to:

- include all functions of recovery (human-social, economic, environmental, buildings/built infrastructure and road/transport infrastructure);
- define broad parameters for the effective coordination of recovery operations within the local government area; and
- identify constraints to the coordination of recovery operations within the local government area.

7.8 Functions of Recovery

For the purpose of effective coordination, aspects of recovery are conceptually grouped into four functions:

Human-Social Recovery: includes personal support and information, physical health and emotional, psychological, spiritual, cultural and social well-being, public safety and education, temporary accommodation, financial assistance to meet individual needs and uninsured household loss and damage. The functional lead state agency for human-social recovery is the Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts.

Economic Recovery: includes renewal and growth of the micro economy (within the affected area), the macro economy (overall economic activity of the State), individual and household entities (e.g. employment, income, insurance claims), private and government business enterprises, industry, assets, production and flow of goods and services. The functional lead State agency for economic recovery is the Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning

Environmental Recovery: includes restoration and regeneration of biodiversity (species and plants), eco-systems, natural resources, environmental infrastructure, amenity / aesthetics (e.g. scenic lookouts), culturally significant sites and heritage structures. It also includes management of environmental health, waste, contamination, pollution and hazardous materials. The functional lead State agency for environmental recovery is the Department of Environment and Science.

Roads and Transport Recovery: includes rectifying the effects of a disaster on transport networks resulting in difficulty accessing communities and disruption to critical supply chains (both in and out of the impacted area). Restoration of these networks, or the identification of alternatives, is a priority in disaster recovery. The functional lead State agency for Road and Transport recovery is the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

Building Recovery: includes repair and reconstruction of residential, public, commercial, industrial and rural buildings and structures, government structures, utility structures, systems and services (water, sewage, energy. Communications) and other essential services and dam safety. The functional lead State agency for infrastructure recovery is the Department of Energy and Public Works.

Whilst there are five separate functions of recovery detailed in the State and Local Recovery Plans, this structure is scalable based on the event. Depending on the impacts of an event, the Local Recovery Coordinator may decide to amalgamate two or more of the functions into a single function to better manage, coordinate and allocate resources to assist in the recovery efforts.

In addition to the lead state agency for each of the recovery functions, the Queensland Recovery Plan (Page 14–20) identifies the role and responsibilities of the DDMG and the following State government stakeholders in recovery operations.

- Queensland Disaster Management Committee (QDMC)
- Minister
- Leadership Board Sub-committee (recovery)
- State Recovery Policy and Planning Coordinator
- State Recovery Coordinator
- State Functional Recovery Groups
- Queensland Reconstruction Authority.

7.9 National Principles

The LDMG Recovery Groups use the National Principles for Disaster Recovery to guide recovery planning, approach, decision-making and efforts.

The principles are:

Principle	Definition
Understand the context	Successful recovery is based on an understanding of the community context, with each community having its own history, values and dynamics.
Recognise complexity	Successful recovery is responsive to the complex and dynamic nature of both emergencies and the community.
Use community-led approaches	Successful recovery is locally led, community-centred, responsive and flexible, engaging with community and supporting them to move forward.
Coordinate all approaches	Successful recovery requires a planned, coordinated and adaptive approach, between community and partner agencies, based on continuing assessment of impacts and needs.
Communicate effectively	Successful recovery is built on effective communication between the affected community and other partners.
Recognise and build capacity	Successful recovery recognises, supports, and builds on individual, community and organisational capacity and resilience.

7.10 Recovery Phases

There is no defined timeline for recovery. Different events will impact different communities in different ways. The disaster recovery process can generally be categorised into three phases (immediate, short-to-medium and long-term).

Stage 1 — Immediate Recovery (Post-Impact Relief & Emergency)
Immediate recovery addresses and supports the immediate needs of individuals, businesses and the community. This phase is challenging as it often coincides with response operations. It is the period after a disaster when initial relief services are offered to the affected community whilst the full recovery framework is established. It is also the period when detailed recovery planning, including damage and needs analysis, is undertaken.

The likely recovery activities conducted during this phase include:

- commencement of impact and needs assessments
- provision of evacuation centres
- provision of assistance to meet basic human needs
- commence restoration of power, water and communication
- distribute emergency funding, shelter, clothing and food
- reopen roads
- provide psychological first aid and personal support
- consider recovery hubs.

