

Douglas Shire Council Local Monsoon Trough Recovery Plan

North & Far North Queensland Monsoon Trough
25 January - 14 February 2019

DOUGLAS
SHIRE COUNCIL



Mayor
Julia Leu



CEO
Mark Stoermer

Endorsed by: Recovery Group on 24 May 2019

Recovery narrative

Council vision statement

Douglas Shire Council is committed to ensuring our communities have a successful recovery and a resilient future.

Council values

- Collaboration – working together for a common and positive outcome.
- Professionalism – we will operate with accountability, openness, transparency and integrity.
- Excellence – the manner in which we operate ensures the highest possible outcome will be achieved.
- Engaging – providing equal opportunities for our communities through respect, support and leadership.
- Customer focus – we identify and meet the needs of all customers in a responsive and equitable manner.
- Safety and wellbeing – we are all committed to working safely and caring for each other's wellbeing.

Local Recovery Group

Established: 26/02/19
Chaired by: Mark Stoermer, CEO

Lines of recovery

Human and Social, Economic, Environment, Infrastructure.

Key stakeholders

Lead state government agencies, community groups, non-government organisations/non-government associations, local businesses and trader associations, service providers and other invested parties.

Recovery themes

1. Response: ensure community safety.
2. Rebuilding: bring the community forward to a new normal.
3. Restoration: working together to repair and re-establish community linkages across the lines of recovery.
4. Resilience: embed the principle in all activities to mitigate, improve and build betterment for the community.

Impacts on all recovery objectives have been compounded by the four activated disasters occurring in the Shire over a three month period.

Recovery objectives

- ① Essential services – power, water, waste, telecommunications – repaired and restored.
- ② Displaced households – settled in temporary accommodation.
- ③ Emergency funding (personal hardship etc.) – granted/approved.
- ④ Community support – mechanisms implemented.
- ⑤ Flood waste – removed and processed.
- ⑥ Impact assessments – completed.
- ⑦ Road transport network – coordinated restoration and betterment planning for the extensive road transport network for state and local controlled roads.
- ⑧ Key transport routes – priority restoration to the key transport routes for communities, tourism and primary producers [Captain Cook Highway, Mossman-Daintree Road, Mossman –Mount Molloy Road, Daintree Ferry Service, Cape Tribulation Road, Upper Daintree Road, Baird's Crossing, Stewart's Creek Road, Bloomfield Track, China Camp Road, CREB Track].
- ⑨ Environmental rehabilitation – river and creek bank restoration and rehabilitation, silt removal.
- ⑩ Telecommunication infrastructure – long term repairs, improvements and improved resilience; Weather/Disaster critical infrastructure – repaired and operational [Baird's Alert, Barratt's Creek Flood camera].
- ⑪ Flood resilience – develop and implement strategies for greater flood resilience [Bloomfield River, Lower Daintree River, Mossman River].
- ⑫ Empower local businesses to improve their resilience to disasters.
- ⑬ Restore confidence in the tourism market.
- ⑭ Establishment of improved evacuation and response capabilities to communities at risk.

Damage and impacts

Human and Social

- 3 households destroyed/uninhabitable.
- 4 parks and public spaces unsafe/unavailable.
- 15 home contents damaged or destroyed.
- 2 Businesses contents damaged or destroyed.
- Community wellbeing: feeling of isolation, loss, anxiety and fear.

Economic

- Loss of income/profits to businesses (large and small) reliant on tourism including service industries. Includes attractions and tours, accommodation, food, transport, cleaning and supplies.
- Loss of tourism spending is estimated at \$3.75M for the month following the event. The ongoing impact in dollar figures has not yet been calculated.
- Ongoing impact on the tourism market shows 15% downturn on previous years due to media coverage and further events.
- Agriculture industry – livestock and cropping – loss of earnings is still being determined by DAF.
- Disruptions to transport routes for product freight to saleyards/market, particularly the cattle producers facing delays in repairs to roads to allow heavy vehicle access.
- Disruptions to transport routes for tourists/tours.
- Loss of local services and supplies.
- Aquaculture industry – loss of earnings still being determined.
- Loss of income/profits to small businesses – power outages, damage, staff isolation.

Environment

- Coastal erosion evident at the Pretty Beach and Newell Beach fronts.
- Severe river and creek erosion in numerous catchments and localities between the Bloomfield River and Wangetti.
- Damage to significant tree and surrounding area at Daintree Boat Ramp; silt, damage and debris at Daintree Ferry precinct.
- 15 tonnes flood/hard waste generated with collection still ongoing.
- Sewage overflow from a number of Council pump stations.
- Loss and disposal of livestock. Some stock may still remain on beaches, mangrove areas and islands.
- Debris, including livestock washed up on beach areas including Newell, Port Douglas, Rocky Point, Wonga and Kimberley.

Environment (cont.)

