Local Disaster Management Plan

ADOPTION

The North Burnett Region Disaster Management Plan, Version 2.1 dated 29 August 2023 has been developed in accordance with the requirements of the *Disaster Management Act, 2003* and is endorsed by the North Burnett Local Disaster Management Group.

_____
Local Disaster Coordinator

12 / 10 / 2023

The North Burnett Region Disaster Management Plan Version 2.1 dated 29 August 2023 has been reviewed by the Executive Officer of the Bundaberg District Disaster Management Group in accordance with Section 28 of the *Disaster Management Act, 2003.*

_____
Executive Officer

Bundaberg District Disaster Management Group

_17_/_10_/23___

The North Burnett Region Local Disaster Management Plan, Version 2.1 dated 29 August 2023 was adopted by the North Burnett Regional Council on 27 September 2023, Resolution 2023/165, in accordance with Section 80 (1) (b) of the *Disaster Management Act 2003.* The North Burnett Regional Local Disaster Management Plan is approved for distribution.

_____
Chairperson

North Burnett Region Local Disaster Management Group

15 /10 / 23

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Contents

PRELIMINARIES

PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN

The purpose of this plan is to detail the strategy, arrangements, and processes for disaster management in the North Burnett Region. It provides guidance on Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery (PPRR), for the Local Disaster Management Group and the community.

This Local Disaster Management Plan is prepared under the provisions of section 57 of the *Disaster Management Act 2003*. It is consistent with legislation, disaster management guidelines, the State's strategic policy framework for disasters and the Queensland Disaster Management Standard.

MAINTENANCE OF THIS SUB PLAN

This Sub Plan is maintained by the Secretariat of the LDMG. This sub plan is to be reviewed annually by the LDMG to ensure it remains current and relevant.

DISTRIBUTION

This plan is distributed to the following people and organisations:
- All Local Disaster Management Group Members
- Bundaberg Disaster District Coordinator
- North Burnett Regional Council (internal)

DOCUMENT CONTROL

This plan is managed by the North Burnett Regional Council. The Council's Chief Executive Officer is the controller of this plan. Any proposed changes to this plan should be provided to:

"The Chief Executive Officer (Local Disaster Coordinator)"
North Burnett Regional Council
PO Box 390
GAYNDAH QLD 4625

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PLAN

Certain privacy related information contained within this plan is not released in the public version of this plan.

North Burnett Regional Council has no objection to material contained in the plan being reproduced for research or planning purposes provided that any material used remains unaltered and due recognition of the source of the materials is recognised.

Any party using the information for any purposes does so at their own risk and releases and indemnifies the North Burnett Regional Council against all responsibility and liability (including negligence, negligent misstatement and pure economic loss) for all expenses, losses, damages and costs as a consequence of such use.

FOREWORD

The North Burnett region is four hours' drive north-west of Brisbane, in the Burnett - Wide Bay Region of South East Queensland. This picturesque countryside, covering 19,700 square kilometres of diverse Australian landscape, is home to six main townships and a number of villages and farming catchments, providing the perfect idyllic lifestyle, that occasionally is subjected to the impact of disasters both natural and non-natural.

The region has a wide range of topography, changing demographics and diversified industries; therefore, there is a need for a collaborative, dynamic and robust Local Disaster Management Plan.

Effective recovery after a disaster is vital to ensure the wellbeing of individuals and our community. It's not just the replacement of what has been destroyed but it's a social and developmental process that involves all sections of the community striving alongside each other, together, to achieve 'business as usual' and/or a 'new normal' as soon as possible. Wherever possible this process should also enhance social networks, improve the natural and built environments, support the economy and increase resilience in the community.

This plan is our committed to ensuring that the Region remains a safe place to live, work and play. Through partnerships with the members of the North Burnett Local Disaster Management Group, the Bundaberg-North Burnett District Disaster Management Group and other neighbouring Local Disaster Groups, as well as our regions support agencies, we will continue to build our regions resilience, prepare our region for impacts and reduce the effects of disasters on the Region and its residents through continual disaster planning and community engagement within the region.

This local disaster management plan has been prepared by the North Burnett Regional Council 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 effect of disasters with the North Burnett Region. The focus of the document is on using an 'all-hazards' functional approach, minimising impacts on disaster-affected communities, by ensuring a coordinated effort by all levels of government and non-government entities with responsibilities or capabilities in comprehensive disaster management.

The complexity and timeframes of recovery demands sound planning, effective coordination and above all, community involvement. This plan addresses these aspects and articulates how North Burnett Regional Council Local Disaster Management Group will undertake recovery operations during and following a disaster. In doing so, this plan provides a framework for the management and coordination of recovery, as well as guidance on the major considerations for recovery across the functional areas of human-social, infrastructure, economic and environment recovery.

The achievement of optimum community outcomes that match community need involves a collaborative, coordinated, adaptable and scalable approach where the responsibility for disaster recovery is shared between all sectors of the community. This includes individuals, families, community groups, businesses and all levels of government.

Whilst as a community we may not be able to prevent disaster from occurring, we can prepare our community and enhance its resilience to the adverse impact of any threat.

Chairperson
North Burnett Region
Local Disaster Management Group

STRUCTURE OF THIS PLAN

This Plan details the strategies, arrangements and processes that apply to disaster management for the North Burnett Region. It is a publicly available document (less some privacy/security related matters) and is to be used by authorities and the community to guide measures for disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

The Plan comprises two parts: a Main Plan with support plans for each of the six major towns in the North Burnett; and a Disaster Operating Manual comprising a number of Sub Plans and Operational Checklists.
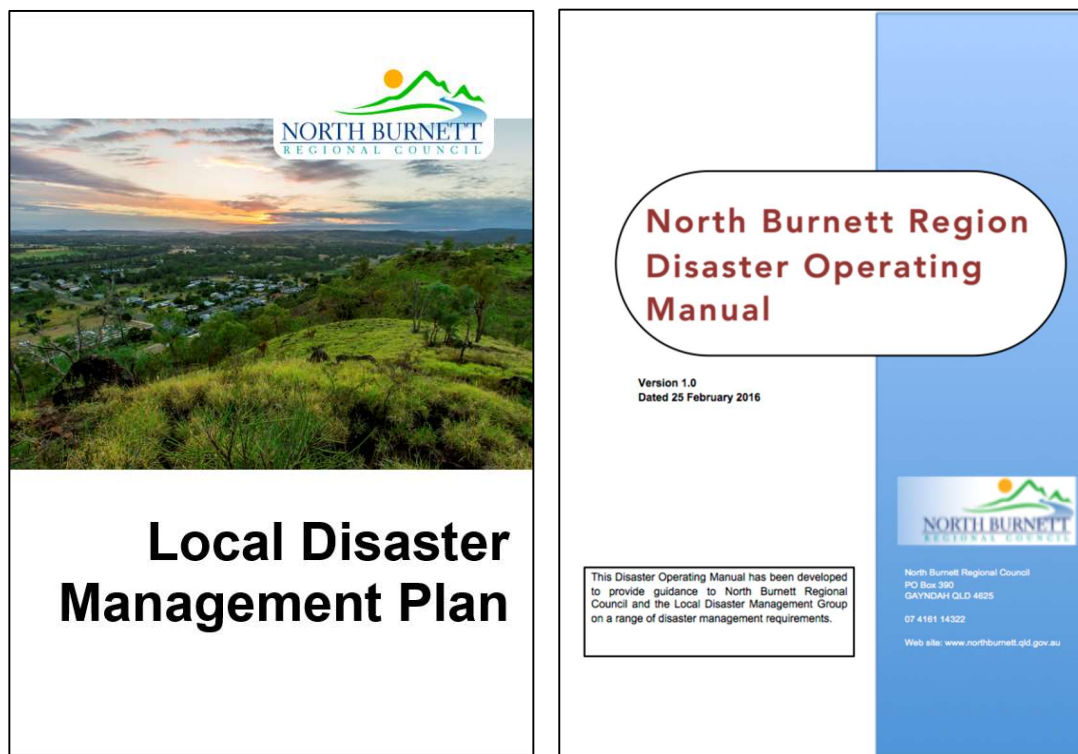
Figure 1 – Two Parts of the North Burnett Region Disaster Management Plan

The main plan outlines the strategies and arrangements for disaster management in the North Burnett Region including supporting plans for each major town in the region. The Disaster Operating Manual contains Operational Checklists and Sub Plans that focus on specific aspects of disaster management. The structure of the plan is outlined in the following paragraphs.

NORTH BURNETT DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN

- The context for Disaster Management in the North Burnett including assessment of risk and risk treatments.
- Local Disaster Management Arrangements.
- Strategies for Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery
- Biggenden - Disaster Support Plan
- Eidsvold - Disaster Support Plan
- Gayndah - Disaster Support Plan
- Monto - Disaster Support Plan
- Mount Perry - Disaster Support Plan
- Mundubbera - Disaster Support Plan

DISASTER OPERATING MANUAL

1. Business and Governance
2. Activation & Coordination
3. Community Disaster Education & Awareness
4. Public Information and Warnings
5. Evacuation & Evacuation Centre Management
6. Public Health
7. Resupply
8. Impact Assessment
9. Recovery
10. Bushfire Management & Response[1]
11. Pandemic Management & Response
12. Dam Failure
13. Emergency Animal and Plant Disease[2]

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[1] To be developed in conjunction QFES
[2] To be developed in conjunction with Dept Agriculture and Fisheries

DEFINITIONS & ABBREVIATIONS

A list full listing of definitions and abbreviations used in this plan are detailed in Annex B to this plan.

AMENDMENT AND VERSION CONTROL

The initial version of the plan and subsequent amendments of a procedural nature must be approved by the Local Disaster Coordinator, Local Disaster Management Group and reviewed by the Executive Officer Bundaberg District Disaster Management Group, in accordance with Section 28 of the *Disaster Management Act 2003.* It is to be approved by the North Burnett Regional Council in accordance with Section 80(1) (b), *Disaster Management Act 2003*.

Amendments of a minor nature, e.g., legislation references, contact names, addresses, telephone numbers etc. will be handled administratively by the Local Disaster Coordinator of the Local Disaster Management Group and ratified at a Local Disaster Management Group meeting.

PUBLIC ACCESS AND CONTROLLED DOCUMENT ANNEXES

Certain privacy related matters contained in this plan are not publicly available and their release is conditional to those who have a need to know for operational purposes. A public version of this plan excluding the controlled document annexes shall be made available for public viewing at each Council Customer Service Centre.

Copies of the plan, excluding the controlled document annexes, shall be made available for purchase by members of the public at a fee determined by Council.

Electronic versions of the plan, excluding the controlled document annexes, shall also be made available electronically in a read only portable document format (PDF), shall be made freely available from the Council website.

Electronic copies provided to the District Disaster Coordinator and the members of the North Burnett Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG), shall be full versions that include all confidential annexes.

AMENDMENT AND VERSION CONTROL REGISTER

VERSION	DATE	PREPARED BY	COMMENTS
Version 1.00	01 May 2009	Brian Scotney/ KTG Engineering	Initial version of plan under QDMP Guidelines 2005 & Operational Plan Guidelines 2006.
Version 2.00	25 February 2016	RW Disaster Management Services	Revision to comply with DMA amendments and disaster management standards
Version 2.1	15 August 2023	Disaster Management Department – North Burnett Regional Council	Revision to update formatting, update state department names, remove duplication/include hyperlinks and update of third party documents.

LOCAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN

SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION

QUEENSLAND DISASTER MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

The Queensland disaster management system is a whole-of-Government system that requires a commitment from all levels of Government to deliver an all hazards, comprehensive framework that responds to the needs of the community.

An "all hazards approach" means one set of disaster management arrangements capable of dealing with all hazards – natural and manmade.

A "comprehensive approach" encompasses the PPRR principles of – prevention, preparedness, response and recovery – and involves all levels of government and the community, as defined in the *Disaster Management Strategy Policy Framework*.

The Queensland disaster management system is based on disaster management legislation contained in the *Disaster Management Act 2003.*   Acts such as the *Fire and Rescue Services Act 1990*, *Public Safety Preservation Act 1986,* and the *Terrorism (Commonwealth Powers) Act 2002*, may have effect in times of disaster and provide additional powers in specific circumstances when dealing with a disaster.

The primary focus of the whole-of-Government disaster management system in Queensland is to mitigate the effects of disasters wherever possible or practical, while preparing to respond when disasters occur and recovering from their impact.

Disaster management arrangements have been developed with a focus on the local community, which is represented by the local government for the area.

For its part local government is responsible for:

- ensuring that it has a disaster response capability;
- providing public works and services to support its community;
- developing and implementing disaster mitigation strategies; and

    developing and maintaining a disaster management plan that encompasses the PPRR principles.

The disaster management system in Queensland is shown diagrammatically in Figure 1 below:

Figure 1: Queensland Disaster Management Structure
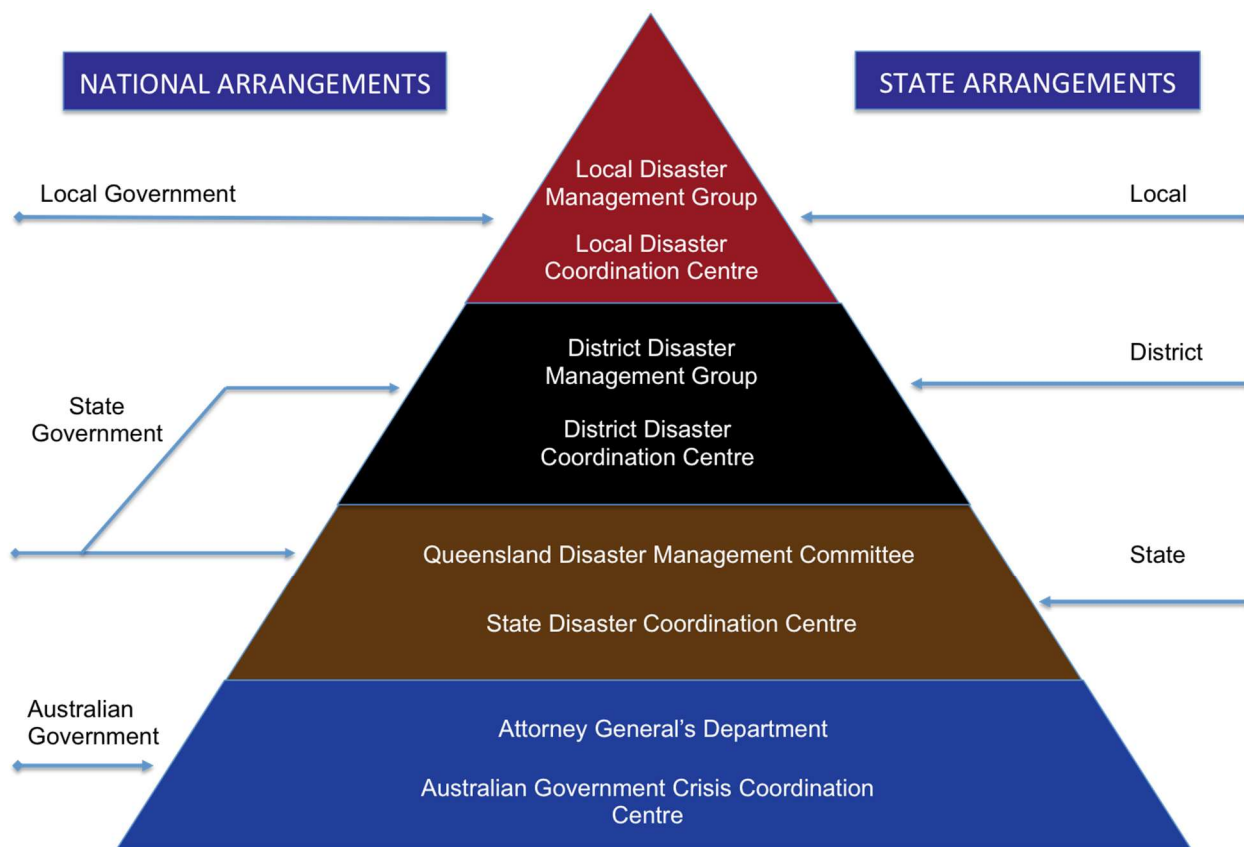
Note: The various disaster management groups at each level are decision-making bodies that establish the priorities and effort to be undertaken in Disaster Management. They are supported by dedicated Coordination Centres at each level of the Disaster Management structure.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS

This local plan is supported by Disaster Management Plans at the District and State level. The Bundaberg District Disaster Management Plan provides direction and guidance on how the regional resources of the State will support communities in both Bundaberg and North Burnett Regional Council areas.   The State Plan outlines the responsibilities and arrangements for Disaster Management across the State as a whole and can be found here. The Bundaberg District Disaster Management Plan can be found here.

