

Recovery Plan (for recovery from the 2018 flooding event)



Message from the Mayor

Our history reveals that we are accustomed to flooding at regular intervals, given our location on the Herbert River flood plain. It is now history that during the period 8 – 30 March 2018, two successive flood peaks were experienced. What history does not reveal is that more often than not, every flood causes significant disruption to the community, bringing personal loss and hardship, damage to assets and business, as well as economic loss.

Recovery from disaster events is a complex task. It is well known that successful recovery must be responsive and flexible and must engage and empower communities to move forward positively and as quickly as possible. Recovery requires a coordinated and adaptive approach, built on effective communication with affected communities and other stakeholders and recognises, supports and builds on community and organisational capacity.

In keeping with such tried and tested formula, Council has developed a Community Recovery Plan based on the establishment of four sub-groups; each sub group is responsible for a category namely: Economic, Human and Social, Infrastructure and Environment. The strength of each sub-group is the inclusion of community organisations and stakeholders side by side with the various government agency operatives responsible for relief and recovery for purposes of identifying the needs and strategising the delivery of recovery effort. In this manner, the issues pertinent to our community are captured rather than the roll out of non-localised generic plans.

The structure of the Plan is enclosed for your assistance.

Council implemented its relief and recovery rapidly following the initial flooding event seeking early disaster declaration status so as to ensure State and Federal Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements were engaged without delay. I must sincerely thank both the State and Federal Governments, the agencies involved and all their staff for the promptness of their response to Council's call. As you may recall, with such excellent cooperation afforded, a Community Recovery Hub, encompassing no less than ten (10) different agencies was established at the TAFE building within twenty four hours of the flood peak to assist our community recovery.

The Community Recovery Hub has now transitioned to a recovery information centre operating from the Hinchinbrook Community Support Centre and remains available to assist with information and direction if required.

Unfortunately, an evident lesson from this event is that the disaster assistance measures in place do not afford assistance under all circumstances with or without means test. Such identified areas are being captured and referred to relevant government agencies for determination and possible remediation into the future.

It is understood that recovery is not accomplished overnight and that in most cases, loss sustained will never be recovered. The message to you is that recovery processes are continuing and that if you need assistance, make the call and at least ascertain whether arrangements are there to in fact help. The guidelines for relief and recovery do not afford assistance to everyone in every circumstance, but unless you ask, you will not know.

Thank you for your efforts and I wish you all the best and success in your future endeavours.

Cr. Ramon Jayo

Mayor, Hinchinbrook Shire

Chair, Hinchinbrook Local Disaster Management Group

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1. Introduction

Local environment

The Hinchinbrook Shire Council comprises 2810 km² and has an estimated population of 10,885 people (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2016). Our Shire is located on a spectacular stretch of Queensland coastline, approximately one hour north of Townsville and three hours south of Cairns.

It is an extraordinary region where the savannah grasslands, coastal mangroves and tropical rainforests converge, creating a home for over 60 per cent of Australia's bird, butterfly and fern species, the largest population of cassowaries in Australia and the unique mahogany glider. It has many distinctive natural features, including Wallaman Falls, the highest waterfall drop in the southern hemisphere; Mount Fox, the youngest dormant volcano in Australia; and National Parks and World Heritage areas.

The fertile river flats support various types of primary production including sugar, grazing, various small crop and boutique agriculture industries. Agriculture and associated industries in the Hinchinbrook Shire Council area, are the predominate provider of employment, with a tourism industry that is very nature and environment focused, also continuing to develop.

Ingham is the main urban centre of our Shire and home to more than one third of our residents. Other smaller centres are Allingham (Forrest Beach), Lucinda, Halifax, Taylors Beach, Macknade and Trebonne.

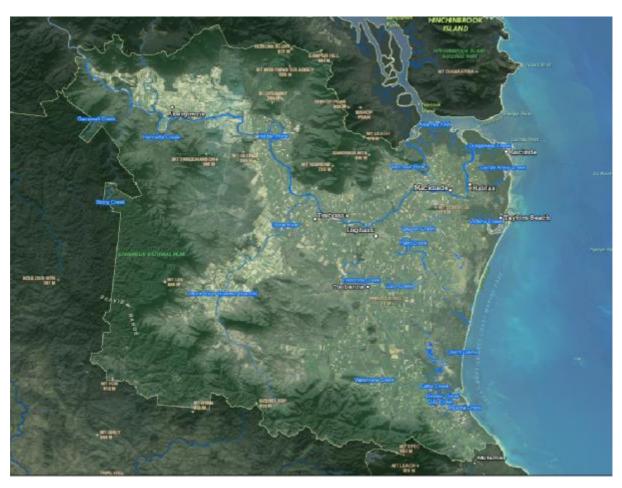


Figure 1: Hinchinbrook Shire Council

Herbert River Catchment

The Herbert River catchment is located on Queensland's north tropical coast to the north of Ingham. The Herbert River has its headwaters in a high rainfall area of the Dividing Range near Herberton and flows through a gorge to the coastal plain near Ingham. The river continues to its mouth near Lucinda where the catchment area is approximately 9000 km². The flood-producing rainfalls, up to 600mm over a few days, usually occur in the lower part of the catchment. In less frequent events, the highest rainfalls occur in the upper catchment above Gleneagle.