- Sediment loads from river systems on to Barrier Reef (no visibility for tour operations at Low Isles for 9 days).
- Boat ramp areas covered in silt and sand. Some loss of infrastructure.
- Generation of excessive leachate at Council's landfill.
- Overgrown lawns and parks.
- Numerous landslips on private and public lands.

Infrastructure

- Power disconnected to 250 homes – full power restored in 4 days.
- Telecommunications disrupted and offline for 2.5 days in the Daintree Village area. Some properties remain off-line in Upper Daintree and continued disruptions still reported north of Daintree River.
- 2 water and sewerage treatment plants affected.
- 1 river height monitoring stations and 1 flood camera station damaged.

Roads and Transport

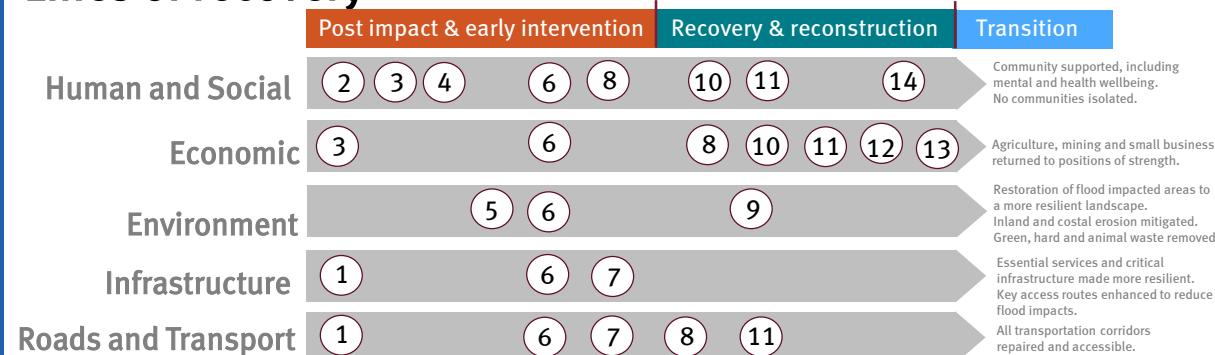
- All townships, outlying areas and key transport routes were isolated for varying lengths of time due to flooding, bridge/floodway damage including, but not limited to:
- Daintree Village, Stewarts Creek Valley, Upper Daintree, Degarra, Lower Daintree, communities north of Daintree River, Wonga, Newell, Whyanbeel, Bamboo Creek, Mossman, Mowbray and Port Douglas.
- Major Road damage/landslips have occurred on the Cape Tribulation Road, Bloomfield Track, Banabilla Road, Upper Daintree Road, China Camp Road, Ponzo Road,
- 1 Road remains closed; 4 roads have restricted access.
- Access to 2 grazing properties and Bairds ALERT river gauge station lost.
- Access cut for 72 hours due to flooding at two crossings.
- 80% of roads assessed however saturation assessment will take further long term monitoring.
- Bridges along key roads damaged including Stewarts Creek, Lees, Noah Creek, Spring and Diggers bridges.
- Daintree River Ferry channel compromised due to siltation of channel.

Damage and impacts

Lines of recovery

Lines of recovery

19/3/19



Recovery narrative

Recovery objectives

Activations for Disaster Recovery Funding Assistance

| Disaster relief measure | Activation date |
|--|-----------------|
| • Counter Disaster Operations | 30/01/2019 |
| • Reconstruction of Essential Public Assets | 30/01/2019 |
| • Disaster Assistance (Small Business) Loans | 06/02/2019 |
| • Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans Scheme for Small Business | 06/02/2019 |
| • Disaster Assistance (Primary Producers) Loans | 06/02/2019 |
| • Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans Scheme for Primary Producers | 06/02/2019 |
| • Freight Subsidies for Primary Producers | 06/02/2019 |
| • Special Disaster Assistance Recovery Grants for Primary Producers | 07/02/2019 |
| • Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme (3) 31/01/2019 | |
| • Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme (PHAS) (3) | 31/01/2019 |
| • Disaster Assistance (Essential Working Capital) Loans Scheme for Not-for-profit | 06/02/2019 |
| • Disaster Assistance (Not-for profit) Loans | 06/02/2019 |

The Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme (PHAS) and Essential Services Safety and Reconnection Scheme activation for Douglas is limited to the areas of Daintree, Upper Daintree, Lower Daintree, Stewart Creek Valley and Degarra.

The Emergency Hardship Assistance component of the PHAS commences on 31 January 2019.