KEY OBJECTIVES OF OUR PLAN

The key objectives of the Local Disaster Management Plan are to:

1. align with the State's strategic policy framework for disaster management and the Queensland Disaster Management Standard.

2. detail the LDMG strategy for disaster management in the North Burnett Region;

3. define the disaster management structure of the Local Disaster Management Group;

4. list the agreed roles and responsibilities, under this plan, of the various agencies that have been designated to have lead agency and/or support agency roles in the plan;

5. describe the likely effects of identified threats to the community and property in the area;

6. provide supporting plans and sub plans that address specific aspects of disaster management in North Burnett;

7. incorporate findings of the various risk management studies, including mitigation strategies, into Council's and other supporting agencies corporate governance documents and operational procedures.

HOW OUR PLAN ALIGNS WITH THE STATE STRATEGIC POLICY FRAMEWORK

Our Plan has been developed in accordance with the State Strategic Policy Framework for Disaster Management. The following paragraphs highlight how we are conforming to the policy's eight principles.

- **Our Plan is based on research and modelling studies.**   Over the years, the North Burnett Region has experienced many major disaster events, mostly flood related. Historical data from these events along with specific flood studies undertaken using flood modelling data, provides a foundation for our assessment of risk and our disaster prevention, preparation, response and recovery arrangements under this plan.

- **Our Plan is managed.**   Our plan outlines the disaster management responsibilities of key people and in the community and the Agencies that support our community. It describes how everyone works together and what we have to do under the Queensland Disaster Management Act, 2003.

- **Our Plan is based on assessment of risk.**   We looked at all the disasters that could happen in North Burnett. By analysing how disasters could affect us (risks) we can work out how to prevent those things from happening, or, if we can't prevent them, how we should prepare for them and respond to them when needed. Our risk assessment helps us focus on what is really important to us.

- **Our Plan Identifies opportunities to mitigate risk.** Sometimes we can reduce the risk of something bad happening by working to help prevent it, or we can reduce the impact. Our plan helps us understand what we can do in our community to prevent disasters or lessen their impact.

- **Our Plan tells us how to prepare.** Our plan guides us in our preparation to deal with disasters. It provides procedures to ensure everyone knows what to do before a disaster, including how to make the community better prepared.

- **Our Plan tells us how we should respond.** Our plan guides us when disasters happen. It provides procedures to coordinate everyone's effort and informs us on what we need to do to deal with a disaster.

- **Our Plan guides us in our recovery.** Our plan guides us in providing relief and how we can best manage the Recovery after a disaster.

Our Plan helps us learn from disasters. Learning from disasters is important to ensure we are better prepared next time. Our plan tells us how to capture the lessons of disaster events to make our plan and our community stronger.

HOW OUR PLAN INTEGRATES INTO COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLANNING PROCESSES

Council's corporate plan contains objectives and strategies for disaster management and risk management that relate to community well-being and community lifestyles, through preparedness for natural and man-made disasters.

The Operational Plan Program sets realistic goals and time frames in which to achieve the Corporate Plan's, desired objectives and strategies.

The North Burnett Regional Planning Scheme 2014 incorporates a Strategic framework to set the policy direction and a range of measures that facilitate its strategic outcomes. Such outcomes include removing or minimising exposure to natural hazards and providing community protection and resilience. Scheme measures include bushfire hazard and flood hazard overlay mapping, and associated development requirements. The planning scheme reflects the State Planning Policy 2017, including those provisions relating to 'Planning for safety and resilience to hazards'.

HOW WE WILL REVIEW AND RENEW OUR PLAN

The Local Disaster Coordinator must ensure that, in accordance with Section 59 of the *Disaster Management Act 2003*, the LDMP is reviewed annually and as necessary after activation. The review process shall be in accordance with the Standard for Disaster Management (the standard) and review processes established as part of the Emergency Management Assurance Framework (EMAF) and managed by the Queensland Inspector General of Emergency Management (IGEM). The standard and EMAF are available on IGEM's website.

SECTION 2 – HAZARDS AND DISASTER RISK ASSESSMENT

INTRODUCTION

The North Burnett Region Disaster Management Plan is developed on the basis of Hazard and Risk Analysis to ensure that all risks are examined and treated appropriately and that we focus on what's most important for the safety and well being of the North Burnett Community. This section outlines the historical basis of our risk assessment and details the hazards that may impact on the North Burnett. Annex C provides further detail in the form of a Risk Register which documents risks arising from hazards, their relative priority and the risk treatments that are to be applied to manage those risks. The Disaster Risk Register underpins the North Burnett Disaster Management Plan.

HISTORICAL RISK ASSESSMENTS AND HAZARD STUDIES

The North Burnett is a rural area comprising six main centres that support smaller local communities and rural properties. Each town/district has its own unique geography and demography and each are exposed to specific, and sometimes different, risks.

These risks have been identified over the years by undertaking risk assessments supported by flood modelling studies. Flood modelling of the Burnett River has been undertaken to help inform our understanding of the impact of various levels of flooding in the region. These historical risk assessments and flood studies are available through the North Burnett Regional Council. They are detailed in the following table:

FLOOD STUDIES	DISASTER RISK ASSESSMENTS
Gayndah Flood Study Part 1 Gayndah Flood Study Part 2 Mundubbera Flood Study	Natural Disaster Risk Assessments undertaken by pre-amalgamation shires: • Biggenden • Eidsvold • Mt Perry • Monto • Gayndah (Note: the historical risk assessment for Mundubbera cannot be located)

COMMUNITY CONTEXT

An overview of the main characteristics of the North Burnett Region that establish the context for an assessment of risk is detailed in Appendix 1 to this Section.

Additional data on the region is available from the Australian Bureau of Statistics via the "data by region" link on their web page at www.abs.gov.au.

HAZARDS THAT MAY IMPACT ON THE NORTH BURNETT

The following hazards have been assessed for the North Burnett region and are described below:

HAZARDS
FLOODING

Flooding of rivers, streams and creeks throughout the region is a continuing risk subject to seasonal climatic conditions and extreme weather events.

Records suggest that the period November to March offer the greatest risk to the community of serious damage to infrastructure and potential loss of life. Flooding is a by-product both during and as an aftermath of cyclones and storms. The worst floods were in 1893, 1942, 1992, 2003, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017 and 2022.

A map of the Burnett Basin can be downloaded from the Bureau of Meteorology's Web page at: http://www.bom.gov.au/qld/flood/brochures/burnett/map.shtml

The Burnett River sub systems of interest are:

Barambah Creek that rises south of Murgon and joins the Burnett River just below Gayndah; Nogo River west of Coominglah Range and Auburn, Stuart and Boyne Rivers that join the Burnett River just west of Mundubbera.

The Council relies upon the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) and its flood monitoring systems for its flood warning advices.

Major road communication routes traverse the Council area. A series of Highways, Main and Council rural roads feed service the area. All major systems cross the Burnett River and major creeks and are vulnerable to flooding. Despite major mitigation construction work by Council and Department of Main Roads, major flooding can occur for short periods. The highways crossing the Council area are major transport routes for the delivery of goods and supplies from the west and east, resulting in significant economic loss to the region and disruption to the lifestyle of local communities and travellers if significant events were to arise.

Biggenden

Biggenden township has some low level areas that are subject to localised short duration flooding. The areas are known to locals and are subject to attention by Council under annual operational planning activities, subject to finance and other priorities.

Degilbo Creek has been known to overflow in and around Biggenden and subsequently enter Biggenden in an area bounded by Elizabeth and Caroline Streets, where John and William Streets cross. Approximately 19 properties were affected. The recurrence interval is considered to be 'possible', with 'minor' impact, leading to an assessed risk level of 'Moderate'. Council has attempted to limit future development in this area.

Villages (Coalstoun Lakes and Dallarnil)
The flooding risk is considered to be low, despite the presence of Creeks in the area (Tawah and Merarie Creeks at Dallarnil and Brigalow and Rocky Creeks at Coalstoun Lakes). Historical evidence suggests that flooding mainly impacts causeways and infrastructure and may cause localised service and limited community disruption.

Eidsvold
Floods of note were in 1893 (highest), 1942, 1992, February 2003, 2010 and 2013. In 1999, there was 150 mm of rain over Eidsvold causing a flash flood in town. These major floods averaged one every 30 years over the last 110 years. One Eidsvold man was drowned in a flash flood of the Burnett in about 1957 and another drown on the Crown St Culvert some years ago. There used to be a lot more flash floods before the dams went in. There are no flash floods now (source: Aboriginal elders, Eidsvold). In 1973, a woman and her son were drowned whilst swimming in the river downstream from the Eidsvold flying fox, Residents to the west of the Burnett appear to be the most vulnerable group in a major flood. The Nogo River, located to the west of Cooinglah range is a large river that does not create any communication problems in flood. The township is not generally vulnerable to riverine flooding but localised issues can occur along Harkness Boundary Creek. Rural homesteads along the Burnett River West of Eidsvold can be affected by flooding of the river.
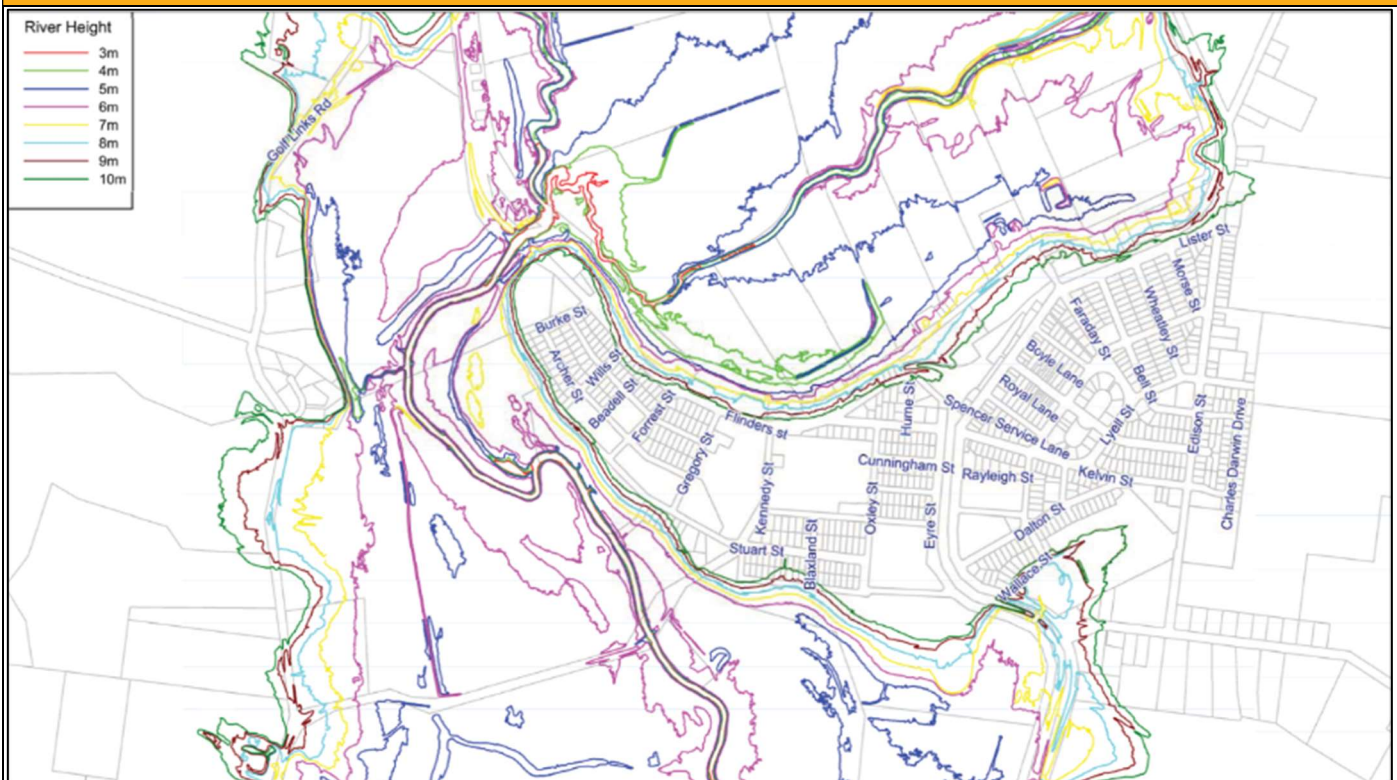
Source: North Burnett Get Ready Guide

The town of Monto is situated near the junction of the Three Moon and Monal creeks, with this junction being at the northwestern outskirts of the town.

Since the settlement of Monto in the early twenties many floods have been recorded, however these events are mainly confined to the limits of the creeks floodplains.

Within the township of Monto the risk of property inundation is restricted to the Mill Road residences, properties and commercial ventures. In the eighty-year period to date no residences have had water ingress, however water has encroached onto their properties, the most significant being the 1942 flood, when water entered the Hyne and Son sawmill.

Major flood events occur when the water from the Three Moon and Monal arrive at Monto at the same time. This type of event is less prevalent since the construction of the Cania Dam, as this dam stores the water from the upper reaches of Three Moon creek.

The Burnett Highway, which runs North to South through the Monto Shire Council, crosses Three Moon creek at Monto over Huntings Bridge. During 1971 this bridge was impassable for fourteen days and outlying properties on the western side of Three Moon creek were reliant upon stored provisions to see them through. The airport is cut off from Monto by Three Moon creek.

Travellers become isolated on the road links.

Monto township through isolation by road and power, Kalpowar, Moonford, Bancroft and Mulgildie similarly isolated.

Other local affects of flooding in the Monto area:

- Cania Caravan Park — Road cut at Gorgeoaky Creek
- Dairy Industry — cannot get product to factory
- Rural dwellers through isolation
- School children may become marooned in town if sufficient warning is not available.

The road infrastructure suffers damage at all watercourse crossings.