Stage 2 — Short- to Medium-Term Recovery (Re-establishment, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction)
This phase of recovery continues the coordinated process of supporting affected communities in the reconstruction of physical infrastructure, re-establishment of the economy and rehabilitation of the environment. During this phase, support for the emotional, social, and physical wellbeing of those affected is critical. The recovery activities at this stage will assist the affected community to return to a state of normality, although the community may experience significant change resulting from the event.

The likely recovery activities conducted during this phase include:

- Impact and needs assessments finalised
- Essential service repaired and restored
- Key transport routes are operational
- Roads repairs underway
- Supply chains are returning to normal
- Schools reopen
- Funding to support recovery identified
- Insurance assessments underway
- Community support mechanisms operational
- Community development programs underway to reunite community
- Environmental restoration and biosecurity programs identified and underway
- Support for business is available
- Development of exit strategies.

Stage 3 — Long-term Recovery (Restoration, Rebuilding, Reshaping & Sustainability)
Long-term recovery is characterised by the ongoing restoration and rebuilding of physical infrastructure, restoration of the economy and of the environment, and reshaping to support the long-term sustainability of recovery measures. During the transition phase, specialist recovery workers leave affected communities and systems start to wind down as normal community development and business as usual processes return. Long term recovery may last several months or years.

The likely recovery activities conducted during this phase include:

- assets are restored, improved and operational
- finalisation of rebuilding phase
- establishment of longer-term psycho-social support strategies
- acknowledgment of event anniversaries
- acknowledgement of key milestones
- implementation of exit strategies.

7.11 Event Specific Recovery Plan

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority has developed an event-specific Local Recovery Plan Template for councils to create high level recovery plans with an event specific focus. When a State Recovery Coordinator is appointed, these plans will be included in an event state recovery plan

The LRC is responsible for working with the LDMG Recovery Group to develop the plan and obtain endorsement from the LDMG and CCRC. Following adoption, the plan is made available on the CCRC website and promoted to the local community.

7.12 Recovery Hubs

Recovery hubs provide a range of services to facilitate recovery including welfare, support, financial and emotional services. They are typically managed by the Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts with support from the LDMG if required.

8 Review And Reporting

8.1 Review of Disaster Management Arrangements

The Cassowary Coast Disaster Management Plan will be reviewed annually by a working group from the Local Disaster Management Group as follows: -

August Working group reviews and amends (as required) the main plan

September Draft plan submitted to full Local Disaster Management Group for acceptance/amendment

October Reviewed plan submitted to Council for approval

November Update plan submitted to the District Disaster Management Group for endorsement

The master contact list for all organisations/persons involved in the Council's disaster management arrangements shall be reviewed/updated at each meeting of the Local Disaster Management Group (and any subordinate Groups) and will be held by the LDC.