The Herbert River responds quickly to heavy rainfall and river rises can be rapid and velocities very high. The area around Ingham is very flat and the town itself is located on the floodplain of the river. Several natural watercourses distribute floodwaters through the town during major flooding with virtually the whole town being at risk from flooding.

Aim

The Hinchinbrook Shire Council Recovery Plan (the Recovery Plan) has been developed following the impacts of the flooding in the region associated with the North Queensland Flooding Event of 6 – 10 March 2018 and Severe Tropical Cyclone Nora and Associated Flooding Event of 24 – 29 March 2018. The Recovery Plan aims to provide the structure for a locally-led recovery approach that will assist disaster-impacted members of the community to recover quickly, effectively and remain sustainable. It also aims to incorporate development strategies within this recovery to enhance the resilience of all sectors of the community for subsequent disaster events.

This Recovery Plan establishes the context for recovery within the Hinchinbrook Shire related to the flooding events of March 2018. It describes the recovery governance arrangements and details key recovery tasks necessary to achieve successful recovery outcomes across the region. The Recovery Plan establishes important recovery milestones and estimated completion dates of associated projects. It also documents strategies and activities that will be undertaken to better prepare for, and reduce the impacts of future disaster events while enhancing Hinchinbrook's resilience, sustainability and prosperity.

The Recovery Plan supports Council's mission, "To shape a positive future for the Hinchinbrook community by understanding community needs and wants, building on our inherent strengths, recognising and maximising opportunities and facing our challenges head on" (Hinchinbrook Shire Council Corporate Plan, 2014-2019). It also supports the visions detailed in the Hinchinbrook Shire Community Plan 2022, that in 2022 Hinchinbrook Shire will:

- be a Welcoming and Inclusive Community
- be a Place of Growing Opportunity
- be a Learning and Creative Community
- undertake a strategic approach for a Sustainable Environment
- have developed Constructive and Inclusive Partnerships.

Scope

The Recovery Plan recognises that our communities have already commenced their own recovery.

The scope of the Recovery Plan is restricted to those areas of the Hinchinbrook Shire Council directly impacted by the North Queensland Flooding Event of 6 – 10 March 2018 and Severe Tropical Cyclone Nora and Associated Flooding Event of 24 – 29 March 2018. This plan covers the period from 9 March 2018 through to 30 June 2020, being the period immediately after the flooding impacted the Hinchinbrook community through to the expiration of funding timelines as prescribed in the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements 2017.

The Recovery Plan acknowledges the complex and dynamic nature of the disaster recovery environment and the likelihood of further disaster events. The scope of this plan can be extended, if necessary, to incorporate strategies to recover from subsequent similar natural disasters that may occur up to 30 June 2018.

The Recovery Plan does not include operations and initiatives that are not directly related to the flooding event that are being delivered as part of Council's core business.

Foundations

Disaster recovery in the Hinchinbrook Shire is undertaken in accordance with the *Queensland Disaster Management Act, 2003* and the Queensland Recovery Plan, 2017.

The <u>Hinchinbrook Shire Local Disaster Management Plan</u> sets out Council's strategies and practices towards enhancing our community's preparedness for and managing the consequences of a disaster. It also provides information on the links to the local disaster management group, individuals, voluntary organisations and community organisations that are integral to the execution of our disaster management strategy.

The Recovery Plan should be read in conjunction with the above legislation and plans.

Additionally, the Hinchinbrook Shire Council Economic Development Strategy 2020 will be used to drive our economic recovery and resilience, where appropriate.

Background

In the week beginning 6 March 2018, a surface trough extended southward through inland Queensland from a low pressure system embedded over the southern Gulf of Carpentaria. Several days of very heavy rainfall affected the north tropical Queensland coast, causing major flooding in the Herbert, Johnstone, Mulgrave, Russell, Tully and Murray rivers (Bureau of Meteorology). On 9 March 2018 at approximately 3 pm, the Herbert River peaked at the Ingham Pump Station at 14.71 metres, with many areas of our Shire inundated.

Ex-Tropical Cyclone Nora brought heavy rainfall between 26 – 28 March, with three-day rainfall totals in excess of 500mm recorded in Ingham. This caused the Herbert, Tully and Murry River to increase to major flood levels again. Flash flooding on the 26 March occurred around the Ingham township inundating our community again (*Bureau of Meteorology*).

Extent of known damage

As a result of the North Queensland Flooding Event of 6 – 10 March 2018 and the second event between 26 – 28 March, 2018, Hinchinbrook Shire experienced damage and disruption to its communities, including:

- 1,204 properties assessed by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES); 261 properties
 were assessed with moderate damage and above. Of the 261 properties, 17 were assessed as
 severe and one property (house boat) was destroyed.
- All education facilities across the Shire were closed.
- Four early childhood education and care services within Ingham, as well as home based day care facilities were closed.
- Bruce Highway closed from Ingham north to Cardwell and also between Ingham south to Townsville on two separate occasions for several days each event.
- Rail services ceased temporarily between Townsville and Cairns.
- Numerous locally privately owned roads damaged.
- Significant damage to sealed and unsealed roads (\$10+million in estimated damage) loss of formation and gravel loss down to subgrade in multiple locations.
- Extensive damage to cane industry infrastructure, including rail line and bridges.
- Approximately 75 per cent of cane farm land inundated.
- Soil erosion and loss of farm land on river banks.
- Approximately 90% all local businesses reported negatively impacted by loss of trade and some also having flood inundation.
- Tourism businesses reporting very high cancellation rates during busiest visitation period of year.

Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements

As a result of the impacts caused by the North Queensland Flooding Event of 6 – 10 March 2018 and Severe Tropical Cyclone Nora and Associated Flooding Event of 24 – 29 March 2018, the following Commonwealth/State funded Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) have been activated in the Hinchinbrook Shire Council area:

- Counter Disaster Operations reimbursement of extraordinary costs associated with eligible
 activities aimed at alleviating personal hardship and distress, addressing the immediate needs
 of individuals and protecting the general public. Administered by the Queensland
 Reconstruction Authority (QRA), phone 1800 110 841.
- Disaster Assistance Loans for Small Business a concessional interest rate loan to assist small businesses whose assets have been significantly damaged to recover. Administered by the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority (QRIDA), phone 1800 623 946.
- Disaster Assistance Loans for Primary Producers a concessional interest rate loan to assist
 primary producers whose assets have been significantly damaged to recover. Administered by
 QRIDA, phone 1800 623 946.
 - *Note:* available for the North Old Flooding, 6-10 March 2018 event only.
- Essential Working Capital Loans Scheme for Small Business a concessional interest rate loan
 to assist small businesses that have suffered a significant loss of income to continue business
 operations. Administered by QRIDA, phone 1800 623 946.
- Essential Working Capital Loans Scheme for Primary Producers a concessional interest rate loan to assist primary producers that have suffered a significant loss of income to continue business operations. Administered by QRIDA, phone 1800 623 946.
 - *Note:* available for the North Old Flooding, 6-10 March 2018 event only.
- Freight Subsidies a subsidy to assist primary producers move essential materials.
 Administered by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, phone 07 3096 6832.
 - *Note*: available for the North Qld Flooding, 6-10 March 2018 event only.
- Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme to alleviate personal hardship and distress.
 Administered by the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors DCDSS, phone 1800 173 349 and includes:
 - Emergency Hardship Assistance a grant to address the immediate needs (e.g. food, clothing, emergency accommodation or medical supplies) of individuals and families who are unable to support/fund their own relief and recovery. Applications for this assistance closed on 23 March 2018.
 - Essential Household Contents Grant a financial contribution towards the repair or replacement of uninsured essential household contents.
 - Structural Assistance Grant a financial contribution towards the repair of damage to an uninsured dwelling (including caravans and residential vessels) to return it to a safe, habitable and secure condition.
 - Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme provides financial assistance towards safety inspections of and repairs to essential services. Administered by (DCDSS), phone 1800 173 349.

Note: the activation for Hinchinbrook is limited to the suburbs of Abergowrie, Bambaroo, Bemerside, Blackrock, Braemeadows, Coolbie, Cordelia, Dalrymple Creek, Foresthome, Forrest Beach, Gairloch, Garrawalt, Halifax, Hawkins Creek, Helens Hill, Ingham, Lannercost, Long Pocket, Lucinda, Macknade, Mount Fox, Orient, Peacock Siding, Taylors Beach, Toobanna, Trebonne, Upper Stone, Victoria Plantation, Wallaman, Wharps and Yuruga.

Note: that the Essential Household Contents and Structural Assistance Grants are income tested.

Note: available for the North Old Flooding, 6-10 March 2018 event only.

• Restoration of Essential Public Assets – restoration or replacement of eligible uninsured essential public assets, such as roads and bridges, damaged as a direct result of the disaster to pre-disaster standard. Administered by QRA, phone 1800 110 841.

Further information on these relief measures available under NDRRA can be found at the QRA Website.



Palm Creek / Rotary Park flooding, Herbert Street, Ingham

2. Recovery

Definition

Disaster recovery is defined in the **Queensland Recovery Plan** 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 regeneration of the natural environment, associated infrastructure and heritage sites and structures, and the management of pollution and contamination)."

Our approach to recovery

In Hinchinbrook, our recovery will focus on a locally-led approach which involves individuals, families, community groups, businesses and all levels of government to identify and match our recovery efforts to the needs of our impacted community.

To achieve this, Hinchinbrook Shire Council will facilitate a locally-led approach which:

- focuses on the impacted community
- encourages individuals, families, businesses and the community to manage and actively participate in their own recovery
- considers the values, culture and priorities of all those affected by the disaster
- recognises that the community may choose different recovery pathways
- is flexible to meet the changing recovery needs of those affected by the disaster
- establishes and maintains strong partnerships within the community for those involved in the recovery process
- supports the visions of the community as detailed in the <u>Hinchinbrook Shire Community Plan</u> 2022.

Governance framework

Implementation of this Recovery Plan and successful recovery and resilience building is dependent on clear and robust governance arrangements. Hinchinbrook Shire Council's disaster recovery arrangements (Figure 2) are designed to enable a collaborative, coordinated and locally-led approach. This will help to ensure that all relevant agencies, stakeholders and our recovery partners are able to work collegiately to facilitate recovery planning and coordinate the delivery of necessary recovery services, activities and resilience strategies.