Gayndah
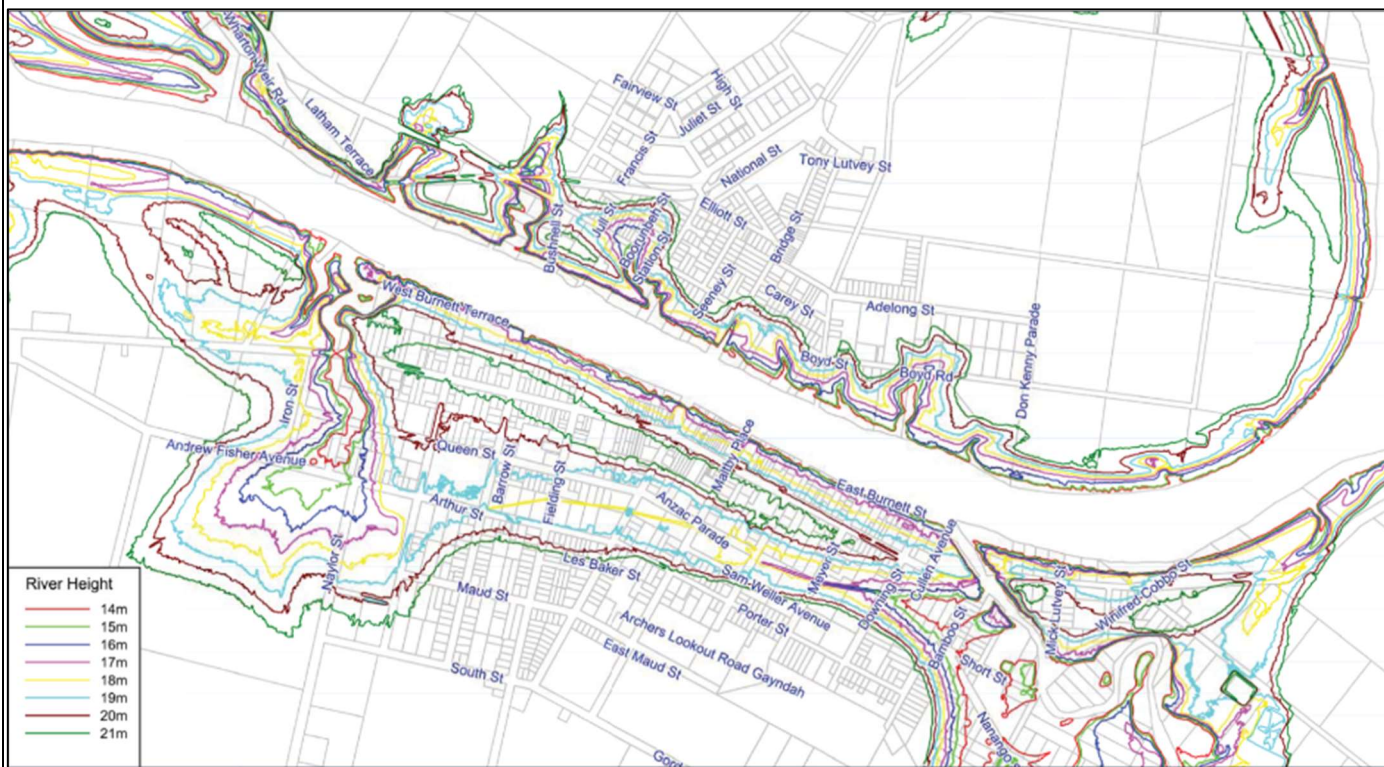
Source: North Burnett Get Ready Guide

The flood risk is depicted in the flood map above.

Source: North Burnett Get Ready Guide

Flooding of the Burnett River at Mundubbera can be minor, moderate or major. These flood levels and possible impacts are described below:

- 5 metres – minor flooding - expect road closures

- 10 metres -moderate flooding – road closures and inundation of agricultural land

- 15 metres- major flooding-first habitable house as at 2013 is inundated at 18m in Mundubbera township and first rural residence (Allens farm on Dykehead Road).

BOM will issue Burnett River Flood warnings from the 5 metres event.

TRIGGER POINT	RESPONSE
13 Metres	River not expected to be of concern to town area although access to the airstrip would be closed. Regional road closures and some rural communities will be isolated requiring food supply.
17 Metres	Dimitrios Bridge Closed due to flooding.
18 Metres	Houses inundated.

REGIONAL HISTORICAL FLOOD DATA

The table below summarises the flood history of the river catchment – it contains the flood gauge heights of the more significant recent floods:

FLOOD EVENT	EIDSVOLD BRIDGE	MUNDUBBERA	GAYNDAH	STONELANDS	BRIAN PASTURES
JAN 1890	-	-	16.64m	-	-
FEB 1893	-	-	16.46m	-	-
FEB 1942	-	23.62m	19.66m	-	-
JUL 1954	-	18.29m	14.38m	-	15.27m
FEB 1971	10.69m	17.45m	13.79m	10.24m	9.54m
JAN 1974	7.67m	7.75m	-	11.62m	7.04m
MAY 1983	9.04m	10.60m	8.60m	9.07m	6.40m
MAR 1992	11.50m	8.20m	6.40m	7.41m	6.15m
FEB 2003	14.35m	10.60m	8.60m	-	-
DEC 2010	16.20m	18.82m	15.60m	9.94m	8.15m
JAN 2013	22.06m	23.00m	18.61m	-	13.00m
FEB 2015	12.25m	10.15m	-	5.86m	-

FLOOD CLASSIFICATIONS / RIVER HEIGHT STATIONS

The table below shows the flood classifications for selected river height stations in the North Burnett:

RIVER HEIGHT STATION	FIRST REPORT HEIGHT	CROSSING HEIGHT	MINOR FLOOD	CROPS & GRAZING	MODERATE FLOOD	TOWNS & HOUSES	MAJOR FLOOD
All heights are measured in Metres on flood gauges (B) = Bridge (D/S) = Down Stream							
Eidsvold Bridge	4.0	6.1 (B)	6.0	6.0 (D/S)	9.0	-	12.0 (D/S)
Mundubbera	3.0	17.0 (B)	7.0	11.0	11.0 (D/S)	17.0	18.0
Gayndah	3.0	19.0 (B)	5.0	15.0	8.0	16.3	15.0 (D/S)
Stonelands	-	-	8.5	-	10.0	-	11.5
Brian Pastures	2.0	10.5 (B)	6.0	8.0	8.0 (D/S)	-	9.0 (D/S)

Flood Mapping is available to the community via the Emergency Management Dashboard.

DAM BREAK

DAM BREAK
There are 6 referrable dams located within the North Burnett Local Government area: • Boondooma Dam – located on the Boyne River • Bjelke-Petersen Dam – located on Barker Creek • Cania Dam – located on Three Moon Creek • Paradise Dam – located on the Burnett River • Perry River Dam – located on Perry River • Wuruma Dam – located on Nogo River Details of responsibility, responding during a dam failure and emergency action plans can be found in Sub Plan 12 – Dam Failure (Doc ID# 755779).

STORM

Storms cover a variety of terminology from Cyclone, East Coast Lows, Tornadoes, Severe Thunderstorms, etc.

A considerable number of domestic and business/industrial structures in the Council's region pre-date the introduction of the wind codes in the mid 1980s and are therefore susceptible to damage caused by winds generated in the various categories of storms, especially cyclones and tornadoes.

The Bureau of Meteorology classifies storms as follows:

STORM	
Severe Storm	Defined by two categories - severe thunderstorms and land gales.
Severe Thunderstorm	This type of thunderstorm is one that produces: • hail, diameter of 2 cm or more ($2 coin size); or • wind gusts of 90 km/h or greater; or • flash floods; or • tornadoes, or any combination of these. South-east Queensland including the Wide Bay/ Burnett Region is a region particularly susceptible to severe thunderstorms during the summer months (October to March) with their hail, flash flooding, lightening and strong winds. These events are responsible for most of the annual damage to property from natural hazards in the region. There are about 20 days a year on which severe thunderstorms develop and on many occasions there have been up to five individual storm systems involved on any one day. Not all thunderstorms, however, produce damage. Over the past 45 years the region has experienced, on average, two damaging thunderstorms each year. In both 1995 and 1999 there were eight such storms. Destructive winds from thunderstorms occur much more frequently in the south-east Queensland region than do severe winds brought by tropical cyclones or east coast lows.

	Thunderstorm winds do, however, impact over a much smaller area. As a result, thunderstorms tend to cause localised but sometimes severe damage in a few suburbs, rather than affecting the whole region. Track widths typically vary from 1 km upwards and can extend for over 100 km if conditions are 'favourable'. Approximately 30% of all severe thunderstorms produce damaging hail. These swaths of hail may impact areas a few kilometres in width and up to 10 km in length. Thunderstorms can also bring with them flash flooding. Almost all storms produce some lightening and associated thunder and can be accompanied by hail.
Tornadoes	Tornadoes may accompany severe super-cell thunderstorms. On average they occur about one day per year in this region. Peak wind speeds are estimated to approach 450 km/h in the larger tornadoes.
Land Gales	Land gales are gale force (62 km) or stronger winds, which occur over the land. They usually last longer and affect much larger areas than thunderstorms. Gales blow when large differences in atmospheric pressure are concentrated over a small distance. This can happen between a ˮdeepˮ low-pressure system and a strong high, or near an intense cold front.
Cyclones	Tropical cyclones are accompanied by strong winds, with potentially destructive gusts (more than 130 km/h within 100 km of the centre of Category 3 or greater storms. These strong winds can persist for hours, or even days, and can cause widespread building and infrastructure damage or even loss of life. Most of the structural damage caused by tropical cyclones is inflicted by strong winds. This damage can be caused directly by the wind and/or by the debris that it propels, frequently with great force. Cyclones may also result in severe flooding. Cyclones usually occur between November and March, and are not usually a major problem in the Region. On long-term average, 1 to 2 cyclones pass within 500 km of Brisbane each year, whilst in the past 92 years at least 15 of these storms have approached to within 100 km of the Wide Bay - Burnett Coast.
East Coast Lows	East Coast Lows, also known as east coast cyclones, winter cyclones or easterly trough lows, are one of a family of low pressure systems which most often develop during the winter months (May to August) along the east coast of Australia south of 25ºC (about the latitude of Bundaberg). These large-scale storm systems often develop rapidly and can become quite intense, with storm force winds extending over wide areas. These events contribute significantly to flooding and wind damage along the coastal margins as well as marine accidents, storm surge and beach erosion. Whilst they share many features with tropical cyclones, east coast lows tend to intensify much more rapidly and form much closer to the south-east Queensland region, with the result that warnings of severe weather are typically quite short. The incidence of this type of storm fluctuates quite widely from one year to the next, with none in some years and the highest incidence being twelve in 1978/79. The long term average annual occurrence is about 2.5 storms per year but since 1960 the average has increased to 3.7.'

	The area has been subjected to fringe effects of tropical cyclones events, with the cyclone centres primarily being located in the eastern seaboard. Events that have reached the area have largely been aftermath effects that have crossed the coast in the northeast to easterly direction. The Bureau of Meteorology reported on 27 October 2002, a large storm outbreak occurred across southeast and central Queensland. Storms flattened trees near Biggenden, while golf ball sized hail was reported from the Rockhampton area. Seven sheep were killed by hail near Moonie. Strong wind gusts from storms damaged trees and structures in Childers. 'Land gales or microbursts' hit parts of former Eidsvold Shire in the late 1990s and early 2000s. The Showground, Bowling Club and some private buildings on stations have been damaged from time to time. These narrow destructive gusting bands of wind normally occur from September to November, which, at worst, may be connected with lightning and fire. Such winds have lifted tin off the showground pavilion roof and torn awnings off showground buildings. Shade structures were ripped from the Bowls Club in about 1997. The Faulkner's lost their roof in about 2000. In about 1993, the roof of a shed in the Council yard hinged off and was destroyed in a narrow-gutted windstorm. Approximately 87 % of the current domestic building stock in the Council area was built prior to the introduction of wind codes. There is a high likelihood that these structures were not built to the wind code requirements for the area and are thus vulnerable to wind damage. A high proportion of structures in the Shire are of timber construction.

MAJOR TRANSPORT ACCIDENT

MAJOR TRANSPORT ACCIDENT	
Road	The road system within the Region carries a myriad of transport, made up of heavy transport carrying hazardous materials and cattle, tourist coaches, school buses and ordinary motor vehicles. The road system consists of the Burnett and Isis Highways, several State main roads and numerous sealed and gravel Council Roads. Many heavy transport vehicles (including those carrying hazardous materials), tourist coaches, school buses and other vehicles use the road system daily. A major incident may exceed the capabilities of the emergency services, depending on the complexity of the incident.
Air	Flight paths of civil and defence aircraft pass over various portions of the area, including residential areas. The effect of aircraft impacting within the Region has the potential to extend emergency services beyond their capacity.
Marine	A recreational boating accident in inland waterways may occur but the likelihood is low.

FIRE (RURAL & URBAN)

Weather and vegetation conditions play a large role in the potential for a fire. The whole of the Council area is vulnerable to grass fires. The urban/rural interface is a potential problem area. The large tracts of State Forests and National Parks present a bushfire problem due to the policies of the State Government with regard to reduction burns and the removal of grazing rights within the forest and park areas.

The bushfire season for South East Queensland and the Wide Bay/Burnett Region typically extends from mid to late winter through to early summer. The greatest danger from bushfire generally occurs in the period towards the end of winter when abundant growth of grass and other fuel from good seasons is followed by a winter of low rainfall and lengthy periods of dry westerly winds.

On average it is estimated that the region experiences a serious fire season about once in every five years and obviously depends on weather conditions.

With mixed open woodland and State Forests/National Parks, the region suffers wildfires in extreme dry and hot conditions. The worst remembered widespread fires were in 1951 and 1994. In November 1994 a major fire front came from the west, from the Cracow. The front was 40-50 km wide, producing much hard risky fire fighting for the eleven days of the declared emergency period.

There are more frequent, more contained fires, either from lightning in the lead up to the wet summers, or fires started by careless motorists, often originating in roadside rest areas.

Domestic and industrial fires are a possibility in urban designated areas.

Potential Bushfire Intensity mapping is found within the [State Planning Policy Interactive Mapping System](#).

It should be noted that this fire risk mapping is generalised and bushfire risk may vary considerably based on current weather and fire load conditions.

EMERGENCY ANIMAL & PLANT DISEASE

There is always a possibility that emergency / exotic animal / plant diseases may be introduced to the area by illegally imported animals and animal products or via the movement of infected stock into and through the area.

Emergency Animal and Plant Disease are lead by Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF).

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL ACCIDENT

There is a potential for a disaster / emergency through the storage, transport and discharge of toxic, flammable substances, gases and infectious substances (e.g. Biological samples). The greatest danger to the general public from these materials usually occurs during their transportation. Transport of hazardous material by road has the potential to cause an accident involving the general travelling public, school buses and tourist coaches.

Hazardous material such as Liquid Petroleum Gas, natural Gas, Chlorine, Sodium Cyanide (solid and liquid), Sodium Hydroxide, Sodium Hypochlorite, Hydrochloric Acid, Sulphuric Acid and Anhydrous Ammonia are common on the roads system.

EPIDEMIC / PANDEMIC

The outbreak of an infectious disease in the populace areas is a possibility and could cause the health system to be taxed beyond its capacity therefore requiring assistance in quarantining and isolation of numbers of people for protracted periods.

Epidemics of communicable diseases are of low probability. However the following hierarchy indicates broad probabilities:

- Communicable diseases commonly found in the general population: meningitis, food-borne illness, influenza, COVID-19 and water-borne diseases;
- Setting – potential disease outbreak locations – childcare centres, schools, aged care facilities, event-specific, prisons, marginalised groups such as IV drug users, animal farms (chicken, cattle);
- Emerging infectious diseases – Swine flu, Bird flu, SARS, Leptospirosis, Lyssa Virus, Q Fever;
- Biological assault – terrorist threat, biological weapons.

EARTHQUAKE

A disaster of this type, which causes damage to property, essential services and perhaps loss of life, could occur without warning. Such disaster could stretch the resources of the region and would more than likely require outside assistance.

