

2261 Local Disaster Management Levy

Governance Policy



PURPOSE

1. The purpose of this Policy is to support Council's Budget Meeting decision to adopt a Local Disaster Management Levy - Separate Charge.
2. This Policy demonstrates Council's compliance with the State's disaster management legislation by providing a financial means to assist the community respond to and recover from a disaster event that might occur within the North Burnett region.

SCOPE

3. This Levy will contribute to a comprehensive disaster management framework in addressing disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.
4. This Levy will apply equally to all rateable properties within the North Burnett Regional Council area.
5. Levy funds will be utilised for disaster management arrangements at the sole discretion of Council.
6. This Levy is in addition to the State Emergency Service (SES) Annual Local Government Subsidy received from the Queensland Government Queensland Fire and Emergency Services.

DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Council	means North Burnett Regional Council
Disaster	means a serious disruption in a local community, caused by the impact of an event that requires a significant coordinated response by State and other entities (including Council), to help the community recover from the disruption.
Disaster Management Activities	means plans, processes, systems and actions to manage the impacts and/or potential adverse effects of an event. This includes arrangements for mitigating, preventing, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from a disaster.
Event	an event may be natural or caused by human acts or omissions, and may include any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A cyclone, earthquake, flood, storm, or other natural happening;• An explosion, fire, chemical or oil spill, gas leak;• An infestation, plague, epidemic or pandemic;• A failure or, or disruption to, an essential service or infrastructure.
Rural Fire Brigade	means Rural Fire Brigades within the North Burnett Regional Council Area.
SES	means Local State Emergency Service Groups within the North Burnett Regional Council Area
Serious Disruption	means a loss of human life, or illness or injury to humans; widespread or severe property loss or damage, and/or widespread or severe damage to the environment.

POLICY

OBJECTIVES

7. The objective of the Levy is to contribute to funding the recurrent disaster management activities including those costs relating to the operation and maintenance of equipment used by Council in fulfilment of its disaster management obligations, and those costs relating to disaster prevention and disaster planning.
8. Funding may include (but is not limited to):
 - The operation of Council's disaster management activities;
 - Operating costs of SES as outlined in Memorandum of Understanding Between Council and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services "A Partnership for the Management and Support of the State Emergency Service" Doc ID 882687;
 - Resourcing, maintenance and implementation of Council's Disaster Management Plan;

- Work with local emergency services, community groups and key community organisations to enhance disaster recovery and resilience;
- Ensuring continued compliance with current disaster management legislation;
- Upgrading of Counter Disaster facilities and equipment identified through community consultation and as prioritised by Council, to address mitigation and resilience strategies;
- Assisting Rural Fire Brigades with maintenance and acquisition of plant and equipment for rural fire management.

PRINCIPLES

9. This Levy has been established to ensure that Council:
- has the capability to meet its obligations in times of disaster events; and
 - is able to assist local emergency services community groups with resilience and disaster management activities and requirements.

POLICY STATEMENT

10. The ability of Council to develop and maintain a capacity for disaster management planning and operations is a key factor in helping to ensure the safety, response, recovery and well-being of local residents, as well as the resilience and sustainability of our communities.
11. This Policy supports Councils strong commitment to transparency, accountability and adherence to the financial management function.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

12. Council's Finance Manager is responsible for:
- ensuring that this policy is understood and adhered to by all employees involved in the recovery of rates and charges, and
 - ensuring annual review in line with Council's budget resolution
13. Other specific roles and responsibilities may be defined in Local Disaster Management Levy Procedures, and as amended from time to time.

APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND REGULATION

14. Applicable legislation and regulation:
- Disaster Management Act 2003*
 - Local Government Act 2009*
 - Local Government Regulation 2012*

RELATED DOCUMENTS

15. Related documents are:
- Debt Recovery Policy and Procedure
 - Local Disaster Management Levy Procedure

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER

General Manager Corporate and Community

APPROVAL DATE

22 September 2021

REVIEW DATE

June 2022 (In line with Councils Annual Budget)

REVISION HISTORY

Version	Choose an item.	Approval Date	History
1	Budget Meeting	8 July 2014	New Policy
2	General Meeting	27 June 2018	Review
3	General Meeting	22 September 2021	Revised