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Figure 2: Hinchinbrook Shire Council disaster recovery arrangements

As detailed in the Queensland Recovery Plan, Queensland Government support to the Local Recovery Sub-groups is achieved through the State Government members of the Townsville District Disaster Management Group. Membership of these agencies in the local recovery sub-groups enables the facilitation of direct support to our recovery operations. Integration of the following state government agencies in the Hinchinbrook Shire Council Local Recovery Sub-groups, will establish formal reporting relationships between the local, district and state levels. Their membership at the local level will help to ensure effective recovery support, information sharing and reporting. It will also broaden the reach of the local recovery sub-groups to other members of the Functional Recovery Groups at the state level:

- Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (Lead agency for Human and Social Recovery)
- Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (Lead agency for Economic Recovery)
- Department of Environment and Science (Lead agency for Environmental Recovery)
- Department of Housing and Public Works (Lead agency for Building Recovery)
- Department of Transport and Main Roads (Lead agency for Roads and Transport Recovery).

Further information on the Hinchinbrook Shire Council Local Recovery Sub-groups, including membership, roles and responsibilities is provided at Annex A.

Functional Recovery Groups are established at the state level and provide a platform to coordinate efforts by all agencies involved in recovery. Detailed information on their chairs, membership, roles and responsibilities is available at the Annex 3 of the Queensland Recovery Plan.

Meetings and reporting

The Local Recovery Sub-groups will meet as required at the discretion of the Chairs. Agenda and Minutes of the meetings are to be provided to the Local Recovery Coordinator (Deputy Mayor) for consideration and progression to the Chair of the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG), namely the Mayor of Hinchinbrook Shire Council.

Recovery progress of key recovery tasks will be monitored regularly against their expected delivery timing. The Chair of the Hinchinbrook Master Recovery Group/Local Recovery Coordinator will provide monthly reports to the Chair of the LDMG on recovery progress and the achievement of key recovery milestones. The public release of these reports will be at the discretion of the Chair of the LDMG.

Resourcing

Resources to deliver our recovery activities will be obtained from several sources including:

- the Australian and Queensland Governments through funds allocated under the NDRRA, in accordance with the provisions of the NDRRA 2017 Determination
- corporate and private contributions and offers of assistance from individuals and not-forprofit organisations,
- insurance payments for the loss of property and business interruptions, including individuals and private businesses
- donations and offers of assistance.

The not-for-profit organisation, GIVIT, is working with the Hinchinbrook Community Support Centre to register and match donations with community need as a result of the flooding event. GIVIT's service aims to identify the needs in the community during disaster recovery and to harness the goodwill and generosity of corporate and other donors wishing to donate goods and services. If necessary, GIVIT is able to broker donations to meet specific recovery requests. Further information on GIVIT and how to donate is available at www.givit.org.au

Concept of operations

The recovery from the flooding event will be implemented over three broad phases (Figure 3):

- Phase one: post impact relief and early recovery (immediate and short term, less than two weeks from disaster)
- *Phase two:* recovery and reconstruction (medium to long term, up to 30 June 2020). This phase includes preparedness activities for future disasters.
- *Phase three:* transition. This phase sees outstanding recovery efforts managed within usual business arrangements and continued preparations for future disasters.



Figure 3: Recovery phases

In addition to our recovery activities directly associated with the flooding, we will incorporate development strategies and resilience building initiatives throughout each recovery phase to ensure that, as a community, we are better prepared for future disasters.

Recovery Priority Action Plans

The Recovery Priority Action Plans at Annex B have been developed by the Local Recovery Subgroups (Human and Social, Economic, Environment and Infrastructure), using available impact and needs assessments. These plans detail recovery objectives and actions that will be undertaken to effect recovery and build our resilience across all sectors of the community. They also identify lead and supporting agencies responsible for the delivery of our recovery actions and anticipated delivery timings.

3. Building our resilience, sustainability and economic development

Resilience

Our recovery from the flood event of March 2018 provides an opportunity for our community to prosper and grow, and to ensure that we are all better prepared for future disaster events.

Hinchinbrook Shire Council, through the <u>Hinchinbrook Shire Corporate Plan 2014-2019</u> plans to

- Ensure support for business diversity and employment
- Ensure tourism development

• Ensure local Disaster Management Coordination, awareness raising, planning service provision and recovery activities.

Our success in achieving these goals is dependent on the collective actions of Hinchinbrook residents, businesses, organisations, government and federal departments and agencies, community groups, schools and clubs that make up the Hinchinbrook community. Similarly, to build our resilience to future disasters, while continuing to develop economically and adopting a strategic approach to the sustainable management of our environment, Hinchinbrook Shire Council promotes disaster preparedness through a shared responsibility approach.

Disaster recovery and resilience activities implemented through this Recovery Plan will integrate the learnings and experiences of the community into the longer-term recovery process. Our resilience initiatives will be developed and delivered in line with the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience 2017. Where possible, we will work with the private sector, academic institutions and community organisations to help ensure our resilience initiatives are community-focused.

Our resilience initiatives will be underpinned by the four key objectives of the Queensland Strategy for Disaster Resilience:

- 1. Queenslanders understand their disaster risk
- 2. Strengthened disaster risk management
- 3. Queenslanders are invested in disaster risk reduction
- 4. There is continuous improvement in disaster preparedness, response and recovery

Disaster preparedness activities to be implemented include, but are not limited to:

- encouraging the development and implementation of business continuity plans
- promoting the implementation of disaster preparedness strategies with individuals, businesses and communities
- encouraging the development of social networks
- engaging the community to build individual and collective skills.