Earthquake impact is a possibility, with four (4) events having Modified Mercalli (MM) intensities of 4.3, 5.7, 5.9 and 6.3 felt in the Council area with some damage to buildings being recorded. In the surrounding area eleven (11) other earthquakes were recorded with MM intensities of 4 and fifteen (15) others with MM intensities of 3 or 2. Although a rare event there is the potential for severe damage, loss of life and a considerable economic impact on the economy of the region.

It is recognised that Council and the State's infrastructure could be subjected to substantial damage in a major event.

A major Queensland earthquake fault line runs through Gayndah, and Monto is situated on the northern extremity therefore there is the potential for sonic future event.

The known areas of dilatant soils (which will liquefy when vibrated) are the flats of Three Moon, Monal and Splinter Creeks. No known structures are built on these flats.

LANDSLIP

A disaster of this type, which causes damage to property, essential services and perhaps loss of life and stock, could occur. Such a disaster could stretch the resources of Council and would more than likely require outside assistance. Landslips may occur on the steep slopes of the ranges and could be rain induced. 12% of the land in the area has slopes in excess of 15%.

The State Planning Policy (2017) proposed that all land with a slope of 15% or greater be regarded as a possible landslide/slip area for natural hazard management.

The areas subject to possible landslip, based on available history, are around Mount Woowoonga and the Mount Walsh National Park and a small section of the residential area of Gayndah around the 'hospital hill'/lookout reserve.

TERRORIST ACT

It is possible that a terrorist act may occur in the Council area. If it were to occur it is likely that such an act would involve the Council's infrastructure. It is possible that an event in a neighbouring local government area could indirectly affect North Burnett Regional Council area, e.g. an attack of the State power grid, major water storages or the rail network in the area. Queensland Police Service have operational responsibility for first response to terrorism.

RISK ASSESSMENT & RISK REGISTER

The Risk Assessment for the North Burnett region is maintained by Council as part of this plan.   The Risk Assessment documents the risks arising from the above hazards that affect the region or specific localities and rates these risks (prioritises them) according to their likelihood and consequence.

The North Burnett Disaster Risk Register is also maintained by Council on behalf of the LDMG as part of this plan. It details the Risk Treatments to be applied to prevent or mitigate the risks identified. The Risk Assessment and the North Burnett Disaster Risk Register are provided in Annex C to this Plan.

MAKING SURE DISASTER RISKS ARE MANAGED

The Risk Register is a very important document for the LDMG. The Group's responsibility is to make sure that we do the things detailed in our Risk Register to remove or reduce disaster risk for the North Burnett community.

The LDMG should regularly refer to the Risk Register at their meetings to make sure progress is being made in managing disaster risks. If anything changes in the community, the Group may need to change the risk register to take into account those changes.

The LDMG may refer risk treatments that are beyond the capacity of the community to the Bundaberg Disaster District for their advice, support and assistance.

Appendices:

1.   General Description of North Burnett

APPENDIX 1 – GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF NORTH BURNETT

FEATURE	RELEVANT INFORMATION AND CONSIDERATIONS
Geography	The area administered by North Burnett Regional Council (NBRC) covers 19,708 square kilometres, which represents 1.1. per cent of the State's area of 1,734,190 square kilometres. The Region's administrative centre is located at Gayndah, approximately 320 road kilometres north west of Brisbane and 148 road kilometres west of Maryborough.

The Council area is surrounded by the local government areas of Bundaberg, Fraser Coast, Gympie, South Burnett, Banana, Gladstone and Western Downs.

The Burnett River is the major river system in the area with several other Rivers (Boyne, Auburn, Nogo) and Creeks (Three Moon, Monal, Cadarga, Reids and Barambah) in the region.

Major water storage areas such as dams and weirs are located on these river/stream systems. These include Jones Weir, Cania Dam, and Paradise Dam to name a few.

The region is rural based with several mountain ranges incorporating several national parks or state forests such as Auburn River, Cania Gorge, Mount Walsh National Park, Normanby Range and Archers and McConnell lookouts.

Major population centres in the region include Biggenden, Eidsvold, Gayndah, Monto, Mount Perry and Mundubbera.

The majority of usable land in the area is used for several industries such as timber, livestock (beef, dairy and pork), limited mining and agricultural industries such as citrus/fruit growing and mixed commercial crops.

Throughout the region there are several road systems that carry a wide range of commercial freight, tourism and community needs. Some of these roads are the Maryborough – Biggenden Road, Gayndah – Mount Perry Road, Monto – Mt Perry Road and the Burnett and Isis Highways.

A rail line runs from the QR Maryborough hub providing freights services to the region through the following centres of Biggenden, Gayndah, Mundubbera, Eidsvold and Monto. A road-rail service extends to other locations.

There are limited air services within the region mainly operating from a range of sealed to grass airstrips. |
| **Climate and Weather** | The climate of the area is characterised as being sub-tropical and sub-humid with rainfall tending to be more concentrated in the October to March months.

Annual median rainfall for the region ranges from 704 mm (Mundubbera) to 916 mm (Mt. Perry)

Frosts occur throughout the region manly in June to August. |

	Average seasonal temperatures range from 5 degrees minimum to 32 degrees maximum. Occasionally extreme temperatures are experienced in summer months. Cyclones do not directly affect the area generally but the effects of coastal monsoonal activity or 'East Coast' lows can impact the area. Between September and February the region can experience severe thunderstorms or wind shear.
Population	The region's population as at 2022 was 10,220 persons. The population has seasonal fluctuations due to agricultural crop harvesting labour demands and tourism activities such as festivals and commemorative events.
Community Capacity	**Organisations that may provide community response capacity:** • **Lions**: Biggenden, Eidsvold, Gayndah, Monto, Mundubbera • **Rotary:** Biggenden, Gayndah, Monto, Mundubbera • **Apex:** Biggenden, Monto • **QCWA**: Biggenden, Gayndah, Monto, Mt Perry, Mundubbera • **RSL:** Biggenden, Eidsvold, Gayndah, Monto, Mt Perry, Mundubbera
Education Facilities	**Throughout the Region there are several Education or Child Care facilities – not all are listed in this section:** **Biggenden:** • Biggenden State School • Kindergarten and Day Care Centre **Eidsvold:** • Eidsvold State School • Abercorn State School • Kindergarten and Pre School **Gayndah:** • State Primary School • Burnett State College & TAFE Centre for Open Learning • Binjour State Primary School • St. Joseph's Primary School • Kindergarten and Pre School **Monto:** • Two Primary State Schools • One Secondary School • St. Therese's Primary School • Kindergarten and Pre School **Mount Perry:** • Mount Perry State School **Mundubbera:** • Mundubbera State Primary and Secondary School

	• Boynewood, Monogorilby and Binjour State Schools • Kindergarten and Pre School

Critical Infrastructure	**Police and Emergency Services:**
	
	• **Queensland Police stations**
	
	Biggenden, Eidsvold, Gayndah, Monto, Mount Perry and Mundubbera.
	
	• **Queensland Fire & Emergency Services:**
	
	   ○ **Urban/Auxiliary Brigades**
	
	   Biggenden, Eidsvold, Gayndah, Monto and Mundubbera.
	
	   ○ **Volunteer Rural Fire Brigades**
	
	   Biggenden, Eidsvold, Gayndah, Monto, Mount Perry and Mundubbera.
	
	• **Queensland Ambulance stations**
	
	Biggenden, Eidsvold, Gayndah, Monto, and Mundubbera with Mount Perry township being serviced from Gin Gin.
	
	• **Queensland State Emergency Service Volunteer Units (SES):**
	
	Biggenden, Eidsvold, Gayndah, Monto, Mount Perry and Mundubbera.
	
	Medical and Care facilities:
	
	Biggenden:
	   • Hospital/helipad
	   • General Practitioner
	   • Pharmacy
	   • Aged Care
	
	Eidsvold:
	   • Public hospital/helipad
	   • General Practitioner
	   • Day Respite Care Centre
	   • Pharmacy
	
	Gayndah:
	   • Public hospital/helipad
	   • General Practitioner
	   • Pharmacy
	   • Aged Care Centre
	   • **Community Health**
	
	Monto:
	   • Hospital/helipad

	• General Practitioner **Mount Perry:** • Mount Perry Community Health Centre with visiting Doctor/helipad **Mundubbera:** • Public Hospital/helipad • General Practitioner • Aged Care units • Pharmacy
Essential Services	**Water supply and sewerage**: Reticulated water supplies and sewerage are provided in Biggenden, Eidsvold, Gayndah, Monto and Mundubbera with Mount Perry only having a reticulated water system. **Waste Removal Landfill Sites:** Mundubbera is home to the North Burnett Landfill site. Transfer stations are located within Biggenden, Eidsvold, Gayndah, Monto and Mount Perry. **Power:** Provided and manage by Ergon Energy. **Telecommunications:** National and commercial radio reception. Mobile phone reception varies subject to terrain and repeater facilities **Television:** Free-to-air available in the Region **Radio Stations:** National & commercial reception Community/Tourist information stations
Hazardous Sites	• Bulk Fuel depots • Service Stations • Swimming Pool complexes • Bulk LPG gas suppliers • Rural Farm supply outlets **Refer to Council hazardous site register for detail**

Table 2 – Community General Description

SECTION 3 – OUR OVERALL DISASTER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

OUR REGION'S DISASTER MANAGEMENT CONTEXT

A number of defining characteristics of the North Burnett Region drive the region's disaster management arrangements and operational procedures. These are:

- The population is centred in six individual towns with surrounding smaller communities and rural properties. Each town is unique and each town is affected by different risks.

- Towns and communities are vulnerable to extended periods of physical and communication isolation during disasters.

- The region's roads are vulnerable to closure during disasters contributing to the risk of isolation and hampering the manoeuvre of resources during disasters.

- All town airports, with the exception of Gayndah are vulnerable to closure during disasters.

- All towns have Council and Emergency Services personnel living within the community who can provide information and undertake local coordination and provide community support during disasters.

The above characteristics underpin the Disaster Management Strategy for the region.

OUR DISASTER MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Disaster Management strategy for the North Burnett region is:

> *"Centralised Management & Coordination of all agencies*
>
> *supported by Disaster Support Groups in each town".*

This strategy applies to the prevention, preparation, response and recovery elements of disaster management.

The LDMG is the region's peak decision-making body responsible for providing disaster management for the region. Town Disaster Support Groups are formed by the LDMG in each town to support them. The Chair of each Support Group is a member of the core group of the LDMG.

Disaster Support Groups comprise members of that community drawn from Council, Emergency Services (police, fire, ambulance, SES) and Community Organisations that contribute to disaster management. They assist the LDMG by:

- Providing advice and support for prevention & mitigation measures within their community,

- Preparing themselves and their community for possible disasters as directed by the LDMG,

- Providing operational information to the LDMG during disasters and undertaking Local Coordination, Community Support and Evacuation Support as required by the LDMG, and

- Providing advice and assistance to the LDMG as required during Recovery.

The strategy recognises that each town is unique and provides for local input to disaster management decisions while retaining some control over local resources and actions under the management of the Local Disaster Management Group.

The strategy acknowledges the potential for towns/communities to be isolated and unable to communicate with the outside world for extended periods during disasters. In such cases the Town Disaster Support Groups are able to make decisions and coordinate local actions and resources necessary for the preservation life and protection of property.

Centralised management and coordination will be undertaken by the LDMG who will usually convene at Gayndah during disaster operations.   The Gayndah Aerodrome is considered to be a key facility for air operations to support the region.   The Local Disaster Coordination Centre is located at the Gayndah Aerodrome.

SECTION 4 – LOCAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

THE LOCAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT GROUP

The Local Disaster Management Group is established under the authority of the *Disaster Management Act, 2003.* It primarily comprises representatives from Council and State Government entities who work together and have the authority under the Act to commit the resources of their organisation in support of effective disaster management for the community. The LDMG establishes priorities, prepares plans, engages with the community, and coordinates disaster management across the spectrum of prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

Sub Plan 1 – Business and Governance details the structure, purpose and governance arrangements for the LDMG.

SUPPORT GROUPS OF THE LOCAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT GROUP

Due to the risks associated with the isolation of individual towns, the LDMG has formed six town-based Disaster Support Groups who are responsible for supporting the LDMG in disaster management for their town and surrounding areas.

The Town Disaster Support Groups assist the LDMG in preparing plans for their area of responsibility, coordinating local resources under the direction of the LDMG and, in times of prolonged communications breakdown, for decision making on behalf of the LDMG for the preservation of life and protection of property.

Sub Plan 1 – Business and Governance provides additional detail on the structure, purpose and governance of the Town Disaster Support Groups.

TOWN DISASTER SUPPORT PLANS

A Disaster Support Plan for each town is to be maintained as part of this plan.

These plans outline the composition of the Support Group, and arrangements for Local coordination, Community Support and Evacuation specific to that town and surrounding area. Disaster Support Plans for each town are at Annexes F to K this plan.

DISASTER DISTRICT REPRESENTATION

The Chair of the LDMG and the Local Disaster Coordinator are appointed as the Group's representatives to the Bundaberg DDMG. They are to:

- attend meetings of the DDMG;
- assist the chairperson in the coordination of State support for disaster management in the North Burnett region, and
- commit the Council's resources, as required, in support of efforts to respond effectively to the disaster event.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF COUNCILLORS, NORTH BURNETT REGIONAL COUNCIL

The primary role of Councillors who are not involved in the Local Disaster Management Group is to communicate with their constituents and assist in the passage of information to/from the Group.

The Chief Executive Officer, North Burnett Regional Council will communicate to Councillors relevant information received from the Chairperson LDMG.

LEAD AND SUPPORT AGENCIES

Agencies that contribute to disaster management may be appointed as Lead Agencies for a specific threat. This means that agency has the responsibility for managing the specified threat and for developing sub plans for that threat which are to be included in this disaster management plan (as applicable).

Support Agencies contribute to this sub plan development and support Lead Agencies in responding to the event. The table below details the threat specific agencies for disaster management in North Burnett Region.