Daintree resident: *“The telecommunication company who manages the tower in the Village needs to ensure this never happens again. We remember the 1996 flood well and at no stage were we without the telephone. I remember telephoning my mother in Melbourne while standing knee deep in water. Today we have all this wonderful equipment and they can not supply a simple telephone connection”.*

Recovery tasks

- Provide community support and ensure access to community support services and networks.
- Coordinate restoration of essential services and identify opportunities for improving resilience including telecommunications.
- Develop strategies to minimise impact on the tourism sector and stimulate activity including messaging around the Shire being ready for visitors. Easter holidays have been identified as the next key tourism period.
- Coordinate restoration of essential public assets, parks, beaches and key public areas.
- Prioritise clean-up and restoration of road assets to connect communities, enable tourism and allow access to markets for primary producers.
- Actively seek appropriate activation and funds to support recovery activities including advertising for the tourism sector.
- Facilitate assistance, access to funds and loans for the business and agriculture sectors.
- Provide accurate, timely and relevant information and updates on the recovery process including prioritised activities and actions for residents, businesses, visitors and government organisations.
- Prioritise repairs to critical disaster infrastructure such as river gauges, weather systems, flood cameras and access roads.
- Assess and monitor environmental impacts and seek opportunities to rehabilitate.

Recovery reporting at 24/05/2019

Human and Social

- Several households still undertaking clean-up activities. Further rain hampering removal of debris.
- All parks and public spaces open or partially open.
- Remediation works underway on significant (Raintree) tree at Daintree Village River Precinct
- Community wellbeing – further rain associated with Cyclone Trevor and Ann hampering recovery of a number of Daintree residents.
- Some remote area residents continue to be isolated due to rainfall.
- Council has identified numerous community projects under Category D funding.

Economic

- Loss of tourism spending is estimated at \$3.75M for the month following the event.
- Tourism Port Douglas Daintree (TPDD) Recovery activity Expedia campaign – \$15,000 generating \$640,000 in flights and accommodation over the 4 week period, 1,300 room nights.
- TPDD paid digital activity including flight promotions and competitions to stimulate awareness and visitation \$5,500.
- Media familiarisation to boost messaging held in early March \$2,800.
- Regional radio promotion – open for business messaging for Daintree \$1,500.
- Heavy focus on messaging to consumer and industry channels through e-communications.
- Lobbying regional and state bodies for inclusion in recovery efforts.
- TTNQ partnered with TEQ and the regional tourism organisations for Townsville and Whitsundays to roll out activity under the \$1million recovery funding. This resulted in the TODAY Show broadcasting from Port Douglas in early April. The total spend for 3 broadcasts (Cairns, Airlie Beach and Townsville) plus the Port Douglas weather crosses was over \$100,000.
- Agriculture industry – livestock and cropping – loss of earnings is still being determined by DAF.
- NQ Livestock Industry Recovery Taskforce visited Mayor and Councillors in May and are assisting Graziers in obtaining Grant assistance.
- Extended disruptions to transport routes for product freight to saleyards/market (two properties remain without access).
- Loss of local services and supplies – all services restored.

Environment

- Beach front at Four Mile Beach cleaned of debris.
- Clean-up of Daintree Boat Ramp area and Ferry precinct.
- Beach nourishment of Newell foreshore completed.
- Sourcing funding and project delivery of stream bank damage and erosion restoration and stabilisation throughout Shire including the farming properties.
- 15 tonnes hard waste removed to date and ongoing.

- No sewage overflows ongoing.
- Trucking of leachate to Council’s Wastewater Treatment Plant ongoing today > 5 Million Litres moved.
- Significant damage to landfill cap being repaired.
- All known cattle rounded up from islands, beaches and mangrove areas and returned to owners.

Infrastructure (including roads and bridges)

- Power reconnected to all homes – full power restored in four days (except a single residence).
- Telecommunications disrupted and offline for 2.5 days. Ongoing issues in Upper Daintree and north Daintree River including businesses.
- All 5 water and sewerage treatment plants repaired and fully operational.
- Temporary river height monitoring station in place (Bairds Alert Upper Daintree). Access needs to be restored. One flood camera repaired and operational.
- All townships, outlying areas and key transport are now accessible although some are restricted access due to damage and/or repair work underway.
- 32 roads were temporarily closed with only one (CREB Track) still remaining closed.
- Access to CREB Track has not been possible due to high creek levels.
- Speed and/or lane restrictions remain on a number of roads.
- 5 bridges were inundated with all reopened.
- 4 significant landslides have occurred to four separate roads. Dozens of other minor slips occurred and continue to occur with normal rainfall events.
- Civil works crews have suspended normal duties for 8 weeks to mitigate impacts.
- Preliminary damage assessments completed and Council working on QRA funding applications. 110 roads identified damaged to the event with submissions for funding to be lodged in June.
- Geotechnical investigations commenced on three major landslips. Rectification continues (50% complete) on Alexandra Range landslip.
- Upper Daintree (photo below) preliminary works complete. Geotechnical investigations commenced, Tenders prepared for other major slips.
- Funding applications submitted for additional Rain Gauges and flood cameras.
- Works undertaken to improve Disaster Dashboard information.



Damage location maps

LEGEND

- Human/Social – Inundation
- Infrastructure – Roads/Transport
- Infrastructure
- Human/Social – Reports of damage
- Environment