Investing in our flood gauge network

The Queensland Reconstruction Authority (QRA) has developed a two stage implementation plan to address the Very High and High priority recommendations from the Performance Review of the state's flood warning gauge network that supports the Bureau of Meteorology flood warning service.

Stage 1 of the implementation plan engaged the Bureau to assist in reviewing Performance Review's work, and prepare a network implementation strategy and investment plan to address the concerns for flash and riverine flooding.

For Hinchinbrook Shire Council, no settlements were identified in the Performance Review as having a high priority need for flood warning gauge investments to address riverine flooding issues. However, after liaising with Council it was identified that there were information gaps in the upper Herbert catchment and that if additional gauges were installed they would be able to provide the timely advice of impacting rainfall.

The flood warning network within the Shire is relatively well serviced, although flash flooding is of concern as a number of locations are at risk. Therefore, Council has proposed more rain gauges in the Upper Herbert River catchment locations, which are in Tablelands Regional Council.

Subject to budget and planning programs, the review recommends a capital investment of some \$125,000 for five new rainfall gauges to provide more coverage in the Upper Herbert River catchment. The council has received funding for all five new rainfall gauges as outlined in their investment plan. These are yet to be installed. All five gauges are located in the upper catchment of the Herbert River, within Tablelands Regional Council.

Economic resilience and development

To ensure that our Shire continues to grow economically and our businesses are able to better withstand the challenges associated with future disaster events; our economic recovery will incorporate four key themes:

- 1. Wet Tropics Target key long-term employment opportunities in facilitating tropical sciences, nature tourism, ecotourism, cultural tourism, agri-business technology.
- 2. Local Towns Build on the Our Town Our Future (OTOF) Strategy and recognise Ingham as a major regional activity centre within a network of vibrant smaller townships and communities and their village lifestyle.
- 3. Coastal Settlements Maximise the economic benefits of the recreational fishing industry, enhancing boating access and improving lifestyle services and amenities for residents.
- 4. Airport Maximise the economic and employment value of the existing Ingham Airport.

To facilitate this initiative, Council is accelerating applicable activities of the *Hinchinbrook Economic Development Strategy 2020* that have the propensity to stimulate economic recovery and development. While these are occurring in the short term, over the 3 month period April – June 2018, their direct alignment to the Strategy will ensure residual influence will have increased positive long term outcomes.

For example, within a week of the flood's impact, the Council's Economic Development Team has commenced work on a marketing campaign to promote that the region is "open for business". This campaign will highlight the attractions of the region, demonstrating that the flood has not devastated the natural beauty and attractions of the Shire. The project will incorporate promotion of marine, adventure and nature based tourism including regional signature events.

The campaign focuses on the drive market, from which a large proportion of visitation is derived; from within a 400km drive radius and thereafter additional interstate visitation during the winter months buoyed by the RV and Grey Nomad market.

Annex A: Hinchinbrook Local Recovery Groups

Master Recovery Group

The Master Recovery Group is effectively the Local Recovery Group and is chaired by the Deputy Mayor, Cr Mary Brown, in her capacity as the Local Recovery Coordinator.

Roles and responsibilities:

- Coordinate the whole-of-government and community recovery from flood damages
- Assess the impacts of flood damages
- Identify and prioritise major areas of recovery
- Develop and implement effective strategies for community participation and partnership in the recovery process
- Develop medium and long term recovery policies and strategies
- Implement and coordinate the Recovery Priority Action Plan
- Identify and obtain required resources
- Provide effective on-site leadership, to focus all necessary resources, and to achieve the most efficient and effective recovery of affected communities
- Monitor recovery activities
- Provide advice and regular reports to the Local Disaster Management Group, the State Recovery Coordinator (when appointed), the QRA, as well as regular community and media information on recovery progress
- Develop a final report at the conclusion of recovery operations.

Human-Social Recovery Sub-group

Human-social recovery will be coordinated through the Human-Social Recovery Sub-group.

Role: to coordinate planning and implementation of recovery and disaster preparedness in the areas of safety and well-being, physical and psychological health, and social aspects.

- assess the impact of the disasters on human, social and economic aspects
- manage financial and welfare support
- develop Human-Social Recovery Priority Action Plan
- coordinate information provision and personal support
- coordinate psychological and counselling services
- coordinate ongoing medical and health services
- coordinate public health advice, warnings and directions to the community
- coordinate temporary accommodation
- coordinate short term accommodation and repairs to dwellings
- provide specialist and outreach services
- coordinate case management, community development, support and referral to assist affected people, families and groups
- coordinate Community Recovery Hub/Community Recovery Referral and Information Centre (CRRIC)
- work with the Hinchinbrook Shire Council and community leadership groups to enable
 learning from their disaster experiences in order to better prepare for future disaster events
- work with the insurance sector to ensure adequacy and a timely process of insurance claims and payments.

Chair: Cr Marc Tack

Membership:

- Hinchinbrook Shire Council
- Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors (State lead for human-social recovery)
- Queensland Health
- Department of Housing and Public Works
- Department of Education
- Insurance Council of Australia
- Australian Red Cross
- UnitingCare Community
- Hinchinbrook Community Support Centre
- GIVIT
- Centrelink
- St Vincent de Paul
- Salvation Army
- Everglow
- ATSIC Groups
- Blue Care
- Service Clubs
- Ministers Fraternal

Note: membership is flexible to meet the recovery needs of the community and will be expanded or contracted accordingly.