THREAT	LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT AGENCY
Cyclone/ Storm/ Severe Weather Damage	**North Burnett Regional Council**	Bureau of Meteorology State Emergency Service Queensland Police Service Ergon Energy Telstra Queensland Ambulance Service Queensland Fire & Emergency Service Department of Transport & Main Roads Department of Energy and Public Works Queensland Health
Flood incl. Dam Break Flood	**North Burnett Regional Council**	Sunwater State Emergency Service Queensland Police Service Ergon Energy Telstra Queensland Ambulance Service Queensland Fire & Emergency Service Department of Transport & Main Roads Queensland Health Department of Resources Department of Energy and Public Works
Major Transport Accident (Road, Air & Marine)	**Queensland Police Service** NOTE: **Civilian Air Accident** – initial response QPS until CASA and Dept. Transport arrive. **Defence Air Accident** - QPS until defence personnel arrive.	Queensland Ambulance Service State Emergency Service Queensland Fire & Emergency Service Ergon Energy Department of Transport & Main Roads Queensland Rail North Burnett Regional Council Queensland Health Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) Department of Environment and Science
Fire – Urban	**Queensland Fire & Emergency Services**	Queensland Police Service Queensland Ambulance Service State Emergency Service Ergon Energy

		North Burnett Regional Council Queensland Health
Fire – Rural	**Queensland Fire & Emergency Services – Rural Operations**	Queensland Police Service Queensland Ambulance Service Queensland Fire & Emergency Service (Rural) State Emergency Service Ergon Energy North Burnett Regional Council Queensland Health
Emergency Animal/Plant Disease	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries	Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Queensland Police Service North Burnett Regional Council State Emergency Service Queensland Fire & Emergency Service (Auxiliary &Rural) Department of Transport & Main Roads Ergon Energy Government Valuers Queensland Health
Hazardous Material Accident	**Queensland Fire & Emergency Service (Urban & Rural)**	Queensland Police Service Queensland Fire & Emergency Service North Burnett Regional Council State Emergency Service Queensland Ambulance Service Ergon Energy CHEM Unit RACE (Response Advice for Chemical Emergency) Queensland Health Department of Environment and Science Department of Transport &Main Roads Industry concerned
Communicable Disease (Pandemic)	**Queensland Health**	Queensland Police Service Queensland Ambulance Service State Emergency Service North Burnett Regional Council
Earthquake	**North Burnett Regional Council**	Sunwater State Emergency Service Queensland Police Service Ergon Energy Telstra Queensland Ambulance Service Queensland Fire & Emergency Service Department of Transport & Main Roads North Burnett Regional Council Queensland Rail Department of Energy and Public Works Queensland Health

Evacuation (withdrawal)	**Queensland Police Service**	North Burnett Regional Council State Emergency Service Bureau of Meteorology Queensland Ambulance Service Queensland Fire & Emergency Service Department of Transport & Main Roads Department of Energy and Public Works Department of Communities Housing and Digital Economy
Evacuation (all phases except withdrawal)	**North Burnett Regional Council**	Queensland Police Service State Emergency Service Bureau of Meteorology Queensland Ambulance Service Queensland Fire & Emergency Services Department of Transport & Main Roads Department of Energy and Public Works Department of Communities Housing and Digital Economy
Earthquake and Landslide	**North Burnett Regional Council**	State Emergency Service Queensland Police Service Ergon Energy Telstra NBN Queensland Ambulance Service Queensland Fire & Emergency Service Department of Transport & Main Roads Queensland Rail Department of Energy and Public Works Queensland Health Department of Defence (if required)
Mine Disaster	**Natural Resources and Mines**	Evolution Mining Relevant Mining Operators. State Emergency Service Queensland Police Service Ergon Energy Telstra Queensland Ambulance Service Queensland Fire & Emergency Service Department of Transport & Main Roads North Burnett Regional Council Department of Energy and Public Works Queensland Health
Terrorism	**Queensland Police Service**	North Burnett Regional Council. Queensland Ambulance Service State Emergency Service Queensland Fire & Emergency Service Ergon Energy

		Telstra Australian Defence Force
Lost Persons Bush & Mountain Search & Rescue	**Queensland Police Service**	North Burnett Regional Council. Queensland Ambulance Service State Emergency Service Queensland Fire & Emergency Service Queensland Parks &Wildlife Service Queensland Health

Table 1 – Lead and Support Agencies

RESPONSIBILITIES OF AGENCIES

Responsibilities of Agencies are detailed in Annex D to this plan.

HOW WE WILL ENGAGE WITH THE MEDIA

Keeping the community informed of the threat, response and recovery is a key enabler for success in disaster management. The LDMG is responsible for developing the media messages to be delivered to the community for disaster management purposes.

Further detail on engagement with the community is provided in *Sub Plan 3 – Community Disaster Education & Awareness* and *Sub Plan 4 – Public Information and Warnings.*

SECTION 5 – OUR PREVENTION & PREPAREDNESS STRATEGIES

OUR PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS OBJECTIVES

Our Prevention and Preparedness objectives are to:

- Ensure we identify and act on opportunities for prevention / mitigation.
- Build capacity in our Community, Council and our LDMG to effectively prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters (getting ready and getting better)

HOW WE WILL IDENTIFY AND ACT UPON OPPORTUNITIES FOR PREVENTION/ MITIGATION

Our Disaster Risk Register is the main tool we will use to identify prevention/mitigation opportunities. The LDMG will regularly review the Disaster Risk Register and act on opportunities to treat risk through prevention and mitigation effort.

The LDMG is to maintain a Disaster Mitigation Opportunities Register that collates the various disaster mitigation opportunities available as well as those mitigation actions completed, being undertaken or planned. This register is to be maintained by the North Burnett Regional Council Disaster Management Officer and is to be reviewed by the LDMG at least annually. See Annex E for a template for this Register.

GETTING READY AND GETTING BETTER

Getting ready is vital to being disaster resilient. We also need to get better at disaster management so we can be more effective. We will do these using three strategies:

- Provision of regular and ongoing Community Education and Awareness activities as directed by the LDMG in the *Annual Community Education & Awareness Plan.*
- Participation in Disaster Management Training including the conduct of Disaster exercises, and
- Effective Post Disaster Assessment processes.

Sub Plan 3 provides further detail on our Community Education and Awareness arrangements and processes.

PRIORITIES FOR COMMUNITY DISASTER EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

The key to effective community disaster education is to involve the community in identifying the best ways we can prepare for disasters. The community should be provided regular community messages about how to become disaster ready. These community messages and awareness activities should be aligned to the times of the year when we expect weather related hazards:

- Storm Season – commences in spring and goes through early summer.
- Bushfire Season – commences in August and goes through to early summer
- Cyclone Season – Similar to Storms, cyclones can occur anytime from November to April.
- Flooding – aligns with Storm and Cyclone season.
- Heatwave – can occur anytime during summer.
- Pandemic – likely to occur during autumn and winter months.

Other hazards like earthquake or dam failure resulting from earthquake can occur anytime and a general understanding by the community of these hazards is required.

The seasonal hazards described above are our priority for community education and awareness.

ANNUAL COMMUNITY DISASTER EDUCATION & AWARENESS PLAN

The LDMG will develop a *Community Disaster Education and Awareness Plan* each 12 months outlining the activities and community messaging required to increase awareness and resilience in the community for the next 12 months based on the above priorities.

The *Community Disaster Education and Awareness Plan* is to be maintained by the LDMG Secretariat and updated by the LDMG annually. A template for this plan and strategies that may be used for community education and awareness is provided at as an annex to *Sub Plan 3 – Community Disaster Education and Awareness*.

PARTICIPATION IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT TRAINING

All members of the LDMG are required to undertake specified training relevant to their function in disaster management. These training requirements are detailed in the Queensland Disaster Management Training Framework managed by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services.

Other members of the community or supporting agencies can also benefit from some disaster management training to assist in community education & awareness and preparedness. More detail on training requirements for members of the LDMG is in *Sub Plan 1 – Business and Governance Arrangements.*

The LDMG will maintain a current *Disaster Management Training Register* recording the training each LDMG member has undertaken and what training they still have to do. The Register also identifies Council staff or Community representatives that are nominated to undertake some disaster management training to help them support disaster management in the community.

The LDMG Secretariat is responsible for maintaining the *Disaster Management Training Needs Analysis Registe*r (Doc ID# 833440). The LDMG is to review the register annually.

The Register should be provided to QFES and the Bundaberg Disaster District on request so that the required training can be programmed.

PRACTICING OUR PLANS AND SUB PLANS

The LDMG is to undertake at least one disaster management exercise each year involving members of the LDMG and those people who will support the LDMG in providing warnings and responding to disasters.

Usually this will be in the form of a simulated disaster event that the group has to respond to. The exercise should be conducted before the start of the disaster season e.g. it should be conducted between May and Oct.

The purpose of the exercise is to practice the LDMG and supporting staff in developing and delivering effective warnings as well as making sure disaster operations can be managed and will meet community needs. The exercise makes sure everyone is familiar with the plan. Lessons from the exercise can be used to build a better plan and a stronger community.

The aim, scope and date for these annual exercises are to be set by the LDMG during their routine meetings.

From time to time, the Bundaberg Disaster District or the State may conduct a larger exercise with involvement by the North Burnett LDMG and supporting staff. Participation in a district or state level exercise meets the annual exercise requirement under this plan.

In addition, the Local Disaster Coordination Centre is to be activated to STAND UP at least once annually. This may coincide with the LDMG annual exercise or be conducted as a separate event. The purpose of the annual activation of the LDCC is to practice the activation and test the systems and processes involved in coordination as detailed in *Sub Plan 2 – Activation and Coordination*.

Town Disaster Support Groups are to be included in disaster management exercises. Town Coordination Arrangements are to be exercised concurrently with the simulated activation of the Local Disaster Coordination Centre.

LEARNING FROM EXPERIENCES

After each activation of the LDMG, or any part of this plan; or when asked to by the Local Disaster Coordinator, everyone will come together and look at what happened and how well it worked.   This is so we can learn lessons from that event and improve our plan and the way we do things to make our community stronger.

After a disaster or disaster-like event we will:

- Conduct an immediate debrief of the LDMG and Disaster Coordination Centre Staff as soon as we can after the completion of response operations. Town Disaster Support Groups should also conduct immediate debriefs if activated.   We do this to capture key lessons while they are still fresh in everyone's mind.
- Conduct a more detailed debrief of the lessons learnt from the event. This may be conducted some days or weeks after the event and will examine the event in more detail once agencies and Disaster Support Groups have conducted their own internal debrief/reviews.

The results of these debriefings including recommendations are to be submitted to the LDMG for their review and action as appropriate and reported to the Bundaberg Disaster District.

More detail on these processes is provided in *Sub Plan 2 – Activation and Coordination.*

SECTION 6 – OUR RESPONSE STRATEGIES

INTRODUCTION

Response is defined as the "actions taken in anticipation of, during, and immediately after an emergency to ensure that its effects are minimised, and that people affected are given immediate relief and support" (Emergency Management Australia Glossary, Manual 3).

OUR RESPONSE OBJECTIVES

When preparing for an impending hazard, or responding to an event, our Response objectives are to:

- Activate early to prepare and to plan for any response.
- Provide early warning to those who need it.
- Conduct effective operational planning.
- Coordinate disaster operations.
- Provide community support to meet community needs.
- Provide timely and relevant logistics support to disaster operations.
- Provide timely and accurate reports to those who require them.
- Manage the funds needed.
- Keep the community up to date.

During disaster operations we will focus on community safety with an emphasis on Public Information & Warnings, Evacuation and Resupply.

The strategies to meet our objectives and effectively undertake effective disaster operations are detailed in the following paragraphs.

EARLY ACTIVATION

We will activate our LDMG and our Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC) early in any possible or actual disaster event so that we have time to make plans to prepare and respond.

We will activate only the resources needed to effectively deal with the size of the event. Smaller events may have less impact on the community and require fewer resources.

The Local Disaster Coordinator is responsible for activating the LDMG and all or any part of this plan to prepare for and respond to an event. To do this the Local Disaster Coordinator will consult with the Chair and the members of the LDMG and may also consult with the District Disaster Coordinator of the Bundaberg Disaster District. The Local Disaster Coordinator will decide on the scale of activation based on the size and type of event and will advise what resources are needed to ensure the response to that event is well coordinated and managed.

There are four levels of activation as detailed in Table 3.

LEVEL OF ACTIVATION	DESCRIPTION
ALERT	Something might happen and we need to be more alert. We are monitoring the event and preparing ourselves to act if we need to. The LDMG are talking to each other about the possibility that something might happen.
LEAN FORWARD	Something is definitely going to happen and we now need to get ourselves ready to take action. We are getting our LDMG together to start planning and we are setting up our coordination centre to help them.
STANDUP	Our LDMG is managing the event and our coordination centre is busy managing the disaster. We are using our local resources to respond to the event and may need to ask for further help from the Disaster District. We are helping people and/or protecting property.
STANDDOWN	We have the event under control and there is no longer a need to manage or coordinate a response.

Table 3 – Levels of Alert and what they mean

Activation procedures including suggested triggers for activation are included in Sub *Plan 2 – Activation and Coordination*.

PROVIDE TIMELY WARNINGS TO THOSE WHO NEED IT

The following warnings are typically received by Council from the Bureau of Meteorology.

- Severe weather warnings;
- Fire weather warnings;
- Cyclone Watch and Cyclone Warnings; and
- Flood warnings.

These warnings are emailed automatically to Council Staff and some members of the LDMG.

In addition, specific warnings and alerts may be received from other agencies such as:

- Bushfire Alerts and Warnings from Queensland Fire and Emergency Service
- Health warnings from Queensland Health or Queensland Ambulance Service (heatwave and pandemic)
- Warnings relating to Dam Safety from Dam Owners.

Warnings may also be received from the Disaster District or from local landowners or people within the community.

All the above warnings are received by Council and will be provided to the LDMG and the community in a variety of ways including Community Radio, Council Website/Facebook Page, Emergency Management Dashboard, telephone or SMS text message, and/or doorknocking.

Sub Plan 4 - Public Information and Warnings provides further detail on how warnings and public information will be managed before, during and after a disaster.

The LDMG does not need to be activated in order for warnings to be conveyed to the community.

A PLAN FOR HOW WE WILL OPERATE IN AN EVENT

When activated to Lean Forward or Stand Up, the LDMG will review the situation and develop the operational objectives to be achieved (<u>what we need to do</u>) and the strategies to be applied (<u>how we are going to do it</u>) for that specific event**.**

These are documented in an Event Operational Plan. The Event Operational Plan is the plan we develop to deal with each specific event at the time of that event. Once developed it is provided to all LDMG Members, the District Disaster Coordinator, key community leaders and all agencies that will contribute to that plan. The LDMG may update the Operational Plan at various times during the event.

The Local Disaster Coordinator is responsible for making sure we implement the Event Operational Pan to achieve the things the LDMG have directed.

Sub Plan 2 – Activation & Coordination provides additional detail on the Event Operational Plan and a suggested planning process.

COORDINATE DISASTER OPERATIONS

Coordination of disaster operations - including the managing and reporting of information about the disaster, getting the necessary resources, planning for things we have to do now and in the future and for coordinating agency tasks - will be done by a Disaster Coordination Centre established by Council and supported by relevant agencies.   The Coordination Centre will implement and report on the Operational Plans developed by the LDMG.

Town Disaster Support Groups, when activated, will operate local coordination cells to assist the Regional Disaster Coordination Centre.

Further information and procedures on how we will coordinate disaster operations is contained within *Sub Plan 2 – Activation and Coordination.*

PROVIDE SUPPORT TO MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS

During disasters, some vulnerable members of the community may need additional support including: medical support, psychological support and relief services. *Sub Plan 6 – Community Support* provides guidance on how we will provide community support in times of disaster.

TIMELY AND ACCURATE OPERATIONAL REPORTING

The Local Disaster Coordinator is required to keep everyone informed of the situation and how the disaster operation is going. This will be done by providing regular Situation Reports prepared by the Local Disaster Coordination Centre and approved by the Local Disaster Coordinator.

Disaster Support Groups and LDMG agencies will also provide regular situation reports to the LDMG via the Local Disaster Coordination Centre as directed by the Local Disaster Coordinator.

Procedures for operational reporting are included in the *Sub Plan 2 - Activation and Coordination.*

TIMELY LOGISTICS SUPPORT

Resources to undertake disaster operations are to be obtained from within the North Burnett Region wherever possible.

If the required resources are not available within the region; or are unsuitable, a *Request for Assistance* will be forwarded to the Bundaberg Disaster District for their action. *Sub Plan 2 – Activation and Coordination* details the format of these requests.

Resource lists detailing suppliers within the region who may be able to provide required support within the region are to be maintained within the Local Disaster Coordination Centre by the LDMG Secretariat. Lead agencies for specific threats are to maintain detailed resource lists applicable to the disaster response they are the lead for.

Disaster Support Groups are to maintain local resource lists as part of their coordination arrangements for the supply of local resources to assist in evacuation and community support.