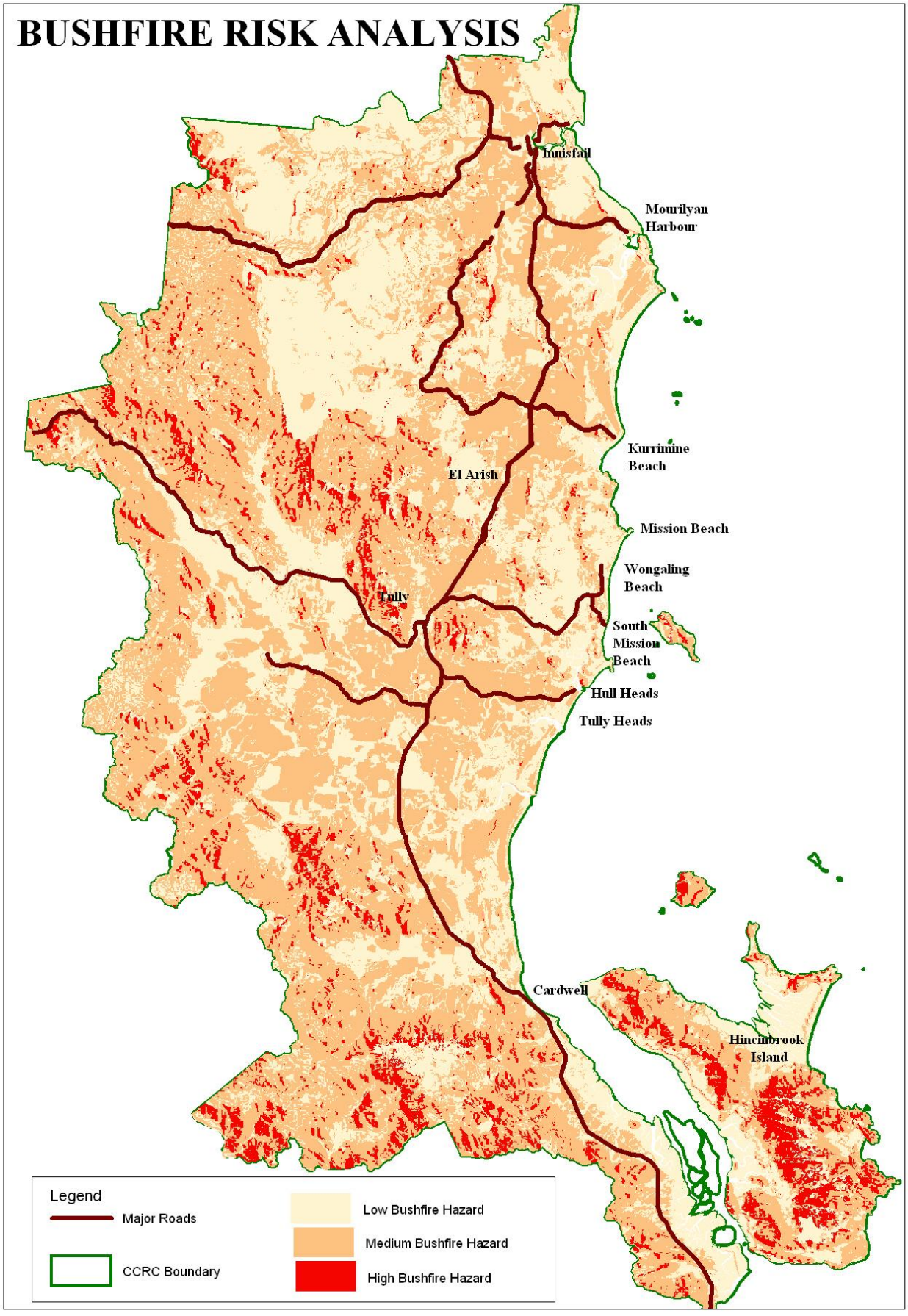
The plan may also be reviewed following the response to an event or an exercise conducted by the groups.

9 Contact List

Not For Public Dissemination

APPENDIX A
MAP OF CASSOWARY COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL AREA

APPENDIX C
BUSHFIRE RISK ANALYSIS MAP
CASSOWARY COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL AREA



APPENDIX D

DISASTER MANAGEMENT TRAINING REGISTER

The months of November - April are commonly known as the 'Wet Season' or 'Cyclone Season'. Major training or exercises are best conducted outside of this period, however, training can be offered throughout the year by various organisations/departments involved in Disaster Management. Any training or exercise outcomes identified as requiring a review of the disaster management plans should be implemented and adopted by Council, LDMG & DDMG prior to the start of the next 'Wet Season' or 'Cyclone Season'.

Month	Activity	Responsibility	Action
Throughout Year	Continually review DMTF training requirements for Council staff, LDMG Group & Sub Committee members	LDC	Advise & organise with QFD any training requirement for Council staff, LDMG or sub committee members
Throughout Year	Monitor disaster management training offered by QPS	LDC	Advise & organise with QPS any training requirement for Council staff, LDMG or Sub Committee members
January	Cyclone/Wet Season		
February	Cyclone/Wet Season		
March	Cyclone/Wet Season		
April	Cyclone/Wet Season		
May - June	Desk Top exercise for LDMG & Sub Committees	LDC	Create and conduct a desktop exercise for the LDMG simulating a disaster scenario affecting the shire.
May - October	Individual LDMG departments/organisational exercises or training	Individual LDMG departments/organisations	Advise Council staff, LDMG & sub committee members of any available external disaster management training. Liaise with agency on behalf of training applicants.
November	Train & exercise DCC staff	LDC	Create and conduct a real time exercise for DCC staff

ANNEXURE A

LDMG MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

Name	Organisation	Position	Postal Address	Telephone	Facsimile	Mobile	Email

Cassowary Coast
REGIONAL COUNCIL

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