Reporting: The Chair is to attend the Master Recovery Group meetings and report to the Local Recovery Coordinator (Deputy Mayor).

Economic Recovery Sub-group

Economic recovery will be coordinated through the Economic Recovery Sub-group.

Role: to coordinate planning and implementation of economic and financial recovery, disaster preparedness and resilience.

- work with the insurance sector to ensure adequacy and a timely process of insurance claims and payments
- assess the impact on key economic assets (large employers, eg Wilmar, agriculture)
- assess employment issues and capacity of local business to operate
- facilitate business, industry, agricultural and regional economic recovery and renewal
- facilitate financial assistance, access to funds, loans and subsidies
- develop Economic Recovery Priority Action Plan
- monitor the impacts of the flood damages on the Shire's economic viability and develop strategies to minimise the effects on individuals and businesses
- where required, facilitate linkages with job providers and employment agencies to source labour, to re-establish supply chains and joint marketing activities
- develop a strategy to maximise use of local resources during reconstruction activities
- coordinate support to farmers and rural landholders
- assist with contract arrangements, where required
- ensure involvement of local business and industry representatives in decision making

 ensure that the recovery plan informs broader planning (eg. the Hinchinbrook 2020 Economic Development Strategy Action Plan) and decision making activities across government and non-government agencies.

Chair: Cr Andrew Lancini

Membership:

- Hinchinbrook Shire Council
- Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (State lead for economic recovery)
- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
- Queensland Rural Industry Development Authority (QRIDA)
- Insurance Council of Australia
- Chamber of Commerce
- Agforce
- GrowCom
- Mechanical Harvesters Association
- Canegrowers Association
- HQ Plantations
- Seafood Industry
- Wilmar
- Terrain
- NO Small Business Council
- Banking Representatives
- Tourism Queensland

Note: membership is flexible to meet the recovery needs of the community and will be expanded or contracted accordingly.

Reporting: The Chair is to attend the Master Recovery Group meetings and report to the Local Recovery Coordinator (Deputy Mayor). When the Chair is also the Local Recovery Coordinator, they will report to the Mayor as the Chair of the Local Disaster Management Group.

Environmental Recovery Sub-group

Environmental recovery will be coordinated through the Environmental Recovery Sub-group.

Role: to coordinate recovery of the natural environment and environmental health.

- coordinate assessment of flood damage on natural environment (water quality, ecological impact, pollution)
- provide advice on potential environmental issues (e.g. water quality, siltation, erosion)
- coordinate rehabilitation of natural environment including parks and waterways
- coordinate preservation of community assets (e.g. reserves and parks)
- coordinate mitigation strategies to reduce future impacts on natural environment where appropriate
- monitor issues of pollution and erosion
- ensure there is effective consultation and communication with the community and relevant organisations
- ensure environmental bodies and interest groups are involved in the decision making process

- monitor and assess the environmental consequences of clean-up operations
- monitor and assess animal welfare issues
- coordinate waste management and disposal of hazardous material
- monitor, assess and implement strategies to mitigate the impacts of infectious and vector borne diseases
- ensure flood and disaster risk reduction is considered in recovery and reconstruction.

Chair: Cr Kate Milton

Membership:

- Hinchinbrook Shire Council
- Department of Environment and Science (State lead for environmental recovery)
- Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy
- LHWMA
- NRM Terrain
- Herbert River Improvement Trust
- Canegrowers Association
- Catchment Coordination Group
- Department of Agriculture and Fisheries
- Queensland Rural Industry Development Authority (QRIDA)
- Environmental Advisors
- Chemical and Hazardous Substance Advisors
- HQ Plantations
- Environmental Interest Groups
- RSPCA
- Wildlife Carers

Note: membership is flexible to meet the recovery needs of the community and will be expanded or contracted accordingly.

Reporting: The Chair is to attend the Master Recovery Group meetings and report to the Local Recovery Coordinator (Deputy Mayor).

Infrastructure Recovery Sub-group

Infrastructure recovery will coordinated through the Infrastructure Recovery Sub-group.

Role: to coordinate planning an implementation of housing, commercial and industrial buildings and structures, physical infrastructure (including power, water, telecommunications, transport) recovery in the region.

- work with the insurance sector to ensure adequacy and speedy process of insurance cover
- assess damage to housing stock, commercial and industrial buildings and structures, rural structures and infrastructure facilities
- coordinate building safety inspection services and secure damaged buildings and structures
- coordinate demolition of unsafe buildings and structures
- coordinate repair and rebuilding matters of housing stocks
- ensure coordinated approach to the housing related strategies in partnership with relevant organisations
- coordinate disposal of hazardous material, debris (in consultation with the Environmental Recovery Sub-group)

- coordinate recovery of infrastructure, which is normally undertaken by asset owners and operators (e.g. Telstra)
- coordinate restoration of sporting facilities and public playgrounds
- prioritise repair and reconstruction activities where appropriate
- ensure relevant owners/operators are involved in the decision making process
- ensure disaster risk reduction is considered n planning of rebuilding and reconstruction.