The regional Disaster Coordination Centre is to maintain resource lists including supplier's contact details and supply capacities for the following key categories:

- Road Transportation
- Air Transportation (including fixed and rotary wing aircraft)
- Earthmoving and heavy lift equipment
- Small equipment and tools including chainsaws, generators, pumps, etc.
- Road repair resources
- Trade services
- Communication supply and repair
- Services and supplies to support Evacuation Centres including catering, sanitation, medical supplies, bedding, etc.

All resource lists are to be reviewed and confirmed as part of the annual activation of the LDCC and Disaster Support Group Coordination arrangements.

SOUND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

During disasters LDMG member agencies will incur costs as part of their response. All LDMG member agencies are responsible for keeping a record of their own costs and applying to have those costs reimbursed, if eligible, through Commonwealth and State Disaster Funding arrangements. North Burnett Regional Council will track all expenditure incurred by Council relating to disaster response.

KEEPING THE COMMUNITY INFORMED

Keeping the community informed is very important. We will keep the community informed through one or more of the following:

- Use of local and regional media services (local radio/ regional ABC radio and local print media).
- Council's and Agencies Web Pages.
- Council's and Agencies Facebook and Twitter accounts.
- North Burnett Emergency Management Dashboard
- Community Organisations (schools, hospitals, community groups, etc.).
- Community Activities and Events.
- Community leaders.
- Town and Community Meetings.

The LDMG is responsible for determining the media messages required during disaster operations to keep the community informed and to advise them of the actions they must take in response to the event.

Community messaging during disaster must be accurate and consistent and all agencies should be advised of the community messages that are to be conveyed during disaster operations. Community messages will

change as the disaster event evolves and the community messages should be confirmed after each meeting of the LDMG during disaster operations.

More information on keeping the community informed is included in *Sub Plan 3 – Community Education and Awareness* and *Sub Plan 4 - Public Information and Warning.*

MEDIA MANAGEMENT

All disaster related media enquiries are to be directed to the Chairperson, LDMG, or the Local Disaster Coordinator, LDMG (in the absence of the Chairperson), and unless otherwise authorised the Chairperson LDMG is to conduct media briefings and interviews with key personnel.

All disaster related media releases are to be approved by the Chairperson LDMG or the Local Disaster Coordinator LDMG (in the absence of the Chairperson) and released to the media by the Media Officer.

Releases referring to a particular organisation's involvement are to be issued by the organisation in consultation with the Chairperson or Local Disaster Coordinator, LDMG.

All non-disaster related media enquiries are to be directed to the Mayor or Chief Executive Officer, NBRC.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Community Support includes the provision of a range of services to those affected by disasters and includes, provision of food/water/shelter, evacuation services, transportation assistance, financial assistance, psychological support/first aid, medical/health care, and material support in cleaning up/recovering from the event.

It is delivered by a variety of community groups and organisations including North Burnett Regional Council and by the general public.

Given the relatively high risk of isolation that may occur across the region during disasters, our Community Support strategy is to deliver and coordinate initial community support services using local community resources within the town/district.   If additional community support resources are required the Town Support Groups may make a request for those services through the LDCC to the LDMG. The LDCC is to coordinate the provision of external community support resources.

Town Disaster Support Plans document the local community groups and organisations that can provide community support services in the first instance.

PRE-DEPLOYMENT OF LOCAL RESOURCES

Towns/Districts have limited resources available to support communities and disaster response operations. Due to the risk of isolation it may not be possible to easily deploy additional resources after the impact of a disaster event. The LDMG/LDCC and Town Disaster Support Groups should therefore consider the likely resources required to support the community and provide an effective response and pre-deploy those resources and assets before the impact of the event wherever possible. Such resources may include people, essential goods, fuel and specialised equipment (such as plant, aircraft, vehicles, power generators).

OUR EVACUATION STRATEGY

During Disaster Operations, the LDMG must constantly focus on the safety of the community and take steps to ensure people are removed from danger to places of safety whenever necessary. Evacuation within North Burnett will usually be undertaken at the town and surrounding district level using local knowledge and resources.

Evacuation of entire communities is unlikely to be necessary. Such large-scale evacuations will often require significant external resources and are likely to be beyond the capacity of the region. If such large-scale evacuations are required, the Bundaberg Disaster District will provide external support in the form of

resources and coordination effort. The LDMG will collaborate with the Disaster District during such large-scale events.

For most disaster events however, evacuation will be to safer places within each town and the community will need to provide the facilities and services required by evacuees.

The LDMG retains primary responsibility for evacuation but the physical implementation of it is likely to be at the town level. Town Disaster Support Groups provide local resources and coordination effort to meet local evacuation needs. Given the likelihood of isolation, each town must be prepared to undertake evacuation without direction and to coordinate local support for extended periods of perhaps several days to a week or more. Long-term support is provided during Recovery.

Mandatory evacuations – where people are required by law to evacuate when directed – can only be undertaken under a declaration of a disaster situation and the Bundaberg Disaster District Coordinator controls such evacuations.

EVACUATION STAGES
Evacuation in North Burnett is undertaken is five stages. They are:

1. Decision
2. Warning
3. Withdrawal
4. Shelter
5. Return

Each of these is discussed in further detail in *Sub Plan 5 – Evacuation and Evacuation Centre Management.*

EVACUATION – TOWN DISASTER SUPPORT PLANS
Each town Disaster Support plan will provide for evacuation arrangements appropriate to the town and surrounding district, and document local information on available facilities, resources and actions required to achieve successful evacuation and ongoing support of evacuees.

EVACUATION CENTRE MANAGEMENT
North Burnett Regional Council is responsible for providing Evacuation support including providing and coordinating suitable facilities and services required by evacuees. Other community organisations and local businesses may assist in servicing the needs of evacuees within an Evacuation Centre.

The Chair of each Town Disaster Support Group is responsible for ensuring appropriate facilities and services are provided using available community resources. Details of local community support arrangements are included in each town's Disaster Support Plan.

Sub Plan 5 – Evacuation & Evacuation Centre Management provides considerations and guidelines for the operation of an Evacuation Centre.

PROVISION OF RELIEF TO TRAVELLERS
Disaster events within North Burnett often impact on the travelling public who may find themselves stranded in a town for an extended period. Some travellers may need assistance with shelter and other services during their enforced stay. Stranded travellers who seek support should be considered evacuees and provided with support, as required, under town evacuation and community support arrangements.

PUBLIC HEALTH
Disaster events increase the health risks to the community. The LDMG is to develop and maintain an Event Public Health Plan early in the activation process. The North Burnett Regional Council Environmental Health

Staff will develop the Event Public Health Plan on behalf of the LDMG in collaboration with Qld Health. The LDMG is to endorse and monitor the Event Public Health Plan. More information on Public Health in disasters is provided in *Sub Plan 6 – Public Health*. It details how Public Health will be managed and coordinated within the North Burnett during and after disaster events.

OUR RESUPPLY STRATEGY

During periods of extended isolation, it may be necessary to provide resupply support to those affected. Resupply often entails additional transportation costs as a result of having to use costly air transport resources to achieve the resupply. Passing these additional transport costs onto consumers causes further difficulties and stress for people already suffering from the disaster event. The Queensland Government has put in place procedures and guidelines for the conduct of various types of resupply that if followed will assist in eligibility for cost recovery processes after the disaster event. The purpose is to absorb additional transportation costs so that they are not passed onto the consumer.

The most likely form of resupply in the North Burnett Region based on the likely hazards of the region is Resupply of isolated properties. If required, this form of resupply will necessitate the ordering, packaging, transportation and aerial delivery of essential goods to isolated homesteads and villages.

Our Resupply Strategy is for the LDCC to manage all resupply operations using the procedures and arrangements detailed in the Queensland Resupply Guidelines and *Sub Plan 7 – Resupply*. The North Burnett Regional Council will fund the transport component of all resupply operations for all LDC approved resupply operations and seek cost recovery after the event under Disaster Relief and Recovery arrangements. Maintenance of accurate operational and financial records are imperative for successful cost recovery.

DISASTER DECLARATIONS

Sometimes it is necessary to take action that temporarily removes people's civil liberties to help save lives or to protect property. This may include directing people to evacuate and preventing people from returning if their properties are not safe. In such cases a Declaration of a Disaster Situation is required which provides for specific powers to be applied in a disaster when they are necessary.

The North Burnett Regional Council and the Local Disaster Management Group have no authority to initiate a Declaration of a Disaster Situation. Only District Disaster Coordinators have that authority (or the Premier and the Minister for events affecting the majority of the State). The Chair of the LDMG and the Local Disaster Coordinator may request a declaration if they believe it is needed to save lives and property.

A copy of any Declaration of a Disaster Situation that includes any part of the North Burnett Region shall be provided by the Bundaberg Disaster District to the Chair of the LDMG and the Local Disaster Coordinator as soon as possible after the declaration is made. The Chair and the Local Disaster Coordinator are to make sure that the community, the LDMG and any other stakeholders are made aware of the declaration.

A declaration of a disaster situation does not provide access to disaster funding.

If powers under a Declaration of a Disaster Situation are invoked, suitable persons may need to be given the authority to exercise declared disaster powers. This process is managed by the Disaster District Coordinator.

IMPACT / DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

After an event it is vital that detailed information on the impact of the event is gathered, collated and analysed to determine the most appropriate response and recovery actions. The process of Damage Assessment requires the allocation of appropriate resources to both collecting impact data and the collation/analysis of it to assist in response and recovery planning. Impact and Damage Assessment processes and arrangements are detailed in *Sub Plan 8 – Impact Assessment*.

RESPONDING TO A BUSHFIRE

QFES is the lead agency for Bushfire management and response. QFES may seek support from the LDMG to assist them in this lead agency role. *Sub Plan 10 – Bushfire Management and Response* provides further detail bushfire management and response arrangements.

RESPONDING TO A PANDEMIC

Queensland Health is the lead agency for Pandemic Management and Response. A pandemic is a global epidemic caused by a pathogen that is easily transmitted to people and that causes high levels of mortality. Pandemics may require a disaster response to help manage the consequences of disruption to normal community services caused by high levels of absenteeism. *Sub Plan 11 - Pandemic Management and Response* details how the North Burnett will manage the consequences of a pandemic.

RESPONDING TO A DAM FAILURE

Heavy rains may cause dams to overfill and cause downstream flooding. A failure of the dam may also cause rapid downstream flooding. Dams that pose a risk to downstream communities in the event of failure are required by legislation to maintain a plan setting out management responsibilities and procedures based on possible dam failure events. These are called Dam Emergency Action Plans and are maintained by the Dam owner/operator. North Burnett Regional Councils holds copies of the following Dam Emergency Action Plans.

- Bjelke-Petersen Dam
- Boondooma Dam
- Cania Dam
- Paradise Dam
- Perry River
- Wuruma Dam.

Paradise Dam does not pose a downstream flooding risk to communities in the North Burnett Regional Council area but does pose a lesser risk of backflooding caused by large inflows to the dam. Other smaller dams in the region may pose a risk to individual landowners and are not considered further in this plan.

Warnings to affected downstream communities is the responsibility of the dam owner/operator. Council and the LDMG may assist if required.

The LDCC and LDMG should refer to specific Dam Emergency Action Plans when required. A summary of these arrangements and relevant data is provided in *Sub Plan 12 – Dam Failure.*

RESPONDING TO EMERGENCY ANIMAL & PLANT DISEASE

Biosecurity Queensland is the lead agency that coordinates the government's efforts to prevent, respond to, and recover from pests and diseases that threaten the economy and environment. Biosecurity operations in response to emergency animal and plant disease will often require local assistance. The response and support arrangements for Emergency Animal & Plant Disease are detailed in *Sub Plan 13 – Emergency and Animal Plant Disease.*

RESPONDING TO TERRORISM

The Queensland Police Service is the lead agency for terrorism related operations. *Sub Plan 14 – Terrorism* details the arrangements for terrorism response in the North Burnett.

SECTION 7 – OUR RECOVERY STRATEGY

DEFINITION OF RECOVERY

Disaster Recovery is:

"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). Recovered is being able to lead a life that individuals and communities value living, even if it is different from the life they were living before the disaster event" (Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience [AIDR]).

COORDINATION OF RECOVERY

The provision of recovery services is both a Local and State Government responsibility with coordination of recovery planning and action being primarily at the local level.   Overall responsibility for recovery at the local level lies with the Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG).

To assist the LDMG, a Local Recovery Coordinator (LRC) is usually appointed supported by Local Recovery Group (LRG).

The LRG comprises representatives from Local and State Governments as well as a range of stakeholders who contribute to recovery outcomes.   Their purpose is to:

- share information,
- plan (collaboratively), and
- implement strategies /actions that assist impacted communities recover after a disaster.

The LRG usually achieves this through the formation of four sub-committees that each address one of the four elements of recovery.   These sub-committees are made up of the key stakeholders that contribute to that element of recovery.   They meet regularly to share information and plan / implement / monitor recovery strategies that address their particular element of recovery.

The sub-committees report to the LRG, which then coordinates the total recovery effort.   This framework, depicted below, provides the leadership and management necessary to achieve effective recovery outcomes.
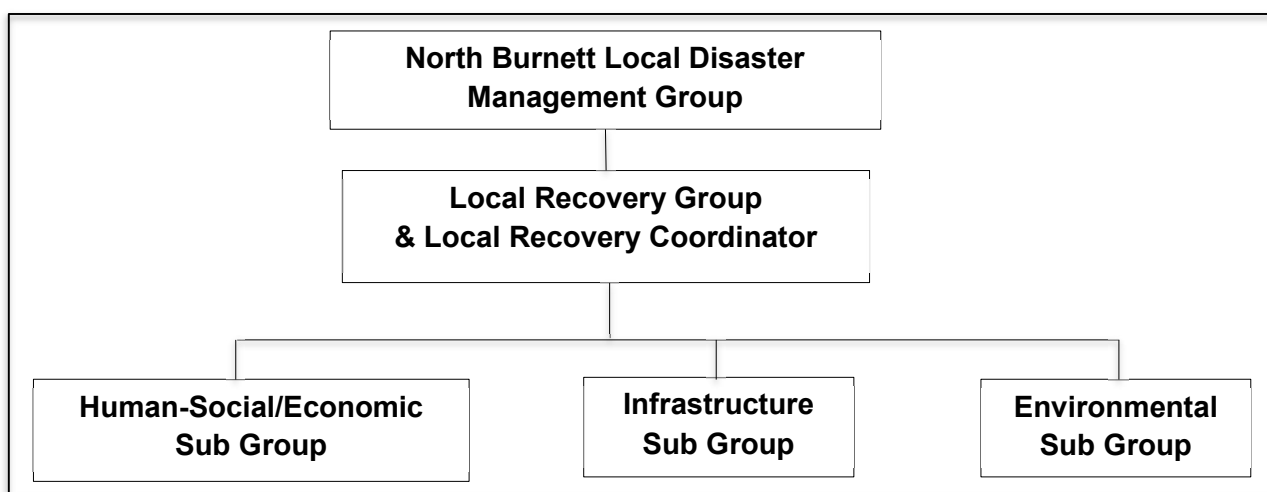
Figure 3 – North Burnett Recovery Framework

OUR RECOVERY OBJECTIVES

Our Recovery Objectives are:

- Ensure we address all parts of Recovery in a balanced way,
- Commence the Recovery effort as soon as possible,
- Engage with State and Federal agencies to ensure comprehensive support to the recovery effort,
- Develop plans for Recovery based on the assessment of need, and
- Effectively monitor and manage the recovery progress.

We will achieve the above objectives by:

- Appointing a Local Recovery Coordinator to coordinate the local recovery effort.
- Activating our Recovery Framework (see above) early during the disaster response phase.
- Engaging with the community to determine their Recovery Needs.
- Developing and implementing comprehensive and coordinated Recovery Action Plans for all elements of Recovery.
- Regularly convening Subgroups and the Local Recovery Group to monitor progress and manage the recovery effort.

LOCAL RECOVERY COORDINATOR

The Council's General Manager Corporate and Community is appointed the Local Recovery Coordinator. The functions of the Local Recovery Coordinator are detailed in *Sub Plan 9 - Recovery*. The Local Recovery Coordinator will activate Recovery arrangements as set out in *Sub Plan 2 – Activation and Coordination*.

LOCAL RECOVERY GROUP

A Local Recovery Group will be established to manage the recovery effort. It will be made up of selected members of the LDMG plus agreed representatives from State and Federal agencies (as required). The specialised work of each of these agencies will align to the four pillars of recovery: economic, human-social, infrastructure and the environment. The role and functions of the Local Recovery Group is detailed in *Sub Plan 9 – Recovery.*

RECOVERY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Delivering effective recovery requires an understanding of the community's needs. People may have needs across each of the four pillars of recovery. The primary focus of the Local Recovery Group upon activation is to undertake an analysis of community recovery needs and to document them.

EVENT RECOVERY PLAN

Once the community needs are identified, the Local Recovery Group must plan to meet those needs and will develop an event specific Recovery Plan detailing how this will be done. This plan details tasks to be undertaken and by whom, resources required and how they will be managed; and the timeframes when things need to be done by. The Local Recovery Group then implements that plan. Sub Groups contribute component parts of the plan relevant to their particular focus. Further detail on the planning process is provided in *Sub Plan 9 – Recovery*.

MONITORING AND REPORTING

The Local Recovery Group and Sub Groups should meet regularly during Recovery operations to ensure Plans remain relevant and to monitor progress. The Local Recovery Group will document these meetings and provide reports to the Bundaberg Disaster District and other agencies as required.

TRANSITION TO RECOVERY

Immediate / short term recovery commences concurrently with Disaster Operations. At some point however there needs to be a transition to medium and long term recovery where the management responsibility and structure changes to best suit the needs of recovery. This transition Disaster Operations to Medium/Long Term Recovery is a judgement made by the Local Disaster Coordinator/Local Recovery Coordinator based on advice received from members of the LDMG and the Local Recovery Group. It is usually undertaken as disaster operations are winding down.

Usually disaster operations are over when most of the following are true:

- Response agency operations are nearing completion and there is no longer a need to coordinate agencies or response related information.
- The community is largely safe from hazards enabling reconstruction and recovery to begin.
- Utilities are largely restored.
- Access routes to the community are open.
- The majority of displaced persons can return safely to their homes.

Transition from disaster operations to disaster recovery is signalled when the LDMG and the Coordination Centre are stood down and the Local Recovery Coordinator and the Local Recovery Group is activated to Stand Up.

RECOVERY SUB PLAN

Further detail on how Recovery is undertaken in the North Burnett along with guidance on each of the four pillars of Recovery is provided in *Sub Plan 9 – Recovery*.

BLAZEAID

BlazeAid is a volunteer, not-for-profit organisation that works with families and individuals in regional Australia after natural disasters such as fires, floods, cyclones and drought. Working alongside the rural families, BlazeAid volunteers help to provide relief to local communities, helping to rebuild fences and other structures that have been damaged or destroyed.

They often continue for many months helping to rebuild rural communities. BlazeAid can help greatly in rural areas restoring fencing and providing practical assistance to rural families whose properties are disaster affected. BlazeAid has provided assistance in the recovery from recent disasters with Basecamps established in Mundubbera and Monto.

Recovery planners should consider whether involvement of BlazeAid is necessary. *Annex L – BlazeAid* provides detailed information on the organisation and how they work as well as the considerations to be undertaken when deciding to seek their support.

CONCLUSION

This Disaster Management Plan outlines how we will Prevent, Prepare for, Respond to and Recover from disasters affecting the North Burnett Region. The Plan is a dynamic document that is constantly reviewed and updated. This Plan should be read in conjunction with the companion North Burnett Disaster Operating Manual that contains various sub plans. This Plan and the sub plans contained in the companion Manual are available on the Council's website (less privacy related annexures). Copies can be obtained from the North Burnett Regional Council.

ANNEXES TO THE PLAN

A.   Map of North Burnett Region
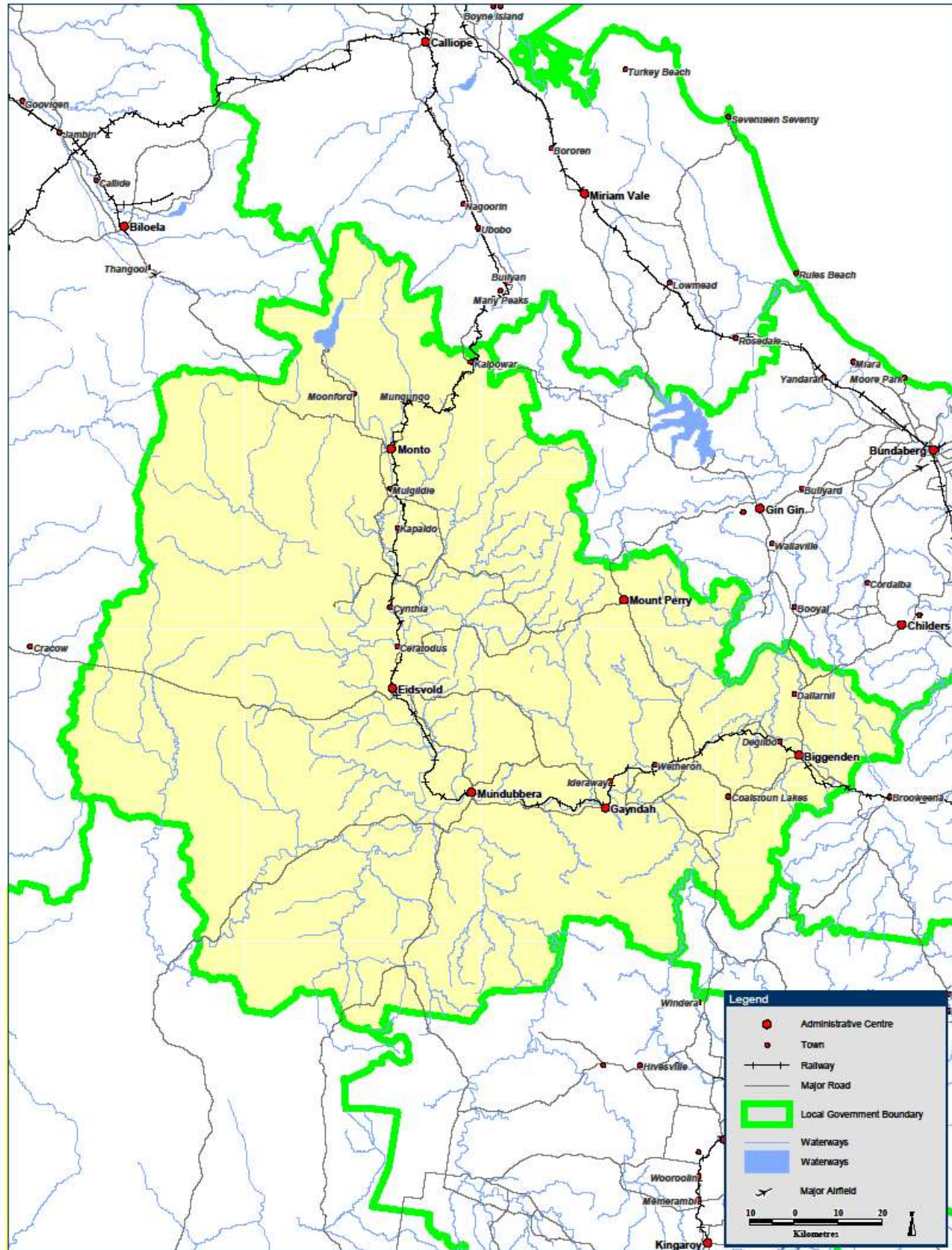
B.   Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations

C.   North Burnett Region Risk Assessment and Risk Treatments

D.   Agency Responsibilities

E.   Disaster Mitigation Opportunities Register

F.   Biggenden – Disaster Support Plan

G.   Eidsvold – Disaster Support Plan

H.   Gayndah – Disaster Support Plan

I.   Monto – Disaster Support Plan

J.   Mount Perry – Disaster Support Plan

K.   Mundubbera – Disaster Support Plan

L.   BlazeAid

NORTH BURNETT REGIONAL COUNCIL

ANNEX B – GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

TERM OR ABBREVIATION	MEANING
AIIMS	Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System
All Hazards Approach	The all-hazards approach recognises that although counter measures will often vary with specific hazards, it is desirable to establish a single set of management arrangements capable of encompassing all hazards.
AUSVETPAN	Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan - A prescribed set of nationally derived plans for certain mammalian, and bee diseases outlining facets of the disease and disease control.
Average Recurrence Interval (ARI)	The average period expressed in years between the occurrence or exceedance of a flood of given size
North Burnett Regional Local Disaster Management Group	A Group appointed in accordance with Sections 29 and 33 of the *Disaster Management Act 2003* and known as the North Burnett Local Disaster Management Group (**NBLDMG**). The functions of the Group are spelt out in Section 30 of the *Act*.
CEO	Chief Executive Officer of a Local Government
Chairperson	The Chairperson of the "Local Group". The nominee of the Local Government.
Co-ordination Centre	A centre established at State, District Disaster or Local level as a centre of communication and co-ordination during disaster response and recovery operations. At the local level is known as the Local Disaster Coordination Centre (**LDCC**)
Consequences	The outcome of an event or situation expressed qualitatively or quantitatively, being a loss, injury, disadvantage, or gain.
Chief Veterinary officer (CVO)	Chief veterinary officer, who has responsibility for animal disease control in Queensland.

Disaster	A disaster is 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.
District Disaster Co-ordinator (DDC)	A District Disaster Coordinator appointed under Section 25(1) (a) of the *Disaster Management Act, 2003*.
Disaster Management (DM)	Disaster management means arrangements about managing the potential adverse effects of an event, including, for example, arrangements for mitigating, preventing, preparing for, responding to and recovery from a disaster.
District Disaster Management Group (DDMG)	A group formed in accordance with Section 22 of the *Disaster Management Act 2003,* with functions as defined in Section 23 of the *Act* and a membership as defined in Section 24 of the *Act,* and known as the Bundaberg District Disaster Management Group (**BDDMG**)
Disaster Operations	Disaster operations means 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	Disaster response capability for a local government, means 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.
DRFA	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements
Emergency Animal Disease	An animal disease that does occurs infrequently within Australia that can or does initiate an emergency response to contain/control the disease.

EMA	Emergency Management Australia
Epidemic	An outbreak of a contagious disease that spreads rapidly and widely.
Event	An event means any of the following: (a) cyclone, earthquake, flood, storm tide, tornado, tsunami, volcanic eruption or other natural happening. (b) an explosion or fire, a chemical, fuel or oil spill, or gas leak. (c) an infestation, plague or epidemic, e.g., example of epidemic – a prevalence of foot-and mouth disease. (d) a failure of, or disruption to, an essential service or infrastructure. (e) an attack against the State. (f) another event similar to an event mentioned in paragraph (a) to (e). An event may be natural or caused by human acts or omissions.
Exotic Animal Disease	Animal disease that is exotic to Australia – that is, it does not occur normally in Australia. Note that most exotic animal diseases are emergency animal diseases, but not necessarily visa versa.
Fomites	Any object or substance that has been used by an infected person and serves to transfer the infection to others.
Hazard/Threat	A source of potential harm or a situation with a potential to cause loss.
IC	Incident Controller
IMT	Incident Management Team
LDMG	Local Disaster Management Group
Lead Agency	The agency or organisation in control of a specific threat when the plan is implemented – the lead (or primary) response agency.
Local Controller	A person appointed by the Chief Executive of the State Emergency Service and nominated by the Local Government for whose area the State Emergency Service Unit performs State Emergency Service functions.

Forward Disease Control Centre (FDCC)	A field centre set up in a regional town, near the outbreak site, from which all operations in the associated restricted area are controlled when responding to an Emergency Animal Disease emergency.
Local Disaster Management Plan	A plan prepared by the local government in accordance with Sections 57 to 60, inclusive, of the *Disaster Management Act, 2003*. Known as the North Burnett Regional Council Local Disaster Management Plan.
Mitigation	Measures taken in advance of a disaster aimed at decreasing or eliminating its impact on society and the environment.
NDRRA	Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements
NGO	Non-Government Agency
Pandemic	An epidemic over an especially wide geographical area.
PPRR	Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery
QAS	Queensland Ambulance Service
QFES	Queensland Fire & Emergency Service (includes Urban, Auxiliary and Rural Fire Brigades)
QPS	Queensland Police Service
QLDVETPLAN	The Queensland Emergency Animal Disease threat specific operational plan of the State Disaster Management Plan.
QDMC	Queensland Disaster Management Committee
Risk	The chance of something happening that may have an impact on the safety and wellbeing of your community. It includes risk as an opportunity as well as a threat and is measured in terms of consequences and likelihood.
SDCC	State Disaster Co-ordination Centre

State Disease Control Headquarters (SDCHQ)	The office from which all state emergency disease control actions in Queensland are coordinated and in which all significant decisions are taken or confirmed in responding to an Emergency Animal Disease emergency.

State Emergency Service Unit	A Unit established in the Local Government area with the following functions:
	(a) to perform rescue or similar operations in an emergency;
	(b) to perform search operations in an emergency or similar situation;
	(c) to perform other operations in an emergency situation to:
	    (i) help injured persons; or
	    (ii) protect person or property from danger or potential danger associated with the emergency;
	(d) to perform other activities to help communities prepare for, respond to and recover from an event or a disaster.

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.
SITREP	Situation Report
SMEAC	Situation, Mission, Execution, Administration and Control
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure/s
Support Agency	The agency or organisations, which support the lead agency when the local disaster management plan is implemented.
Terrorist Act	A terrorist act is an act or threat, intended to advance a political, ideological or religious cause by coercing or intimidating an Australian or foreign government or the public, by causing serious harm to people or property, creating a serious risk of health and safety to the public, disrupting trade, critical infrastructure or electronic systems. *(Commonwealth Criminal Code Act 1995)* An act of this nature could include civil disturbance/riot, terrorist attack, bombs or explosive devices, arson, sabotage of essential services, shooting massacre, chemical, biological and radiological incidents, kidnapping, scare tactics, firearms or weapons hijack and information technology including the use of viruses to disrupt critical technology systems.

ANNEX C – RISK REGISTER

Held as an Excel Spreadsheet within Councils Electronic Document Management System (Doc ID# 755748). The Risk Register can be made available on request as a PDF document. The custodian is the Council's Disaster Management Officer.