Chair: Cr Wally Skinner

Membership:

- Hinchinbrook Shire Council
- Department of Housing and Public Works (State lead for building recovery)
- Department of Transport and Main Roads (State lead for roads and transport recovery)
- Queensland Building and Construction Commission
- Ergon Energy
- Canegrowers Association
- Wilmar
- Utility owners (Telstra, Optus, Energex, Origin)
- Others as required.

Note: membership is flexible to meet the recovery needs of the community and will be expanded or contracted accordingly.

Reporting: The Chair is to attend the Master Recovery Group meetings and report to the Local Recovery Coordinator (Deputy Mayor).

Annex B: Recovery Priority Action Plan

This Recovery Priority Action Plan identifies the actions and key tasks necessary to achieve successful recovery outcomes in the impacted areas of Hinchinbrook.

Actions	Triggers	Tasks	Lead Agency	Supporting Agency/ies	Estimated Completion (against recovery phases)				
	Human and Social								
Conduct/complete community outreach assessments	Vulnerable groups	Outreach Community Recovery Hub CRRIC	• DCDSS	Red Cross	Short-term				
Conduct/complete community emotional/financial support assessment	Vulnerable groups	Outreach Community Recovery Hub CRRIC	• DCDSS	Red Cross	Medium-term				
Conduct/ complete community outreach assessments of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Communities	Vulnerable groups	Outreach Community Recovery Hub CRRIC	DCDSS FACSIA	Red Cross	Short-term				
Conduct/ community outreach assessments of CALD & special needs clients & communities	Vulnerable groups	Outreach Community Recovery Hub CRRIC	DCDSS FACSIA	Red Cross	Short-term				
Review outreach assessment results	Vulnerable groups	Internal process	HSC H&S Recovery Group	• DCDSS	Short-term				
Assessment of impacts to community support groups	Community support groups	Internal process	HSC H&S Recovery Group	• DCDSS	Medium-term				
Community capacity building responses	Needs assessments	 Encourage use of community health, education, welfare, sport, leisure and recreation facilities. Extend / and or tap into existing public health strategies and promotions Community engagement and involvement in planning recovery activities and events. Community development activities focused on rebuilding community spirits and strengths. 	• HSC	Sporting clubs HSC Recovery Subgroup UnitingCare Community Hinchinbrook Community Support Centre Religious groups Education	Long-term				

Financial assistance for individuals and families	Needs assessments	Assistance with accessing & completing forms for assistance from Centrelink/DCDSS Administer Means Tested Assistance (NDRRA) Monitor ongoing income security	• DCDSS	HSC Centrelink HSC Recovery Subgroup	Long-term
Insurance claims progressed	Vulnerable groups	Appointment of independent insurance advisors	• HSC	• ICA	Long-term
Housing support	Vulnerable groups	 Ingham-based temp accommodation Provide Information and referral to individuals and families regarding housing services Provide usual support service to families with crisis housing needs. 	HS Recovery Sub-group	Hinchinbrook Shire Community Support Centre	Medium-term
Material goods assistance	Vulnerable groups	Provision of Material Goods assistanceCoordinate offers of assistance & goods	HS Recovery Sub-group	 GIVIT Community groups	Long-term
Mental health support and counselling	Vulnerable groups	 Provision of information and assisted referral services to new and existing mental health counselling services Promotion of health & well-being response 	QHealth	HS Recovery Sub- group	Long-term
Building community resilience for future disasters	Whole of community	Promoting the disaster preparedness messages	• HSC	OFES HS Recovery Subgroup	Long-term
Provision of practical and material support to assist clean-up	Vulnerable groups Community groups	 Clean up Day Care Facility Assistance to clean up premises of community support agencies Provision of volunteer service/equipment and/or cleaning products to assist people in clean-up activities around their properties Coordination of clean-up activities within affected localities 	• HSC	 QFES St Vincent de Paul Society Hinchinbrook Shire Council Community Support Centre Lions 	Medium-term
Provision of recovery information	Whole of community	 Regular local recovery newsletter Distribution of newsletters and info/fact sheets Ads in HRE to detail recovery plan Waste management information (incl kerbside pickup, green waste, transfer stations, asbestos) Public Health information e.g. vector borne diseases Mental health information Financial Counselling and assistance information 	• HSC	DCDSSHS Recovery GroupQHealthQRIDA	Long-term

Economic						
Conduct/complete impact and needs assessments on agriculture, primary producers and local small business completed (net loss)	Vulnerable business owners and producers	Horticulture Industry impact assessment Assessment of impact to cane industry Assessment of impact to cattle industry (number of cattle lost, the cost and km of fencing and likely cost) Assessment of impact to aquaculture industry Tourism Industry (attractions) Impact assessment	ED Recovery Sub-group	DSDMIP DAF ORIDA Wilmar Canegrowers' Assoc Cattlemen's Assoc Chamber of Commerce	Medium-term	
Special Allocation Assistance	Vulnerable business owners and producers	Operation Clean-up program Subsidy to install generator plug to power box	HSC	DSDMIP DNRME Canegrowers' Assoc	Medium-term	
Business Support Plan	Vulnerable business owners and producers	Incorporate Hinchinbrook 2020 Economic Development Strategy Action Plan into recovery initiatives	HSC	Chamber of Commerce TEL/QET/TCT ED recovery Subgroup DSDMIP	Long-term	
Financial Counselling Services/ Business Support Programs	Vulnerable business owners and producers	Assist the Chamber to conduct a business information session to advise local business on the role and support of various agencies Public Meeting - Information Session Monitor feedback from businesses on support received from insurance companies especially preferred providers Farm financial counselling services Seek assistance to address future issues for businesses caused by potential delayed impacts on the sugar industry and loss of industry	HSC	ED Recovery Subgroup Chamber of Commerce DSDMIP DAF ORIDA Canegrowers' Assoc Wilmar	Long-term	
Financial Assistance	Vulnerable primary producers	Administration of any available concessional loans schemes Administration of Freight Subsidy	QRIDA	• DSDMIP • DAF	Long-term	
Business continuity planning	Whole of community	 Promoting the disaster preparedness messages Business continuity planning workshops 	HSC Economic Development Team	 ED Recovery Subgroup DSDMIP Chamber of Commerce 	Long-term	

Environment						
Conduct/complete impact and needs assessments	Impacted farms and waterways Vulnerable ecosystems, fauna and flora Vulnerable river systems	Coordination of reports of farm and waterway damage by landowners Formal assessment of waterway damage targeted assessments Assessment of damage to Natural Assets (ecosystems, habitats, revegetated areas, biosecurity Assessment of damage to rural residential blocks Assess salt water intrusion from bank loss Damage assessment of coastal environments	DES	HSC DNRME FNQROC		
Coastal environment managed	Vulnerable coastal ecosystems	Determine repair needs for coastal environments	DES	HSC DNRME FNQROC		
Cane Farm Management	Vulnerable farm land	 Repairs to eroded waterways Removal of debris from farm drainage Removal of debris from impacted cane farms Removal of debris from cane train lines Source resources for aerial photo assessment of damage Assessing & re-establishing access to isolated farm homesteads 	HSC	Enviro Recovery Sub-group Wilmar Canegrowers Landowners Agforce		
Waste Managed	Impacted regions RDAs	Green & demolition waste management program Clearing private properties in rural areas	HSC	Enviro Recovery Sub-group Wilmar Landowners		
Debris Removed	Impacted regions RDAs	Waterway silt and debris removal Permits for clearance of debris from mangrove areas	HSC	Enviro Recovery Sub-group DES DNRME		
Pest and weeds controlled	Environmental assessments	Mosquito control Wash down facilities to minimise weed seed spread Pest education project	State/HSC	Enviro Recovery Sub-group DAF DES DNRME Landcare groups		

				• FNQROC	
Fire risks managed	Risk assessments	 Managing the risk related to increased fuel loads, including fire breaks and access for firefighting purposes Communicate fire risk to community 	QFES – F&R +RFS	HSC Land owners QPWS DNRME DES	
Community Informed	Media reports	 Regular information to primary producers Website to supplement local newspapers etc 	HSC	Enviro Recovery GroupDESDNRME	
	•	Infrastructure		•	
Assessment of roads	•	 Assessment of HSC road network Investigate possibility of funding for repairs to private road network 	HSC HSC, Canegrowers, AgForce, Terrain, Wilmar		Short-term Long-term
Road repairs	•	HSC road network repairs Private road repairs FPQ to continue discussions with Council regarding road repairs and necessary permitting to facilitate salvage operation Preventative and timely works reports to HRIT Canegrowers to provide own priorities for Council road repairs about sidings with a view to best meeting needs of growers/cane transporters for coming season	HSC, Wilmar, Landholders, FPQ, QPWS, Canegrowers		Short, medium and long-term Medium-term Short and medium-term Short-term Short and medium-term
Building Assessment	•	 Assessment of structural integrity of private dwellings Safety awareness of generators Number of outstanding electrical connections Assessment of structural integrity of commercial premises 	BAS, OBCC, Property owners & licensed contractors, Ergon, HSC, private contractors		 Short-term X X Medium and long-term
Information	•	 Distribution of HSC Community Recovery newsletter to community Distribution of Qld DCDSS Newsletter to Canegrowers 	HSC, DCDSS, Canegrowers Association, HRG		• Short-term

		 Establish clear line for referrals to appropriate agencies for assistance e.g. BSA 	infrastructure Sub Group	
Damage Assessments	•	 Provision of damage assessment to QRA (NDRRA), DES Inspection/assessment of HSC bridges 	HSC, DES, QldRA	 X Short term Long term Short and medium term Short term
Repairs to Qld Parks & Wildlife Infrastructure	•	Re-construction of walking tracks Source additional resources to assist with infrastructure restoration	Qld Parks & Wildlife, Department of Employment, Volunteering NQ	Long termShort term
Rail Drainage	•	 Examine drainage issues along QR lines/cane rail Examine new QR pedestrian bridge 	HSC, QR	Long term Medium term
Issues	•	Sourcing additional labour to support clean up	HSC	Short term
Coordination of available contractors and specialist suppliers	•	 Coordinate use of specialist contractors working in the area – agency sharing. Circulate to interested agencies details of procurement of specialist contractors and suppliers 	HSC	Short and medium term
Repairs to local facilities	•	 Repairs to damaged local reserves Repairs to damaged local parks and walking tracks 	HSC	Medium termX
Opportunities for flood immunity improvements	•	Review flood immunity for Halifax levee	HSC, HRIT	Medium term
Flood awareness improvements	•	Lidar property height monitoring	HSC, QFES, LGAQ	Short term



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