ANNEX D – AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

The following general responsibilities for each Agency are to be regarded as indicative only:

AGENCY	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
North Burnett Regional Council	Establishment of the Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC). Public warning and advice. Collection and interpretation of meteorological warnings and data. Preservation of public health and hygiene precautions. Protection and maintenance and restoration of water and sewerage services. Assessment and control of chemical pollution of water supply. Maintenance of drainage systems. Assessment and safety of damage buildings. Sign posting, barricading and road maintenance. Clearance of debris. At an airport incident, restrict movement of unauthorised persons until arrival of Police. At the conclusion of the emergency, advise Civil Aviation Authority. Assist in the clean up of private dwellings. Assistance in animal control. Provision of animal records. Provision of other manpower and equipment as necessary. Supply of water tenders. Provision of communication system. Closure of roads as required. Maintain an SES unit in accordance with the Act.
Queensland Police Service	Control of incident/impact site/s. Control of essential traffic routes. Control of evacuation. Assist QFES to Co-ordinate rescue of trapped/stranded persons. Security of specific areas. Roadblocks and diversions. Control of disaster victim identification and emergency mortuary facilities where required. Tracing of persons. Augmenting emergency communications. Investigations of offences. Assistance with stock destruction. Control of crime threatened site. Criminal investigations Mass Incident Response Unit Special Emergency Response Team; Negotiators;

AGENCY	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
	Public safety Response Team; Explosive ordnance Response Team; Dog Squad; State Crime Operations Command; Security Intelligence Branch Coordinate & control of search operations. Stock control movement. Assistance, on request, with stock and infected material tracing
Queensland Fire & Emergency Services	Safety of persons in relation to fire prevention, fighting and recovery. Control of fire in designated fire zone. Control and clean up of hazardous materials, spillage/release (negotiable with local EHO). Extrication of trapped persons. Advice and directions on public safety/evacuation from fire/hazardous materials danger zone. Assistance in the provision of clean up facilities particularly pumping and hose down (negotiable with ESC). Advice on carcass burning conditions. Provision of spraying and protective equipment (decontamination). Provision of specialist manpower and equipment. Provision of AIIMS trained teams; Road Crash Rescue supported by SES Provision of advice and assistance to all agencies within Queensland Disaster Management Arrangements Provision of disaster management training to agencies or key stakeholders
Queensland Fire & Emergency Service (Rural Operations)	Administration & direction on public safety, evacuation, wildfire. Control of fire in designated fire zone. Safety of persons in relation to fire prevention, fighting and recovery. Provision of specialist manpower and equipment. Any other situation where QFES requires assistance; Provision of AIIMS trained teams;
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries	Co-ordination of resources in emergency animal or plant disease outbreaks. Detection of source of infection. Slaughter and disposal of animals and infective agents. Evaluation and compensation. Control of movement of animals, animal products, vehicles. Disinfection/disinfestation of contamination. Public advice and information. Control of specific enterprises.

AGENCY	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
Bureau of Meteorology	Flood warning authority Severe weather warnings
Queensland Health	Command, control and co-ordination of medical resources Epidemiological investigation of diseases, contacts and carriers Public Health advice and warnings Psychological and counselling services Medical and health care for disabled persons
State Emergency Service	Agency support to Emergency Response Organisations (communications, welfare, lighting, food handling, air observer and resupply) Community Education Flood boat Operations Road Crash Rescue Search (urban, rural, forensic & evacuation) Storm response (working at heights, temporary roof repairs, chainsaw operations, debris cleanup & sand bagging) Traffic Management (traffic control, road closure/diversions at incident site)
Queensland Ambulance Service	Initial treatment and transport of casualties. Initial triage of casualties.
Ergon Energy	Control of electrical hazards. Restoration of power.
Telstra	Emergency telecommunications. Restoration of Telstra facilities.
Department of Transport & Main Roads	Assistance in tracing of animal and livestock products being transported. Halting, off loading and disinfecting of transportation vehicles is required. Advice on vehicle detour routes. Provision of heavy earthmoving equipment and manpower. Clearance of debris, blocked drains and erection of barricades
Queensland Health	Provision of Site Medical Officer or Site medical Teams as required. On-site field triage of casualties. On-site emergency treatment. In hospital care of persons

AGENCY	ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
Queensland Parks & Wildlife Service	Provision of manpower and equipment.
Government Undertaker or agent	Removal of deceased persons.
Department of Natural Resources and Mines	
Department of Energy Public Works	Provision of engineering and logistical requirements to damaged areas Provision of supplementary accommodation in schools or evacuation centres
Department of Defence	Defence Aid to the Civil Community (DACC) provisions – The provision of defence resources for the performance of tasks, which are primarily the responsibility of the civil community. Defence resources include personnel, equipment, stores, supplies and facilities, and expenditure from defence outlay on administration, personnel support, equipment operation, repair and maintenance. Defence assistance to the civil community may be made available in situations where the State/Territory authorities are unable to react with sufficient speed or lack the necessary resources. A Local Commander/Administrator may authorise the provision of emergency assistance for a specific task(s), from within his own resources, in localised emergency situations when immediate action is necessary to save human life, alleviate suffering, prevent extensive loss of animal life or prevent widespread loss/damage to property. Provision of emergency assistance that does not comply with the requirements detailed above requires Ministerial and other clearances before assistance can be made available.

ANNEX E – TEMPLATE – DISASTER MITIGATION OPPORTUNITIES REGISTER

This register is to be maintained by the Disaster Management Officer, North Burnett Regional Council on behalf of the LDMG. It is to be used to document and manage disaster mitigation opportunities. Agencies are encouraged to contribute to the register. It is to be reviewed annually by the LDMG.

MITIGATION OPPOURTUNITY DESCRIPTION	ACTION REQUIRED BY AGENCY	TIMEFRAME	REMARKS

ANNEX F – DISASTER SUPPORT PLAN – BIGGENDEN

Maintained Separately

ANNEX G – DISASTER SUPPORT PLAN – EIDSVOLD

Maintained Separately

ANNEX H – DISASTER SUPPORT PLAN – GAYNDAH

Maintained Separately

ANNEX I – DISASTER SUPPORT PLAN – MONTO

Maintained Separately

ANNEX J – DISASTER SUPPORT PLAN – MOUNT PERRY

Maintained Separately

ANNEX K – DISASTER SUPPORT PLAN – MUNDUBBERA

Maintained Separately

ANNEX L – BLAZEAID

INTRODUCTION

BlazeAid is a volunteer, not-for-profit organisation that works with families and individuals in regional Australia after natural disasters such as fires, floods, cyclones and drought. Working alongside the rural families, BlazeAid volunteers help to provide relief to local communities, helping to rebuild fences and other structures that have been damaged or destroyed. They often continue for many months helping to rebuild rural communities.

Volunteer organisations like BlazeAid can bring many positive benefits to rural communities after a disaster event. They can contribute to outcomes in all aspects of recovery by lifting spirits, rebuilding infrastructure, boosting the economy and helping the environment.

Since their inception in 2009 after the Black Saturday tragedy, BlazeAid has run 35 basecamps across six states of Australia and has significant experience in working with volunteers and communities after disasters.

Recovery planners should consider requesting such organisations to contribute to their recovery effort.

OBJECTIVES OF THIS ANNEX

The objectives of this annex are to:

1. Describe how BlazeAid works,

2. Identify possible basecamp locations and catering support arrangements, and

3. outline the coordination between BlazeAid and the North Burnett disaster management arrangements.

HOW BLAZEAID WORKS - CONCEPT

BlazeAid works with families and individuals who are in genuine need of volunteer assistance. This includes those affected who are not insured or are under-insured for the cost of rebuilding their fences, or where their personal, physical or financial circumstances are such that they are in genuine need of BlazeAid's assistance.

BlazeAid is a volunteer-based organization. They assist rural families and individuals to help clear, repair or replace fences that have been lost as a result of natural disasters such as bushfires, floods or cyclones. Where there is enough need in a community, they establish a basecamp (in conjunction with local councils and/or community groups) where volunteers live in their caravans, motorhomes, etc, or in other suitable accommodation.

Fully insured BlazeAid volunteers work alongside people in genuine need of assistance.

A BlazeAid base camp is typically in place for many months with volunteers cycling through to provide whatever support they are able. Volunteers may stay at a base camp for days, weeks or even months at a time.

It's a very big undertaking for BlazeAid to establish a basecamp in a community after a natural disaster. In order to set up a basecamp, there needs to be a significant distance of fencing to be rebuilt, and enough affected individuals and families who are willing to work with the volunteers (usually 20 or more properties, or fewer properties with large distances).

Generally, there needs to be enough clearing and fencing work to sustain volunteers for at least two months for the establishment of a basecamp to be viable. Many BlazeAid basecamps have run for 4 – 8 months, depending on the extent of the damage. Once a basecamp is closed not further assistance to local property owners can be provided.

BlazeAid does not approach a Council to establish a basecamp. It's up to the Local Disaster Management Group to determine the need after a natural disaster. It is incumbent on the LDMG to contact BlazeAid if basecamp is considered necessary and viable.

Once BlazeAid has been requested to provide assistance, chats with local families to get an indication of the level of need in the area.

To be successful, BlazeAid needs:

a.   engagement with the community to assist in coordinating volunteer effort

b.   Community support for the base camp and for the resources necessary to operate the base camp e.g. facilities, catering.

c.   LDMG support including direct support from the Council.

RESOURCING STRATEGY

BlazeAid volunteers work from a basecamp and are considered self-sufficient for basic sleeping accommodation. BlazeAid needs to be able to provide volunteers with somewhere to park caravans, motorhomes, set up tents, etc, for anything from 6 weeks to up to 8 months. BlazeAid also needs cooking facilities, a dining/meeting area, toilets and hot showers (these can be portable units).

BlazeAid undertakes coordination of the basecamp through the appointment of a local volunteer as the Base Camp Coordinator. Base camp coordinators are responsible for coordinating the operation of the base camp and the program of volunteer support.

Volunteers are provided with all meals. BlazeAid requests that local community/sporting/ service/church/social groups, etc become involved where possible to help with catering of the evening meal (BlazeAid can reimburse the cost of the catering). This usually works best on a fortnightly roster basis.

Where possible, BlazeAid asks the property owner to provide morning tea and lunch. However, if this is an issue, they send snacks and lunches with the volunteers.

Each morning, Blaze Aid conducts a Morning Muster, where volunteers meet for any updates and for a Safety Talk. BlazeAid volunteers are covered by Volunteer Insurance, and BlazeAid has Public Liability Insurance. We provide volunteers with PPE, including safety glasses, gloves, fluoro vests, ear plugs, and helmets, earmuffs & safety chaps when chain-sawing.

BlazeAid volunteers go out in teams to work with property owners. Volunteers are not permitted to work alone.

Volunteer teams go out seven days a week. Depending on travelling time, they usually arrive at the property at approx. 8.00 am – 8.30 am, and generally finish between 2.00 pm – 4.30 pm.

On days of high temperatures, teams usually start earlier and finish earlier, to avoid the worst of the day's heat.

Generally, BlazeAid is able to provide fencing materials. However, BlazeAid does provide the tools and equipment for volunteers to do fencing.

WHAT BLAZEAID NEEDS FROM THE COMMUNITY AND COUNCIL

1. **A basecamp location.** In the past BlazeAid have used community centres, footy/cricket clubs, camps, showgrounds, etc.   It is preferable that these are provided at no cost or minimal cost. BlazeAid can pay the "spike" in the cost of power, water, etc. Base camp localities should provide the following:

   a. A long term camping/motorhome facility. BlazeAid require somewhere for volunteers to stay long-term in their caravans and motorhomes, preferably with some power available (this can be generators running for set hours of the day).

   b. Ideally, BlazeAid also seeks to have a separate area nearby where they can set up basic accommodation for volunteers who don't have their own caravan, tent, etc.

   c. Water, toilets and hot showers are also required for volunteers (these can be portable units).

   d. An area that can be used as dining area, daily meeting area and socialising area for the volunteers, and for an office to be set up.

   e. A secure area for tools and equipment (a locked room, shipping container or similar.)

2. **Catering assistance.**   Wherever possible, BlazeAid seeks to have local community groups help with the catering of a two course (mains and dessert) evening meal. Usually this is on a roster-basis. In smaller communities, BlazeAid can combine self-catering with the community group catering. A kitchen with an oven, hotplates, sink, fridges, freezers, etc is required.   It's not uncommon to feed anywhere from 20 – 70 volunteers per night. Community groups will need to be able to commit for 2 – 6 months or more, depending on the duration of the basecamp.

3. **Financial assistance.**   BlazeAid asks the local council and/or local community groups to provide $5,000 per basecamp. This is used to fund part of the cost of the evening meals, and any basecamp costs (eg gas, power, etc.) BlazeAid usually pays for the spike in electricity, costs, etc, for the time we're using the facilities.   Where the disaster has affected properties across more than one Council/Shire, we ask for one payment of $5,000 for the basecamp (ie not $5,000 from each Council/Shire).   This payment may be met or offset by funding through Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (if activated). BlazeAid will cover all other costs after this initial amount, irrespective of the duration of the basecamp.

4. **Media support.** BlazeAid seeks local media support to raise awareness of the volunteer work undertaken including encouraging local families to register with BlazeAid for assistance, and encouraging people to volunteer with them.

ESTABLISHING A BASECAMP

If the above requirements can be met the first step in establishing a base camp is to contact BlazeAid to discuss the next steps. These will usually involve:

1. BlazeAid engaging with local families to help assess the need.

2. A community meeting may be called to inform the community and enlist their support.

3. Council identifying suitable facilities and resources necessary to operate a basecamp.

4. Arrangements for catering support through the local community.

5. Identification and appointment of a Basecamp Coordinator. BlazeAid provides mentoring and support to basecamp coordinators to assist them in establishing and operating a successful basecamp.

6. Undertaking community awareness programs to attract volunteers and community support.

COORDINATING ARRAGEMENTS

BlazeAid will primarily coordinate itself through the Basecamp Coordinator. This usually includes the operation of the base camp and coordination of the volunteer effort to property owners. The Town Disaster Support Group and LDMG provide support to BlazeAid through the BlazeAid Coordinator as required specifically in relation to facilities and community support.

POSSIBLE BLAZEAID BASE CAMP LOCATIONS

TOWN	LOCATION	FACILITY OWNER (CONTACT DETAILS)	REMARKS (SERVICES, CAPACITY, ETC.)
Biggenden			
Gayndah			
Mundubbera			
Monto			
Eidsvold			
Mt Perry			

COMMUNITY CATERING ORGANISATIONS

TOWN	LOCAL COMMUNITY CATERING PROVIDERS	CONTACT DETAILS	REMARKS (CAPACITY, ETC.)
Biggenden			
Gayndah			
Mundubbera			
Monto			
Eidsvold			
Mt Perry			

CONTACTING BLAZEAID

BlazeAid does not have an office location.

CONTACTS	
Website	http://www.blazeaid.com
Facebook	www.facebook.com/Blazeaid

NORTH BURNETT DISASTER OPERATING MANUAL (SUB PLANS 1-14)

The North Burnett Disaster Operating Manual comprises numerous Sub Plans, which expand on matters addressed in the main plan. It is maintained separately as a collection of individual sub plans.   Current Sub Plans and their status is as follows:

SUB PLAN NUMBER	SUB PLAN SUBJECT	STATUS
1	Business & Governance	Complete as at 28 February 2019
2	Activation & Coordination	Complete as at 25 Feb 2016
3	Community Disaster Education & Awareness	Complete as at 25 Feb 2016
4	Public Information and Warnings	Complete as at 25 Feb 2016
5	Evacuation & Evacuation Centre Management	Complete as at 25 Feb 2016
6	Public Health	Complete as at 25 Feb 2016
7	Resupply	Complete as at 25 Feb 2016
8	Impact Assessment	Complete as at 25 Feb 2016
9	Recovery	Complete as at 25 Feb 2016
10	Bushfire Management & Response	To be developed with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
11	Pandemic Management & Response	Complete as at 5 November 2020
12	Dam Failure	Complete as at 29 June 2023
13	Emergency Animal and Plant Disease	To be developed with Department Agriculture and Fisheries